



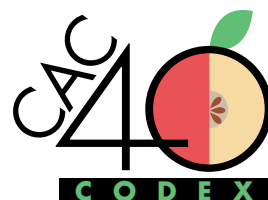
Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

# The Science of Food Standards

The road from Codex Alimentarius Commission 39 to 40



CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



# **The Science of Food Standards**

The road from Codex Alimentarius Commission 39 to 40



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the United Nations  
and World Health Organization  
Rome 2017



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ISBN 978-92-5-109823-3  
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## In-kind contributions

The Codex Alimentarius Commission wishes to thank the following member countries for their generosity in hosting committee meetings over the past year:

Australia

Brazil

Chile

China

Germany

Hungary

India

Kazakhstan

Kenya

Malaysia

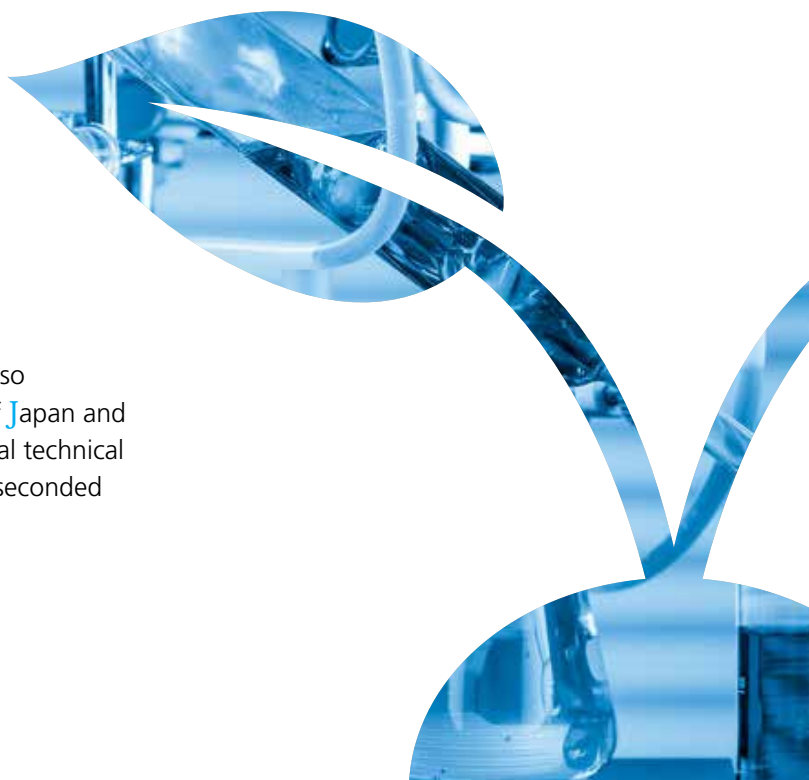
Mexico

The Netherlands

The United States of America

Vanuatu

The Codex Alimentarius Commission also gratefully acknowledges the support of Japan and the Republic of Korea for the additional technical capacity provided through the officers seconded to the Codex Secretariat.



# Acknowledgements

This publication, The Science of Codex, has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, part of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

The initial concept was to introduce an Annual Report into the list of Codex publications to showcase the work of Codex throughout the year.

The magazine style adopted for CAC40 is to present the work of the organization in an accessible, colourful and readable format for the widest possible audience.

The Codex Secretariat gratefully acknowledges the contributions and support made by FAO and WHO; Officers of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; Host Governments; Members and Observers.

The editorial team further acknowledges the considerable contribution made by Codex Food Standards Officers, led by the Codex Secretary Tom Heilandt as well as all the support staff within the Secretariat.

Thanks also to the communications and technical units in FAO and WHO for their advice and encouragement and to photographers and technicians for their efforts throughout the year at Codex events.

Editorial team: David Massey and Mia Rowan

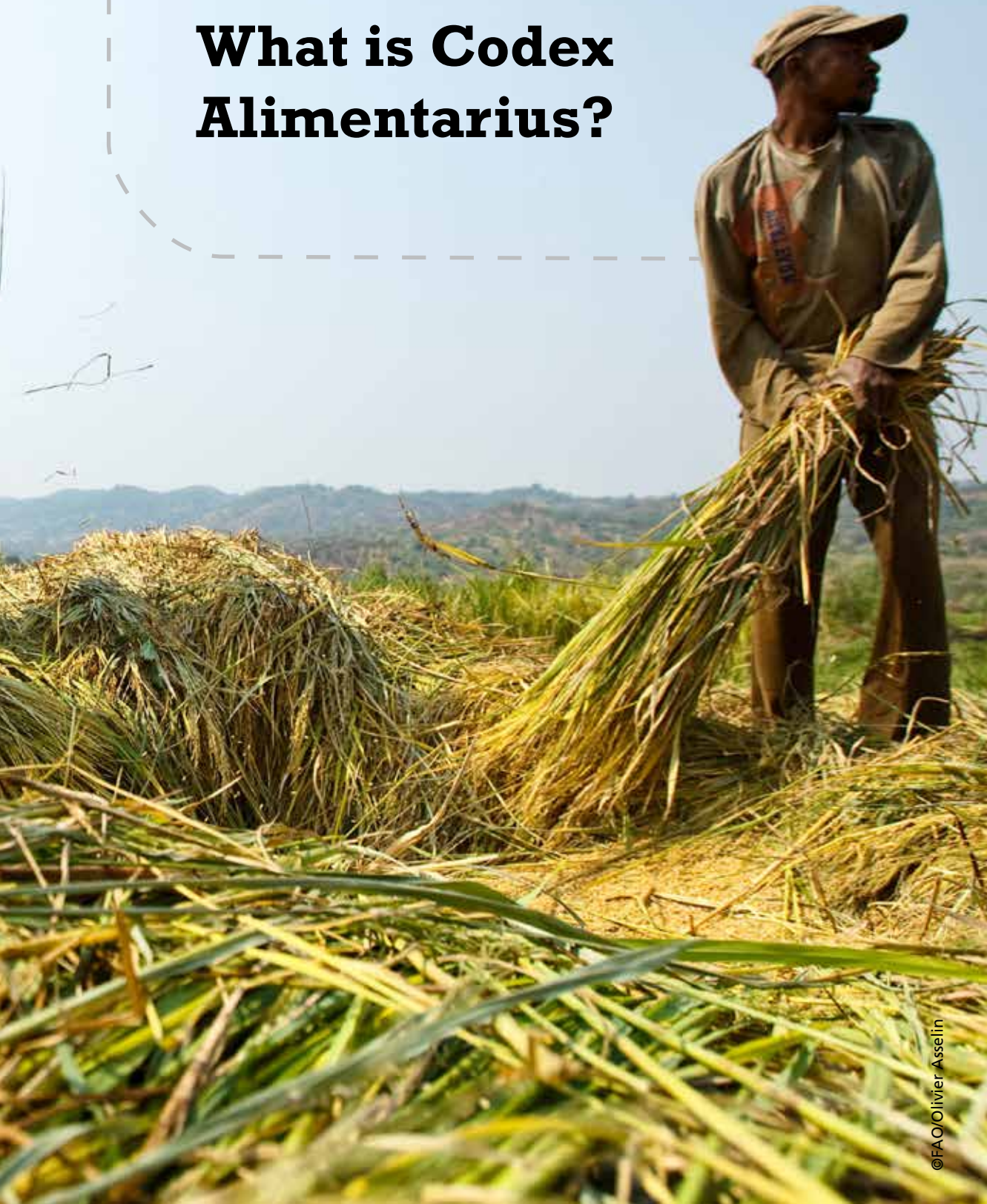
Graphic Design: Cristiana Giovannini

CAC40 logo: Chiara Caproni





# What is Codex Alimentarius?



**T**he Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code", is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice that governments may opt to use to ensure food safety, quality and fair trade. When the standards are followed, consumers can trust the safety and quality of the products they buy and importers can trust that the food they ordered will meet their specifications.

The standards are adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which currently comprises 187 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization (EU) and 219 Observers of which 56 are intergovernmental organizations, 147 non-governmental organizations and 16 United Nations agencies. The Commission, also known as CAC, was established in 1963 by the



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade.

Codex has developed hundreds of standards, guidelines and codes as well as defined thousands of permitted levels of additives, contaminants and

chemical residues in food. Above all, its success lies in building consensus, working together and making decisions based on science.





**From CAC39 to CAC40  
never a boring day**

*by Tom Heilandt*

“  
*The most remarkable  
moment of every year  
is reaching consensus*

”

**F**ood production and trade are a complex, growing business. Codex helps countries to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade and through harmonization contributes to trade facilitation. Here are some numbers that show what we achieved together over the year.

Since CAC39 (how I prefer to call the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) we have held 18 sessions: 11 Technical Committees prepared, hosted and chaired by our host governments without whom Codex could not exist the way we know it today; 6 FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and one Executive Committee. Overall more than 2 000 delegates attended these meetings.

The results are new and updated standards. Additionally, the many recorded and unrecorded conversations and new relations have their own value in ensuring that safe, good food finds its way to all of our homes.

Over the last year we have started a reflection on how Codex supports the international agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. New work has started on antimicrobial resistance.

Every other year the technical committees are flanked by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, or regional committees for short. We tried out new things in the six committees this year to help them evolve into pre-eminent fora in the regions to discuss food safety and quality issues. We identified priority topics and featured keynote speakers to articulate them. The facilitated sessions collected your opinions, feedback and other information essential to understanding the state of food safety systems in the region. At the Commission we look forward to your views on how successful this was.

We not only looked outside but also at ourselves – how we manage our work. CAC39 installed the regular review of Codex work management under leadership of the Codex Secretariat. Our first internal work management review looked at electronic working groups (EWG). They have become quite a success over the years with over 145 established since July 2014 (CAC37). EWGs allow committees to structure in-between session work without expensive face-to-face meetings while still upholding our values of inclusivity and transparency. How did these working groups do? Did they achieve what they set out to do? What can we do better?



A similar question was asked to a subcommittee of the Executive Committee: what are the issues of committees working by correspondence. It is an important question as our standardization needs evolve and change. Forty years ago there was the idea of setting standards for all important food commodities and many committees dedicated to specific commodities were started. The thinking changed over the years and in some cases additional work was invested to consolidate many standards into one (e.g. fruit juices). Today many commodity committees have decided to adjourn while others still work. If now a question comes up on a commodity related to an adjourned committee what do we do? Working by correspondence was one of the many interesting ideas the sub-committee came up to be discussed further.

While our standards are based on science, we all together – Members, Observers, Chairs, Secretariat, FAO and WHO have developed a science of food standard-setting in Codex which is unique. I experience this every time I attend a new Codex committee that I never attended before. Yes –there are differences but the spirit of transparency, inclusiveness and urge to find a consensus are the same.

The most remarkable moment of every year is reaching consensus. Think about it – if five people try to go on vacation together, it will probably take them a while to choose a destination. We have 188 and we are not talking about a vacation. There is a lot of power standing behind every standard. We should never undervalue our accomplishment in building consensus.

Codex standard-setting is tantamount to democratic decision-making. Here we involve everyone in the setting of standards that are grounded in science.



**International Plant Protection Convention**  
Protecting the world's plant resources from pests



# Protecting the world's plant resources from pests

[www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has been contributing to food security, environmental protection and trade facilitation since 1952.



“

*Codex standards are developed in an inclusive, transparent, collaborative and consensual manner*

”



# Codex for inclusive health, wealth and growth!

## *Interview with Awilo Ochieng Pernet*

Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission

by David Massey  
Codex Secretariat

*David: Dear Awilo, three years as Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, three years as Vice-Chairperson and many other important tasks and achievements on behalf of the Commission. As your term as Chairperson is coming to an end this gives you a unique perspective of Codex – having seen where it comes from, where it is now and what the future priorities should be. I am happy you could take the time to talk to us.*

*Awilo Ochieng Pernet:* It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to share with the Codex Community my thoughts on some priority Codex issues.

*David: How do you see the use and usefulness of Codex standards in today's world?*

*Awilo:* First of all, I would like to thank all 188 Codex Members for prioritizing Codex work. Codex food safety, nutrition and food quality standards can be applied at the international, regional or national levels from primary production to consumption in order to protect the health of both domestic and export market consum-

ers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Nevertheless, we need to emphasise that it is the effective and efficient implementation of Codex standards by relevant stakeholders in the food value chain and the rigorous enforcement of these food standards at the national level which ensure food safety and enable access to regional and international markets based on compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Today, more than ever, Codex standards are the global reference point for all stakeholders involved in the food value chain, including national food control authorities, the private sector as well as consumers and the academia.

*David: Why is it so important that all members can participate in Codex and how can we get there?*

*Awilo:* Unsafe food results in major health, social and economic consequences and developing countries are disproportionately affected. According to the WHO Estimates of the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (WHO, 2015), there are considerable differences in the burden of foodborne diseases among sub-regions based on child and adult mortality. The highest burden per population was observed in Africa, followed by South-East

Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean. Efficient food safety management systems based on Codex standards are key to ensuring safe and nutritious food for the world's consumers. We should ensure that developing countries participate effectively in Codex in order to guarantee the universal implementation and enforcement of Codex standards. The successor initiative to the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) aims at building strong and sustainable national Codex capacity. I invite Codex Members as well as regional and international organisations to make financial contributions to the CTF2 in order to ensure that the Codex Trust Fund will be able to fulfil the objectives that it has set over the next 12 years.

*David: What makes Codex standards the pre-eminent international food standards in today's world?*

*Awilo:* Codex standards are science-based and universal in their nature i.e. their effective implementation and enforcement protects all of the world's consumers. As public goods, Codex standards are developed in an inclusive, transparent, collaborative and consensual manner. Furthermore, in order to ensure their worldwide general consultation and application by all interested parties, all Codex standards are accessible to the

public, free-of-charge from the Codex website (24 hours/day, 365 days/year).

*David: Is the great effort to participate in Codex still justified? Hasn't food overall become much safer?*

*Awilo:* While consumers in most cases enjoy safe domestically-produced and imported food, unfortunately, foodborne diseases resulting from the consumption of unsafe food which is contaminated with biological, chemical and physical hazards still poses serious, acute and chronic health risks to consumers in both developed and developing countries. The WHO study (WHO, 2015) that I referred to earlier indicates that every year, one in ten consumers in the world falls ill following the consumption of contaminated food and globally, 420 000 people die due to foodborne diseases. This is totally unacceptable because foodborne diseases are preventable! However, targeted action is needed to ensure food safety. I call upon policy makers in all countries to seriously study the WHO report and take appropriate action. In particular, countries should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to ensure efficient and effective national food control systems and all stakeholders in the value chain recognise their responsibility in order to ensure food safety.



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*David: Food safety is not a very hot topic in the world unless there is a big foodborne disease outbreak or food fraud scandal that hits the headlines. The hard work that all those who contribute to Codex are doing to prevent foodborne disease outbreaks/ensure food safety is not visible to the public. What can be done to raise the profile of food safety?*

*Awilo:* I agree with what you say, we must raise the profile of food safety and put it on the political agenda in order to reduce foodborne diseases, ensure safe food and protect consumers in both the domestic and export markets. The establishment of a World Food Safety Day as decided by the 39th session of the CAC (Rome, July 2016) will certainly contribute to raising awareness about the importance of food safety. Codex Members should also intensify their food safety advocacy activities and campaigns. I call upon both FAO and WHO to fully support the CAC's decision to establish a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis and to contribute to its realisation at the United Nations level. I also urge Codex Members to increase the visibility of Codex within the governing bodies of FAO and WHO and among all relevant stakeholders.



*David: The UN has developed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and they are now on the agenda of every international organization. What is your vision for Codex and the SDGs?*

*Awilo:* I welcome the discussion on Codex and the SDGs during the 73rd session of the CCEXEC (Geneva, 10 -13 July 2017). Food safety, nutrition and food security are inter-related. We know that safe food protects consumers' health and that it positively supports national health systems and that we need food safety in order to ensure food security. In addition, safe food supports trade and national economies and contributes to social and economic development. Therefore, Codex has a major contribution to make towards the achievement of the SDGs as food safety, nutrition and food quality are key underlying determinants of health as well as social and economic development. Codex-related SDGs include Goal 1 "No Poverty"; Goal 2 "Zero Hunger"; Goal 3 "Good Health and Well-being"; Goal 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth"; Goal 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" and Goal 17 "Partnerships for the Goals".

My vision for Codex within the framework of the SDGs is: "Codex for inclusive health, wealth and growth!" In my opinion, this will be achieved when the current 188 Codex Members and 219 Observers work together to reach common objectives. Indeed, Codex is about common goals and collective achievements.

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# Can you afford not to fund scientific advice?

*Basing Codex food standards on sound science is the best possible protection of human health and the only way to ensure fair trade practices*

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) evaluates the safety of food additives, and now also contaminants, naturally occurring toxicants and residues of veterinary drugs in food.

The Joint FAO/WHO expert meetings on microbiological risk assessment (JEMRA) provide scientific risk assessment for selected pathogens, develop guidelines for risk assessments and provide expert advice on risk management.

The Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) conducts scientific evaluations of pesticide residues in food and provides advice on the acceptable levels of pesticide residues in food moving in international trade.

## Over 60 years of excellence

# The Vice Chairs peer into the future

The three Codex Alimentarius Commission Vice Chairs - Guilherme da Costa Júnior of Brazil, Yayoi Tsujiyama of Japan and Mahamadou Sako of Mali contemplated what important issues and events could be on the horizon. Here is what they had to say:



**Guilherme da Costa Junior**

*Brazil*

*“We need to guarantee that the organization continues to be member driven and make this characteristic of the organization one strong force: found wherever we have public health and fair practices in food trade involved”*

**Yayoi Tsujiyama**

*Japan*

*“Work undertaken by the Executive Committee on committees working by correspondence has been important and the proposal to establish a “Super Committee” to cover any work assigned to adjourned committees is an interesting idea moving ahead”*



**Mahamadou Sako**

*Mali*

*“Several innovations have been necessary for the fundraising of the New Codex Trust Fund (CTF2). But even now, we have not raised enough funds to start the right implementation of CTF2. Regional initiatives should be encouraged”*





# Science and Codex

*Angelika Tritscher and  
Kazuaki Miyagishima*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

“

*Science does not stop making progress*”



**M**any Codex member countries have joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) by signing up to, amongst others, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). Article 5.1 of the SPS Agreement requires that sanitary measures are based on risk assessment, and Article 3.1 of the same agreement calls on WTO members to base sanitary measures on international standards, guidelines and recommendations where they exist. For food safety, international standards mean Codex standards. The only logical consequence of these is that Codex food safety standards must be based on risk assessment, in other words, on science.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, as a risk management body, does not undertake risk assessments. Whether a Codex standard can be based on risk assessment (i.e. science) depends on the extent to which (1) WHO and FAO can provide risk assessment of sufficient quality in a timely manner and (2) Codex bases its decision on risk assessments provided by WHO and FAO.

This link between Codex and the expert bodies of WHO and FAO (such as JECFA, JMPR and JEMRA) is not just a theory. In the past, when a trade dispute was raised at WTO, its dispute

settlement process scrutinised not only the Codex standard in question but also the FAO/WHO scientific advice that was underpinning the Codex standard. For this and other reasons, WHO, as an evidence-based organization, is taking risk assessment very seriously, and it is the key strength of Codex standards to be based on an independent evaluation of all available science.

Science does not stop making progress. WHO has embraced new technology to strengthen the collection and analysis of data feeding into risk assessment. Also WHO has continuously been working to improve risk assessment methodologies applied by the scientific bodies, to take account of the advancement in scientific knowledge and utilization of available data. In addition, WHO is keen to see risk assessment methodologies harmonised, where appropriate, between WHO and its Member States, and between Member States. This is the way to go to ensure that consumers of the world, regardless of the country and community they live in, are protected from food safety hazards in a consistent way.

WHO is committed to work closely with FAO in order to provide scientific advice of quality to Codex and Member States.

A woman wearing a light blue headscarf and a white long-sleeved shirt is working in a market. She is leaning over a long metal tray, using red-handled scissors to cut fish. In the foreground and background, there are several yellow plastic crates filled with fish. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor market setting.

# More than just existing

*Renata Clarke*

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)





“  
*The ‘Codex Community’  
needs to be concerned about  
the quality, quantity and  
coherence of food safety  
capacity development*  
”

**T**he people of Ghana eat a lot of smoked fish preserved using traditional smoking processes. In 2016, using newly available national data on levels of contamination with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), FAO worked with concerned national institutions to enable them to assess and characterize risks. National follow-up to this meeting will focus on adapting relevant Codex Codes of Practice to better guide the industry and protect the consumer.

Codex standards are an essential foundation for food safety globally but the mere existence of standards is not enough. The IPPC has understood this and places high importance on promoting phytosanitary capacity development that enables reliable implementation of their standards. The “Codex Community” similarly needs to be concerned about the quality, quantity and coherence of food safety capacity development.

When countries are better equipped to implement Codex standards, they are also better equipped to contribute to and shape the work of Codex. They care more about what comes out of Codex because they recognize the value of the standards and they know that they have a strong voice in this critically important body.

The above example from Ghana is one of many examples of FAO working with countries to enable

them to become convinced and fully functioning parts of the global food safety system.

Science and broad participation of Codex Members are going to become increasingly important to Codex. We are facing dynamism and complexity in food systems with important challenges such as the increasing global population and climate change.

Data and insights from member countries will allow Codex to pick up on emerging issues where Codex guidance is required or where capacity development should be prioritized. Understanding global phenomena requires active global participation and data sharing. The “revitalization” process of the Regional FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees has been designed to facilitate this. Before the next cycle of regional Coordinating Committees meetings, FAO aims to work in each region on techniques and approaches to foresight on food regulatory issues to further enrich the feedback to Codex.

As new and increasingly complex food safety issues emerge, scientific analysis based on sound data will be necessary to help us understand and build consensus on how to best address these issues. FAO and WHO continue to work with Members to ensure that the FAO/WHO programmes of scientific advice to Codex remain a solid foundation for the decades to come.

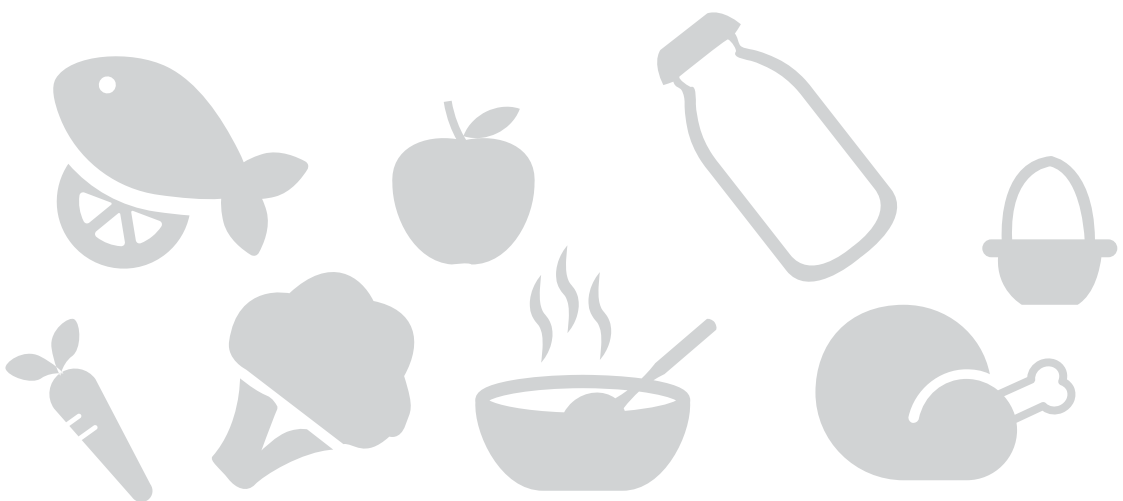
# Codex and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*Around the world, countries have set out to reach 17 goals that aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all by 2030.*

The goals, or SDGs, are part of “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which is based on the premise that: “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.”

Which of the goals will help lead to “safe, good food for everyone, everywhere”, which is the vision of Codex Alimentarius? Target 2.1 is especially relevant as it aims to: “end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round”.

*Where should Codex be applying itself?*





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There can be no food security without food safety. Unsafe food cannot be considered food and is especially dangerous to those already weakened by malnutrition. Codex strives to ensure food safety, thus contributes to food security. This goal also states the need to 'correct and prevent trade restrictions', which aligns with Codex standards whose function is to harmonize international rules so that food can cross borders safely and without unfair restrictions.



When countries engage in the development of Codex standards and then use those standards as the basis for national standards, they are protecting consumer health both within and outside their national borders. Strengthening food safety systems will enable countries to take measures to reduce the occurrence of foodborne disease and promote good health and well-being.



©FAO/ James Hill



Codex work on accurate and reliable food labelling helps to “halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains”. Also, chemicals in food are a worldwide health concern and leading cause of trade obstacles. The expert advice FAO and WHO provide to Codex ensures that exposure levels are set in Codex standards to protect consumer health and ensure fair practices in the food trade.



©FAO/Jane Hahn



Having been created and jointly guided by FAO and WHO since 1963, Codex itself is one of the finest and longest-standing examples of partnership within the United Nations system.

Codex values the partnerships with all its stakeholders - Members and Observers, industry and consumers. When SDG 17 describes a “universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system”, it is pointing directly at the mandate, goals and daily work of the Codex Alimentarius.

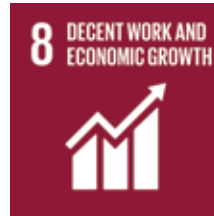


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If a country adopts global food safety standards - such as Codex standards - into national legislation, then local traders and food enterprises can access new markets and increase their trade.

The resulting growth in business and job opportunities would motivate rural residents to remain in agriculture, and not move to the city. Ending poverty for all would give new life to rural areas.



Engaging in Codex will help countries work towards achieving “full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Because Codex standards promote fair practices in the food trade by eliminating trade restrictions and barriers to trade, they can help grow economies. Codex standards create opportunities for employment and prosperity in agriculture and can prevent people from leaving rural areas to become poor in the city.



*The 73rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission Executive Committee will discuss in greater detail the SDGs that Codex contributes to directly and indirectly as well as the goals to which it could contribute further.*



# Codex Trust Fund testing the hypothesis



“  
*There is a single light of science, and to brighten it anywhere is to brighten it everywhere*  
”

Isaac Asimov



Between 2004 and 2015, the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund) supported over 2 300 participants from developing and transition economy countries to participate in the international standard development process, and provided FAO/WHO Codex training to over 1 200 people to boost the effectiveness of their participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Building on the success of the first Codex Trust Fund, FAO and WHO launched a successor initiative to the Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) in January 2016.

CTF2 will require USD 3.3 million per year to support each eligible country at least once over the 12 years of the fund. It will shift the focus from widening participation in Codex, to building strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex.

The first four projects are getting underway.



## **Ghana**

Establishing an online portal will enhance the visibility of Codex Ghana and provide food safety information to key stakeholders as well as providing enhanced interaction between Codex Ghana and the general public.

## **Kyrgyzstan**

One thrust of the project is to ensure that the national Codex structure is functioning effectively and to support successful implementation of Codex activities and initiatives throughout the country. A second focus area is to review the legislative base to ensure compliance with Codex standards and then work to develop new national standards based on Codex standards for key products.

## **Madagascar**

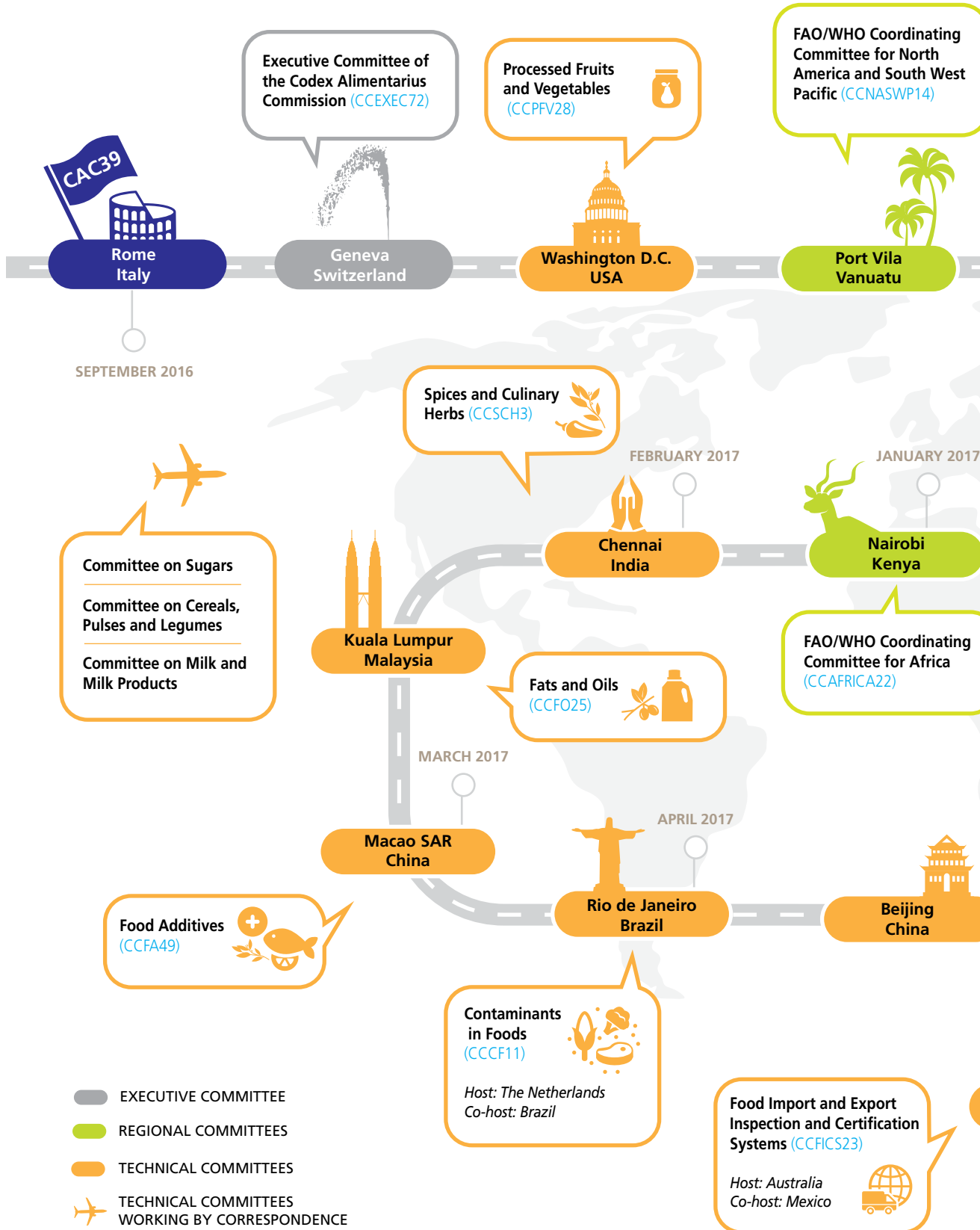
The project will support the efforts of the national Codex contact point for better engagement of the members of the national Codex committee, bringing in each unique perspective.

Sustainability is at the core of the project philosophy: working together towards a more ambitious national vision for Codex.

## **Senegal**

The project in Senegal offers an opportunity to contribute in part to proactively addressing the food safety challenges in priority sectors by harmonization of national food safety standards with Codex.

Enhancing national capacities will promote stronger involvement and contribution to international standards development taking into account national specificities and issues emerging globally.



**CAC39**  
Rome  
Italy

Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC72)

Geneva  
Switzerland

Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV28)

Washington D.C.  
USA

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP14)

Port Vila  
Vanuatu

SEPTEMBER 2016

Committee on Sugars  
Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes  
Committee on Milk and Milk Products

Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH3)

FEBRUARY 2017

Chennai  
India

Nairobi  
Kenya

JANUARY 2017

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA22)

Fats and Oils (CCFO25)

MARCH 2017

Macao SAR  
China

Food Additives (CCFA49)

APRIL 2017

Rio de Janeiro  
Brazil

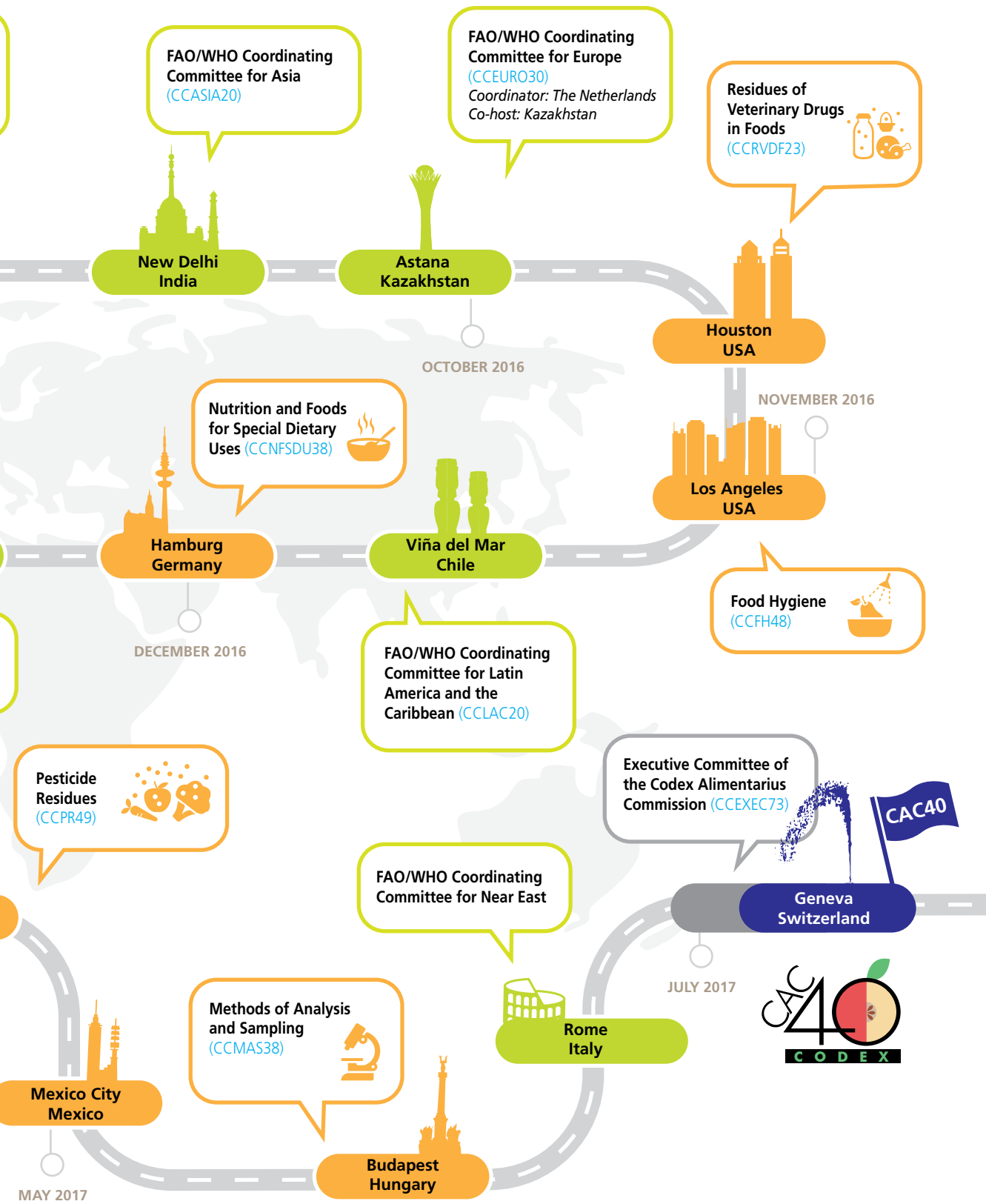
Beijing  
China

Contaminants in Foods (CCCF11)  
Host: The Netherlands  
Co-host: Brazil

Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS23)  
Host: Australia  
Co-host: Mexico

- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- REGIONAL COMMITTEES
- TECHNICAL COMMITTEES
- TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WORKING BY CORRESPONDENCE





FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA20)

New Delhi India

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO30)  
Coordinator: The Netherlands  
Co-host: Kazakhstan

Astana Kazakhstan

Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF23)



Houston USA

OCTOBER 2016

Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU38)



NOVEMBER 2016

Los Angeles USA

Hamburg Germany

Viña del Mar Chile

Food Hygiene (CCFH48)



DECEMBER 2016

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC20)

Pesticide Residues (CCPR49)



Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC73)



FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East

Geneva Switzerland

JULY 2017

Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38)



Rome Italy



Mexico City Mexico

Budapest Hungary

MAY 2017

# Milestones along the road

“

*Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result*

”

Oscar Wilde

## **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV28)**

- Proposed draft Annex on canned pineapple
- Standard for certain canned fruits
- Proposed draft annexes for certain quick frozen vegetables (for inclusion in the Standard for Quick Frozen Vegetables): Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cauliflower, French fried potatoes, green beans and wax beans, peas, spinach
  - » Standard for canned chestnuts and canned chestnut puree: amendment to food additive provisions and revisions to the terms pertaining to “flavourings”
- Amendments to food additive provisions for:
  - » Standard for pickled fruits and
  - » Standard for jams, jellies and marmalades
- Revisions to the terms pertaining to flavourings for:
  - » Standard for canned applesauce
  - » Standard for canned fruit cocktail
  - » Standard for canned tropical fruit salad
  - » Standard for pickled cucumbers (cucumber pickles)
  - » Standard for kimchi
  - » Standard for canned stone fruits
  - » Standard for jams, jellies and marmalades

## **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA20)**

- Regional Standard for Tempe: amendments to Section 8 “methods of analysis and sampling”

- Regional Standard for non-fermented soybean products: amendments to Section 4.2.2 “food additives”
- Regional Standard for chili sauce: amendment to Section 4.5 “food additive”
- Proposed draft regional Standard for laver products
- Regional Code of practice for street-vended foods in Asia

## **Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF23)**

- MRLs for veterinary drugs
- RMR for gentian violet (Proposed Draft)
- Draft MRLs for Bovine Somatotropin

## **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH48)**

- Proposed draft revision of the Code of hygienic practice for fresh fruits and vegetables

## **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC20)**

- Proposed draft regional Standard for yacon

## **Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU38)**

- Standard for canned baby foods: amendments related to flavourings
- Standard for processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children: amendments related to flavourings
- Standard for follow-up formula: amendments related to flavourings
- Guidelines on formulated complementary foods for older infants and young children: amendments related to flavourings
- Guidelines on nutrition labelling: proposed draft and draft revised nutrient reference values and conversion factors for labelling purposes
- Nutritional Risk Analysis Principles and Guidelines for Application to the Work of the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Amendment to the Procedural Manual)

### **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA22)**

- Regional Standard for unrefined shea butter
- Regional Standard for Fermented Cooked Cassava Based Products (Proposed Draft at STEP 5)
- Regional Standard for Gnetum Spp leaves (Proposed Draft at STEP 5)

### **Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH3)**

- Standard for black, white and green (bwg) peppers
- Standard for cumin
- Standard for dried thyme

### **Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO25)**

- Standard for edible fats and oils not covered by individual standards
- Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils
- Standard for named vegetable oils

- Standard for fat spreads and blended spreads
- Standard for fish oils

### **Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA49)**

- Revised food additives sections of the Standards for:
  - » Preserved Tomatoes,
  - » Processed Tomato Concentrates,
  - » Quick Frozen Fin-Fish, Uneviscerated and Eviscerated,
  - » Quick Frozen Shrimps or Prawns,
  - » Quick Frozen Lobsters,
  - » Quick Frozen Blocks of Fish Filets,
  - » Quick Frozen Fish Fillet,
  - » Quick Frozen Fish Sticks (Fish Fingers), Fish Portions and Fish Fillets – Breaded and in Batter,
  - » Fresh and Quick Frozen Raw Scallop Products.
- Amendments to the introduction of the list of Codex specifications for food additives

### **Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF11)**

- Amendment to the MLs for lead and arsenic in edible fats and oils (fish oils)
- MLs for lead in selected processed fruits and vegetables (pulses, jams, jellies and marmalades, preserved tomatoes, canned chestnuts and canned chestnuts puree) (Proposed draft and draft)
- COP for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice (Proposed draft)
- Annex on ergot and ergot alkaloids in cereal grains (annex to the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals)
- COP for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in spices (Proposed draft)
- ML for lead in processed tomato concentrates and canned brassica vegetables (Proposed draft at STEP 5)

## **Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR49)**

- MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/ commodity(ies) proposed by adoption by CCPR49 (Proposed draft and draft)
- Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed: Vegetable Commodity Groups (Proposed draft and draft)
- Table 2 on examples of representative commodities for vegetable commodity groups (for inclusion in the Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups) (Proposed draft at STEP 5)
- Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed: Grasses (Proposed draft and draft)
- Table 3 on examples of representative commodities for grasses (for inclusion in the Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups) (Proposed draft)
- Revision of the Classification of Food and Feed: Seeds for Beverages and Sweets (Proposed draft)
- Guidelines on Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for the Determination of Pesticide Residues in food and feed (Proposed draft)

## **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS23)**

- Principles and Guidelines for monitoring the performance on national food control system

## **Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS38)**

6 Methods of analysis for adoption:

- Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables – Methods of analysis for quick frozen vegetables

- Coordinating Committee for Asia – Methods of analysis for laver products
- Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses – Methods of analysis for infant formula
- Coordinating Committee for Africa – Methods of analysis for unrefined shea butter
- Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs – Methods of analysis for cumin
- Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs – Methods of Analysis for thyme

## **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNEA9)**

- Regional Standard for Doogh (Proposed draft)
- Regional Standard for Mixed Zaatar (Proposed draft at STEP 5)

## **Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)**

- Standard for dairy permeate powders (draft)

## **FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)**

- Standard for Quinoa (Proposed draft)

## **Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS)**

- Standard for Non-centrifuged dehydrated sugar cane juice

# Travelling the Codex cosmos

*with the FAO/WHO Regional  
Coordinating Committees*



“  
*Science knows no  
country, because  
knowledge belongs to  
humanity, and is the  
torch which illuminates  
the world*”

Louis Pasteur

Every two years, the six FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs) for – Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America and South West Pacific; and Near East – come together to address food safety and food trade issues relevant to their regions. The RCCs bridge the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and technical committees with the regions to ensure that global decisions respond to national and regional needs. These regional coordination groups also serve a forum for countries to discuss the priorities and challenges of their food control infrastructures.

This year, for the first time, the RCCs featured keynote speakers to engage in discussions on priority concerns and common challenges within the regions. On the following pages are some highlights.

# North America and South West Pacific



Coordinator and Host: Vanuatu - 19 September 2016



*“The challenge of foodborne diseases is not the development of the standards themselves; rather it is the enforcement of these standards”*

**Tommy Tomscoll**

*Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Papua New Guinea*

Keynote address: Multi-Sectoral Aspects of Codex and Opportunities for Strengthening Codex as a Means to Contribute to Development of the Economic, Trade, Agriculture, Health and Nutrition Sectors



# Asia



Coordinator and Host: India - 26 September 2016



*“Asian countries should play a more significant role in contributing to the work of Codex. Noting the importance of Codex, countries should make greater efforts to align national legislation with Codex standards. CCASIA [the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia] must work closer together and network better to have a stronger Asian voice in order to remain relevant and be a leader in international food standard setting”*

**Noraini Binti Dato' Mohd**

*Othman, Senior Director for Food Safety and Quality,  
Ministry of Health, Malaysia*

Keynote address: Role of Codex in Strengthening  
National Food Control System in the Asian Region  
– A Way Forward



# Europe

 Coordinator: The Netherlands - Host: Kazakhstan - 3 October 2016



*“CCEURO [European] Members have strengths and experiences that can be useful in enhancing and advancing Codex work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) regionally and globally. Actions and new and innovative solutions are needed at national, regional and global levels to combat AMR in the food chain”*

**Jaap Wagenaar**

*DVM, PhD, Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, The Netherlands*

Keynote address: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)  
from a Codex/Food Safety Perspective





# Latin America and the Caribbean



Coordinator and Host: Chile - 21 November 2016



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*“The food surveillance program should consider all stages of the production and supply chain. It is recommended to work with comparable methodologies among the countries and them on international standards such as those of FAO and WHO”*

**Hugo Fragoso Sanchez**

*Director General for Food Safety and Quality, SENASICA, Mexico*

Keynote address: Evaluation of Food Safety Systems



# Africa



Coordinator and Host: Kenya - 16 January 2017

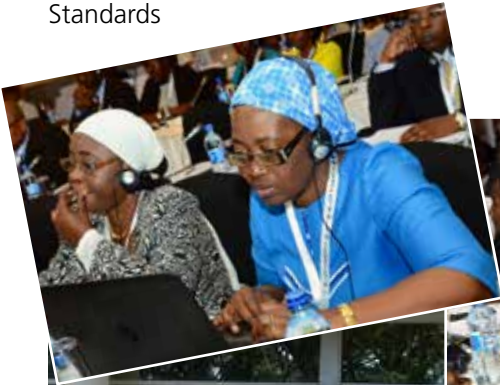


*“Codex is a powerful tool to overcome some of the handicaps faced by SMEs and offers additional benefits: African countries need to continue on the way towards integration and Codex is a good basis for this. Codex standards represent a consensus basis that should be used for harmonization”*

**Cris Muyunda**

*Vice President of the Coalition of Non-State Actors (CNC) for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) in partnership with the African Union (AU)*

Keynote address: SMEs and Food Trade: Opportunities for building regional markets through use of Codex Standards



# Near East



Coordinator: The Islamic Republic of Iran - Host: Codex Secretariat - 19 May 2017



*“In order to preserve the reputation of countries in the Near East as producers and suppliers of safe, high quality and regionally unique foods, and also to prevent food non-compliant with national regulations from entering the market, there is a need to ensure food authenticity and integrity of food being traded. The maintenance of food integrity is also an important public good for the protection of consumers both within and outside of the region”*

**Chris Elliot**

*Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences of Belfast*

Keynote address: Food Authenticity/Food Integrity



# Game-changers and breakthroughs driving progress



**W**ith constant innovations in science and technology, it is now possible to detect minute quantities of radiation from Chernobyl in blueberries exported from Eastern Europe, and ever smaller residues of pesticides in fruits and vegetables. So, how do we begin regulating for this kind of technological advance in analysis and detection? How should we combat the consequences of climate change such as, ciguatera fish poisoning? How should we manage the global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?

The role of Codex remains critical as it will be called upon to continuously update its dictionary of definitions in the “food code”. For more than five decades Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice have contributed immensely to the safety and quality of the food we eat.

But we have to ask ourselves where the future challenges are likely to arise for national food safety systems and where governments will need

to invest to be prepared. Member countries will need to be pro-active. They will need to remain ever watchful, regularly update capacities and stay informed to identify the new challenges.

“There are estimates that by 2050 the deaths from AMR will be higher than those from cancer or HIV/AIDS”, said Yong Ho Park, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Seoul National University of the Republic of Korea, who will chair the Codex task force on AMR. “We need surveillance and monitoring programmes and there must be an emphasis on education. We also need effective risk communication from stakeholders to the public”, he said, calling for urgent action on the global threat.

Codex is also currently discussing a new work proposal from the contaminants committee on the development of risk management guidelines to address chemicals inadvertently present in food at very low levels, such as cleaning agents used



during food production and processing. “In our view the global implications of advances in analytical methods and testing technologies is one of the most pressing issues going forward”, said Raj Rajasekar, Senior Programme Manager of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, explaining why New Zealand proposed the new work.

Steve Hathaway, Director in the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, spoke in broader terms about the future of Codex: “Speeding up the standard-setting process, making it more consistent and relevant would have benefits, especially for developing countries who may not have such standards available at the national level.”

“The strength of Codex is its transparency and inclusiveness but these are also its weaknesses and we need more ‘out of the box’ approaches and solutions”, he said, urging ‘flexible rules for cross committee engagement and collaboration, reviewing our reporting processes to focus on

conclusions and outcomes and make more efficient use of our time’ to keep Codex ‘fit for purpose’ and improve its responsiveness and organizational agility.

In describing how to future-proof Codex, Hathaway underscored the ‘imperatives of climate change and the need to adapt farming practices to promote sustainability.’


Looking ahead to the opportunities that discussions on the new Codex Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals will bring, Codex Secretary Tom Heilandt said: “It would in fact be my goal to discuss how Codex can contribute more to making the world a better place and how to avoid that our standards might be used to do the opposite. The discussion on the SDGs provides an opportunity for change - and I hope also a way forward - a common approach.

# In the Codex laboratory: web and social media

## New Codex Website 2017



## Achievements

Over  
 **4000**  
twitter followers  
2 million hits

 **90%**  
of standards for adoption at CAC40  
on the **online commenting system** in three languages

More than  
 **700**  
**Electronic Working Group (EWG)**  
online members

 **40**  
videos on **FAO YouTube channel**

*There is no such thing as one public*





## Ensuring safe trade without unnecessary restrictions

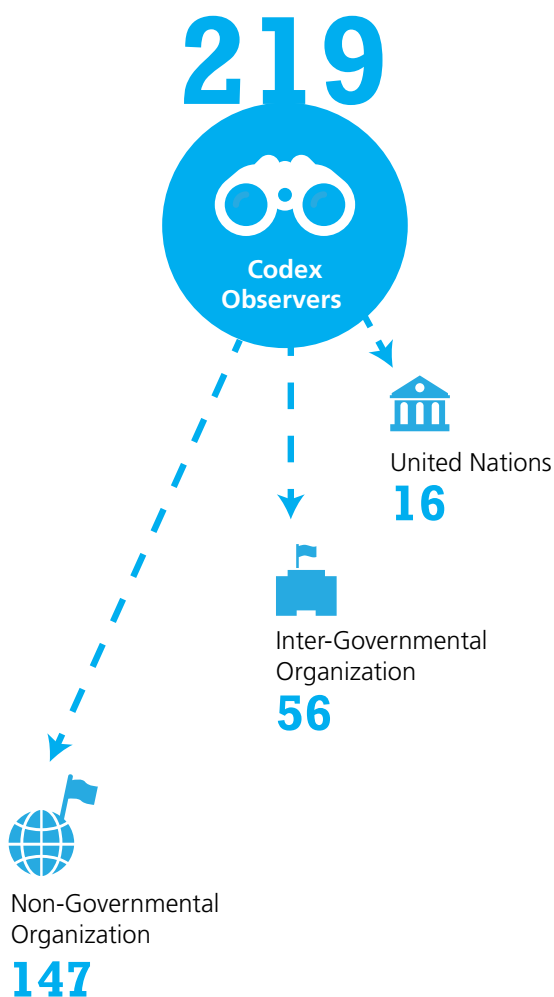
*The SPS & TBT Agreements set out the framework in which international standards are applied by governments to ensure the safety and quality of internationally traded food.*



WORLD TRADE  
ORGANIZATION

[www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

# Observing Codex



The idea of ‘observers’ in Codex is enshrined in the statutes of the organization. It would not be possible to claim authority in the field of international standard setting if Codex did not welcome and acknowledge the valuable contribution made by governmental and non-governmental, public and private sector organizations.

Any accredited observer can participate actively in any Codex committee or working group. At the last Commission, they made up more than 12 percent of delegates. So why do they take part and how do they enhance the work of international standard setting?

“Codex observers form a very diverse community”, said Codex Secretary Tom Heilandt, explaining that “some of the larger organizations such as World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), UN agencies, work as partners. Others, including the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Dairy Federation (IDF) work very closely with Codex - even providing science and standards for us.”



“  
*The involvement of observers ... makes Codex quite unique. It's more transparent than any other organization that I know about*  
”

Martijn Weijtens, CCEURO

“We rely on the information that only our NGO observers can provide - given their unique perspectives - and they, in turn, share the goals of Codex”, he added. “We have committees, such as pesticides and veterinary drugs, that could not work without our observers’ data on the compounds. We need their science in order to set the relevant MRLs.”

### **Advocating at global level**

“Developing, promoting and disseminating food safety practices to support agricultural and agri-food businesses as well as consumers is a key pillar in the implementation of UNIDO’s mandate to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development”, said Ali Badarneh, Senior Industrial Development Officer at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, or UNIDO, one of the UN organizations that is a Codex observer.

“Codex’s reliance on a strong scientific foundation to develop food safety standards and the transparent and inclusive process followed to adopt these standards are the guardians of the integrity and credibility of the international food safety standard setting system”, he added.

“Relying on and promoting the use of Codex-based food safety standards by the aided food and agri-food sector is essential to enabling compliance and access to local, regional and global markets”, explained Samuel Godfrey, who is a Food Risk Analysis Professor at the Université Laval, acting as the Senior Food Safety Regulatory Expert for the Arab Food Safety for Trade Facilitation Initiative (SAFE) implemented by UNIDO. “It is also a key factor in achieving sustainable and resilient businesses.”

“One of our aims is to enhance food safety, quality and control and in doing so help facilitate international food trade – so we have this in common with Codex”, said Carl Blackburn, Technical Officer in the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization/International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, based at the IAEA in Austria. He also explained that while people are usually aware of IAEA’s work in the area of nuclear emergency preparedness and response, “people are often surprised to learn that we take a keen interest in the detection and control of various chemical residues and food contaminants; food traceability and authenticity and food irradiation. The properties of the atom are used in all sorts of different

tests and techniques and processes that are the foundation for food quality and safety.”

## Engaging with consumers

In 1991 the FAO/WHO Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade recommended consumer participation in Codex in order to gain consumer confidence in Codex standards and procedures and to obtain representative views of consumers also through consumer movements. Many of the NGOs, the largest group of observers in Codex, are extremely vocal and bring a consumer and general public focus to the work of Codex committees.

One such organization, the International Baby Food Action Network, is a global network, whose primary goal is the protection of breastfeeding and optimal child health and has been involved in Codex work since 1986. A member of the IBFAN Codex team, Patti Rundall, expressed concern about the science in Codex: “For far too long Codex has used ill-defined terminology that allows misinterpretation. The term ‘science based’ or ‘generally accepted science’ is totally inadequate in 2017,” she said.

The National Health Federation is another NGO that is active across several Codex committees. President Scott Tibs described their role “to be the ‘conscience’ of Codex and to strive for optimal health in humans and animals by applying current science, as well as striving for the least impact on the environment during the process.” Tibs warned about the risks of ‘fake’ science “manipulated to achieve the desired result” and stressed the importance of the “traditional, objective scientific method” being the science supporting Codex standards.

Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director of HealthforAnimals, the global animal medicines association, spoke about the role of Codex in



providing what he termed the ‘global confirmation’ of the safety of veterinary medicine products, especially as “many countries lack the full regulatory assessment capacities needed to assess veterinary medicines from A to Z”. On the relevance and credibility of Codex, he underlined how it “will maintain the high regard it is held in by the global veterinary medicine community and other regulated industries, by strongly supporting science over non-scientific inputs in its decision-making processes.”

The food industry is another vital component and voice in Codex. Jean Christophe Kremer, Secretary General of the International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI), the international trade association representing the special dietary foods industries, encouraged countries to follow Codex work confirming that “in the absence of nation-



al and/or regional legislation, Codex standards guarantee safe and high-quality foods that can be traded internationally.” Kremer also explained how science is “key in developing global food standards” and how ISDI sees its role “within the development of the standards to be a guardian of ‘applied science’ so as to ensure that the science is also workable in practice.” Industry has to ask itself, he said, if it is ‘technically feasible’ to actually manufacture such products.

### Methods for quality

The general Codex standard for fruit juices and nectars is used as a guide for national legislation and John Collins, Executive Director of the International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association (IFU), explained both how important it is “for fruit juice national trade to follow common standards”

whilst also contributing to the development of the standards themselves: this standard” lists IFU methods for quality and authenticity assessment which is very useful for laboratories in different parts of the world to follow standardized testing procedures.” Science in Codex is” agreed by experts within their own field”, he said, and this ensures Codex standards are “robust and fit for purpose”.

### Thanking all observers

Noting the detailed accreditation process for accepting observers into Codex, Tom Heilandt stated his goal” to have everyone admitted in the least possible time” as Codex profits greatly from” the diversity of experience and opinion observers bring”.

# Financial report

The regular budget for the Codex Alimentarius Commission is financed by FAO and WHO. For the biennium 2016/17 the budget is USD 8.8 million. As of 1 January 2017 expenditure stood at USD 4 million.

The Codex system also relies on:

- (i) The provision of scientific advice from expert bodies of FAO and WHO;
- (ii) FAO and WHO capacity building projects and events related to Codex at national and regional levels;
- (iii) The FAO and WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (CTF);
- (iv) Members acting as hosts for Codex Committees, Task Forces and working groups providing venues, interpretation, translation, Chair and a local secretariat;
- (v) Members providing staff secondments to the Codex Secretariat, funding the CAC Chair or Vice Chairs;
- (vi) Additional contributions by FAO and WHO including technical guidance and legal and communication services.

## Resource Partners

	Amount in USD '000	Percentage
FAO	7,064	80
WHO	1,725	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,789</b>	<b>100</b>

## Cost Breakdown

	Budget 2016-17 in USD '000	Percentage
Staff Cost	4,238	48
Contingency	307	3
Consultancy	994	11
Operational	2,460	28
Travel	790	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,789</b>	<b>100</b>

# RESPONSIBLE AND PRUDENT USE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMALS

## PRESERVING THE EFFICACY OF ANTIBIOTICS IS CRUCIAL



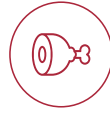
### ANIMAL HEALTH

> 20% of animal production losses are caused by diseases globally



### ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal health is a key component of animal welfare



### FOOD SECURITY

> 70% additional animal proteins are needed to feed the world by 2050



### PUBLIC HEALTH

> 60% of human pathogens are of animal origin



### WELL-STRUCTURED VETERINARY SERVICES

## WE NEED



### STRONG NATIONAL LEGISLATION

To date, more than 1/2 countries in the world do not yet have relevant legislation concerning antibiotics.

## FOR



Market authorisation, manufacture, importation



Distribution, restriction of free access



Prescription and administration



Monitoring of quantities used in animals, antibiotic resistance surveillance



Oversight by Veterinary Statutory Bodies

## IN LINE WITH OIE INTERGOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS



USE AND SURVEILLANCE OF ANTIBIOTICS



VETERINARY LEGISLATION



QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES

OIE STANDARDS FOR TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMALS COVER

# List of members



- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- European Union
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malawi



- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia (Federated States of)
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe



# What happened at La Borghesiana on that warm weekend in May?

Illustrations by Bob Scott

## Codex Chairs Workshop

THE STORY SO FAR ...

THE CODEX WORKSHOPS FOR CHAIRS ARE PART OF AN INITIATIVE UNDER THE STRATEGIC PLAN TO IMPROVE THE SKILLS OF THOSE LEADING WORK IN COMMITTEES, BUT THEY ARE ALSO A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING TOGETHER GLOBAL EXPERTS TO THINK MORE BROADLY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION.



IN MAY, 24 CODEX CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS MET IN ROME FOR A WEEKEND OF TRAINING AND DISCUSSION.

WORKING IN SMALL DYNAMIC TEAMS ENSURED THAT EVERYONE HAD A CHANCE TO VOICE AN OPINION



WE NEED TO DEVELOP STANDARDS THAT ARE CROSS-CUTTING



I WANT TO LOOK AT THE USE OF E-TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN AND DURING MEETINGS



AND WE MUST BE WORKING TO ENSURE TRANSLATIONS ARE AVAILABLE





IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SECRETARIAT



WE SHOULD SHORTEN REPORTS DRAS- TICALLY AND FOCUS ONLY ON OUT- COMES AND STATUS



WE NEED TO LOOK AT FUTURE CHALLENGES AS OUR ENVIRONMENT CONTINUES TO CHANGE



A DISCUSSION ON SDGS WILL ALLOW US TO BE AWARE WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND US



THE TEAM WILL CONTINUE WORKING IN THE COMING MONTHS WITH THE SECRETARIAT ON TWO INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

THE FIRST WILL BE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A "HANDBOOK FOR CODEX CHAIRS" AND THE SECOND A "CHAIRS' MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF CODEX".

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR DELEGATES, HOST SECRETARIATS AND NATIONAL CODEX-RELATED STRUCTURES FROM FAO, WHO AND THE SECRETARIAT, CONTACT [CODEX@FAO.ORG](mailto:CODEX@FAO.ORG).

... TO BE CONTINUED

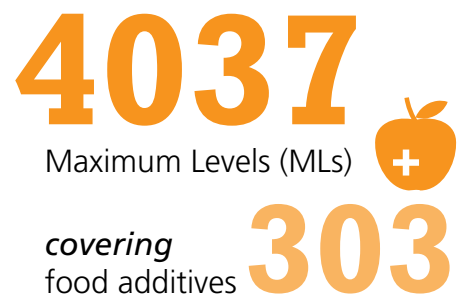
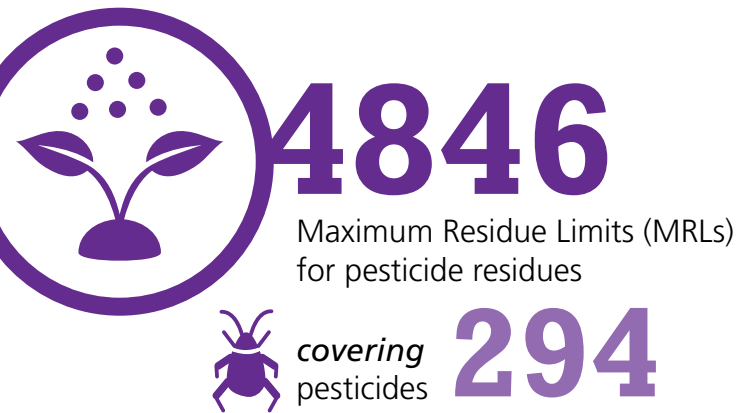
"I WOULD RATHER ENTERTAIN AND HOPE THAT PEOPLE LEARNED SOMETHING THAN EDUCATE PEOPLE AND HOPE THEY WERE ENTERTAINED."

WALT DISNEY



# The Codex Scorecard

This table gives the number of Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice by subject matter following the decisions of the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.



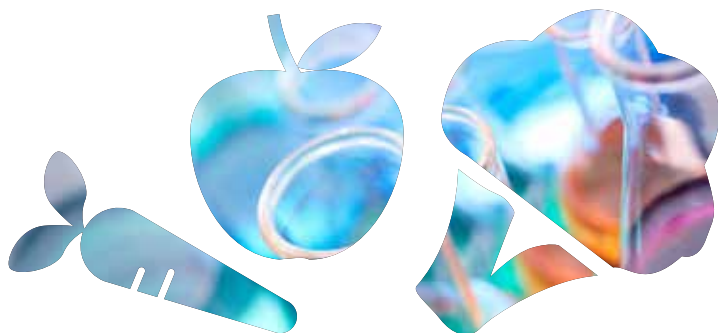


**T**his publication showcases the steps the Codex Alimentarius has taken from July 2016 (CAC39) to July 2017 (CAC40) on the road to safe and quality food for everyone. Over the course of the year, 11 technical, 6 regional committees and the Executive Committee met to discuss updates to the international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice. The “food code’s” governing body, known as the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), makes decisions on the committees’ proposals during its annual meeting in July.

Through an array of magazine-style articles, “The Science of Food Standards - The road from Codex Alimentarius Commission 39 to 40”

shares the viewpoints and contributions of the diverse partnership, which includes 187 Member Countries and the European Union as well as over 200 Observers.

Since 1963, the Codex system has evolved in an open, transparent and inclusive way to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. Codex has developed hundreds of internationally recognized standards, guidelines and codes as well as defined thousands of permitted levels of additives, contaminants and chemical residues in food. Its success lies in working together, building consensus and making decisions based on science.



ISBN 978-92-5-109823-3



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