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## Fifth Session of Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs

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### Why in News

Recently, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** inaugurated the **fifth session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH)** established under **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)**.

### Key Points

- **About the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH):**
  - **Establishment:** It was formed in **2013**.
  - **Terms of Reference:**
    - To **elaborate worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs** in their dried and dehydrated state in whole, ground, and cracked or crushed form.
    - To **consult, as necessary, with other international organizations** in the standards development process to avoid duplication.
  - **Host:**

**India is the host country** and **Spices Board India** is the **Secretariat** for organising the **sessions of the committee**.

**Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry)** is the flagship organization for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices.

- **About the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC):**

- **About:**

- It is an **intergovernmental body** established jointly by the UN's **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** and the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** in **1963**, within the framework of the **Joint Food Standards Programme**.

- The **Secretariat of the CAC** is hosted at **FAO headquarters in Rome**.

- It was **established to protect the health of consumers** and ensure fair practices in the food trade.
    - It **meets in regular session once a year** alternating between Geneva and Rome.

- **Members:**

- Currently, it has **189 Codex Members** made up of 188 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (**The European Union**).
    - **India** is a **member**.

- **Food Standards:**

- The **Codex Alimentarius is a collection of international food standards** that have been adopted by the CAC.
    - Codex Standards **cover all the main foods**, whether processed, semi-processed or raw.

- In addition, materials used in the further processing of food products are included to the extent necessary for achieving the principal objectives of the code.

- Codex provisions **concern the hygienic and nutritional quality of food**, including microbiological norms, food additives, pesticide and **veterinary drug residues, contaminants, labelling and presentation**, and methods of sampling and risk analysis.

- **About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) :**
  - **Establishment:**
    - **FSSAI** is an autonomous **statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act)**.
    - It is **headquartered in Delhi**.
  - **Administrative Ministry:**

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
  - **Functions:**
    - **Framing of regulations** to lay down the standards and guidelines of **food safety**.
    - **Granting FSSAI food safety license** and certification for food businesses.
    - **Laying down procedure** and guidelines for laboratories in **food businesses**.
    - **To provide suggestions** to the government in framing **the policies**.
    - **To collect data** regarding contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of **a rapid alert system**.
    - **Creating an information** network across the country about food safety.
    - **Promote general awareness** about food safety and **food standards**.

**Source: PIB**