



FAO/AGNS CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CODEX

FAO is involved in providing technical assistance to enhance effective participation of member countries in Codex and in the implementation of its recommendations, guidelines, and standards. The capacity building on Codex at national, sub-regional and regional levels includes seminars, training of trainers' courses, workshops, preparation of tools, as well as field projects and experts' missions. These activities aim at highlighting specific issues, establishing or strengthening National Codex Committees or Codex Contact Points, raising awareness, and also facilitating the constructive exchange of information on Codex.

The assistance provided is channelled through national authorities and their collaboration is recognised in contributing to these activities.

This report covers activities from 2002 to 2007, according to Codex groupings by region. This information is particularly useful for planning and developing future capacity building activities on Codex in these regions.

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ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICA REGION

Regional and Sub-regional Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

FAO/WHO organized a three-day regional training for African countries on Codex Alimentarius in Rabat, Morocco, in January 2007. 27 participants, most of them Codex Focal Points, from 21 countries of the African region participated to the workshop: **Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe**. The objectives of the workshop were to fix national priorities in regards to Codex; get support at national scale; strengthen involvement, participation and consultation of relevant stakeholders; increase the understanding of Codex mechanisms; promote national priorities at stake; identify activities that could improve the Codex program and plan a project for their elaboration; and exchange ideas and experiences on the development of Codex with colleagues from other countries.

[Final report in French \[pdf\]](#)

FAO has recently organized a four-day sub-regional training seminar on Codex Alimentarius in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in April 2008. The objectives of this training seminar were, among others, to strengthen national Codex activities, and in particular to enhance participation in the standard setting work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Delegates of the Agriculture, Health and Trade Ministries of **Cameroon, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Malawi, and Zambia** have participated to the seminar.

The FAO and WHO jointly organized a one-day workshop on “Effective Food Control Systems – Practical Approaches in the African Region” on January 2005, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, immediately prior to the 16th Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. The workshop was held to enable countries of the region to share experiences on aspects of successful food control systems with other participants from the region so that countries can continuously improve their food control system strategy, priorities, and performance. 53 participants from 22 FAO/WHO member countries attended the workshop: **Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe**; as well as two observers from FAO/WHO member countries outside of the region.

[Workshop report \[pdf 186kb\]](#)

National Workshops and Seminars

MADAGASCAR

FAO/ AGNS and the FAO sub-regional office organized a two-day national workshop in Madagascar in April 2005, involving officials and other stakeholders aiming at enhancing the awareness on Codex issues and assessing the needs and activities for a project focused on the strengthening of the food safety and quality sector in the country.

 **Field Projects**

ANGOLA

An FAO TCP project on “Strengthening of the National Codex Committee and of the Food Control System” is currently taking place in Angola since January 2008 for the duration of 16 months. The counterpart is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in coordination with the National Committee for Codex Alimentarius of Angola – Codex Angola. The general objective of the technical assistance is to optimize existing resources; to organize the functioning of Codex Angola, at technical and political levels, with the participation of all sectors; and to provide technical and scientific assistance for the creation of infrastructure, for the training of human resources, and for the working-out of norms and legislation.

Project Code: TCP/ANG/3104 (07/VI/ANG/210)

MADAGASCAR

An FAO TCP project on “Support to the strengthening of the National Codex Committee (NCC)” in Madagascar was approved in May 2006 for the duration of 12 months. The host organization was the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Private Sector Development. Its global objective was to help the government in its efforts to strengthen food quality and health control activities and to promote the exports of agricultural products in the country. The project promoted the diffusion of information on Codex Alimentarius, aiming at ensuring a greater involvement of Madagascar in the activities of the Codex Commission through a restructuring of the functioning of the NCC and of its different working groups.

Project Code: TCP/MAG/3101 (06/I/MAG/204)

TANZANIA

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the National Food Control System and National Codex Organisation in Tanzania was completed in January 2005. The project was implemented by AGNS and the FAO sub-regional office for Southern and Eastern Africa. Its objective was to improve the quality, safety and nutritional value of food produced in Tanzania and to ensure the acceptability of food imports/exports into/from the country. In particular, it aimed at reviewing and improving the current food control administration; upgrading food inspection and food analysis through training programmes; and improving the capabilities of the Tanzania Codex Contact Point within the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

Project Code: TCP/URT/29003(A)

For more information: <http://codextanzania.org>

Forthcoming Projects

GUINEA

A request was received in 2007 by AGNS from the Government of Guinea for a TCP project aiming at supporting the creation of the National Codex Committee and the strengthening of the national Codex Contact Point. The objective is to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in Codex activities and enable Guinea to take part in

international trade while protecting the health of its inhabitants. The project proposal is currently in its final formulation stage.

COTE D'IVOIRE

A request was received in 2007 by AGNS from the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire for a project aiming at restructuring National Codex Committee. The objective is to integrate Cote d'Ivoire in the activities of the Codex Commission and strengthen the quality and safety of food in the country. The project proposal is currently in the final formulation stage.

Direct Assistance

MOZAMBIQUE

During 2006 FAO/AGNS organized a mission of experts in Mozambique providing direct technical assistance to the Government in the establishment of a National Codex Committee and its policy implications. FAO/AGNS also assisted in the organization of stakeholders' consultation and training workshop.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

National Workshops and Seminars

JORDAN

FAO organized a two-day national workshop on Codex for senior officials in Aqaba, Jordan in collaboration with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority in November 2006.

IRAN

FAO organized a two-day national workshop on Codex for senior officials in Tehran, Iran, in December 2006.

Field Projects

YEMEN

An FAO TCP project to strengthen national food control systems and establish a National Codex Committee in Yemen was approved in early 2004 and continued through September 2005. The objectives of the project were to improve the coordination between the institutions involved in food control in the country, and to establish a NCC responsible for all matters related to the participation of Yemen in Codex work, as well as training national professionals in Codex functions.

Project Code: TCP/YEM/3003 (2/X/YEM/122)

ALGERIA

An FAO TCP project to assist the Government of Algeria in the setting up and strengthening of a National Codex Committee was approved in May 2004 and was completed in March 2006. Besides implementing a fully functional and active NCC, the project aimed at reviewing national food standards and proposing an action plan for their harmonization with international standards, mainly Codex standards.

Project Code: TCP/ALG/3003a

SYRIA

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the National Codex Committee and update/harmonise food standards and regulations began in Syria in November 2002 and was completed in mid-2005. The objective of the assistance was to strengthen the capacity of the Syrian NCC to effectively serve as an advisory body to the government on national food control matters and, in the process, harmonise Syrian food standards and regulations with the Codex Alimentarius Commission's requirements as well as update and consolidate older food regulations. The ultimate aim was to enhance the government's capacity to improve the level of national standards in conformity with international trade requirements.

TCP/SYR/2907(A)

TUNISIA

A one-year project to strengthen the National Codex Committee of Tunisia received funding in March 2000. The main objective of the project was to provide assistance to the Government of Tunisia to strengthen food quality and control systems and promote export of agricultural products by putting into place a National Codex Committee capable of responding to the changing international trade environment. The objective of this project was achieved by implementation of the appropriate mechanisms to ensure correct functioning of the Codex committee, sensitisation of principal actors (food industry, academia, consumers) on the functioning of Codex and integration of a plan of action to incorporate Codex recommendations into the operation of the national food control system.

Direct assistance

In 2006 FAO provided support to Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the organization of their National Codex Committees. Support was also provided to Qatar and UAE in the review of their food control system and in the formulation of a series of recommendations towards a restructuring of the systems for more efficiency and in order to reflect modern approaches to food safety management.

ACTIVITIES IN THE ASIA REGION

Regional and Sub-regional Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

FAO in collaboration with the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand, organized a three-day regional workshop on Codex Information Resources in Bangkok, Thailand, in December 2006. The objectives of the workshop were to achieve an understanding of the role and functioning of Codex, strengthen the national Codex Contact Points, demonstrate and provide training in the use of existing information resources on food safety and other SPS issues, facilitate the national promotion of food safety/SPS information and facilitate the exchange of food safety information and experiences among specialists in the region.

In the last 5 years a series of regional workshops have been organized by FAO in collaboration with ILSI-India targeted at countries of the region and in particular to Members of the **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation¹ (SAARC)**, with the objective to discuss practicable steps towards harmonization of food standards and regulations of SAARC countries in line with Codex and to exchange information on recent actions taken by each country to strengthen national food control systems. These workshops have been attended by official delegations from SAARC member countries, industry, R&D organizations and academia. They have been instrumental in enhancing cooperation among SAARC member countries in the areas of food safety and nutrition.

✓ A two-day regional workshop on “Food Safety in the SAARC region” was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in November 2004.

✓ A two-day regional workshop on “Modernising Food Control Systems in the SAARC Countries” was held in Goa, India, in September 2003. The meeting counted with the participation of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

✓ A two-day regional workshop on “Modernizing Food Control Systems in SAARC Countries” was held in December 2002 in Kathmandu, Nepal, in association with the ILSI South Asia Nepal Committee.

Field Projects

BHUTAN

An FAO TCP project on “Strengthening Food Control and Codex” began in Bhutan in June 2000, with funding for Phase 2 of this project approved in February 2004. The project was oriented toward the re-organisation of the food control administration in the country. A new food act was proposed and the inspection service was centralised. In 2005 some activities were still ongoing for upgrading the food chemical analysis laboratories.

Project Code: TCP/BHU/3002

¹ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is an economic and political organization of eight countries in Southern Asia. It was established on December 1985 by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan. In April 2007, at the Association's 14th summit, Afghanistan became its eighth member.

INDIA

An FAO TCP project in India was initiated in November 2000 and was completed in late 2003. The objective of the project was to strengthen the National Codex Committee and the National Codex Contact Point to ensure the effective conduct of Codex work at a national level and to enhance participation at international level. Activities included a series of training programs for government professionals, industry and consumer groups on strengthening food safety and quality systems in India through the NCC. The project output was a prioritised action plan for harmonisation of national food standards and regulations with Codex Alimentarius Commission recommendations.

Project Code: TCP/IND/0067(A)

For more information: <http://codexindia.nic.in/nccp.htm>

THAILAND

An FAO TCP project on “Strengthening compliance of the SPS requirements for expanded exports of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables” in Thailand was initiated in January 2004 for duration of 2 years. The government counterpart was the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the institution responsible for the execution was the Center of Inspection and Certification of Agricultural Products. The objective of the proposed technical assistance was to improve the quality and safety of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables produced in Thailand, by having the production system meet the WTO’s SPS standards and Codex safety requirements related to microbiological hazards in foods.

Project Code: TCP/THA/2903

Phase II of the project started in March 2007 and is expected to finish in March 2008.

Project Code: TCP/THA/3104

Direct Assistance

PHILIPPINES

During 2006 FAO provided direct technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines in the establishment of a National Codex Committee and a National Contact Point.

ACTIVITIES IN THE PACIFIC REGION

Regional and sub-regional Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

A four-day FAO/WHO Meeting on “Food Standards to Promote Health and Fair Trade in the Pacific” was held in the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines, in December 2007. The meeting was attended by 34 participants from 13 countries of the Pacific. It reviewed existing food laws, regulations and standards identifying priority areas for development at a national level and agreed on action to be taken to advance the development, adoption and effective enforcement of food standards consistent with Codex guidance and facilitate trade in safe and suitable food among the Pacific Island countries. The meeting was held within the framework of the Standards and Conformance Component of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme, coordinated by the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat.

A one-day regional workshop to “Review issues of strategic importance to the region” was held for members of the Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) in October 2006 in Mulifanua, Samoa.

A five-day sub-regional seminar on “Developing Food Standards within a Risk Analysis Framework” was held in Apia, Samoa from in July 2006. The training course involved a total of ten participants from **Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu**. The activity was made possible through funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF project 9, Rev 1). This project involved the development of a training manual on risk analysis and a pilot course each for the Asian and Pacific regions.

Funded through the FAO Regional Programme for Food Security, a two-week regional workshop on “Food Regulations in International Trade for Pacific Island Countries” involving 26 representatives from thirteen Pacific Island member countries took place in Apia, Samoa in November 2005. The course served to increase awareness and knowledge among Pacific Island Countries on the role played by quality in the international trade, as well as to highlight the economic, institutional, regulatory and marketing implications of food quality and safety requirements. This trade facilitation work is being continued through development of a methodology and implementation of a series of commodity chain studies focusing on selected regionally relevant food products for import substitution, export potential and food security needs.

A one-day regional workshop on “Codex, Food Control and International Standards” was held for members of the Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) on 18 October 2004 in Apia, Samoa.

A four-day regional meeting entitled "Future Action on Food Safety in the Pacific: a WHO/FAO/SPC Meeting" was conducted in May 2004 in Seremban, Malaysia with **21 temporary advisers drawn from the Pacific island countries as well as experts from**

elsewhere. This meeting aimed to provide guidance to Pacific island countries on mechanisms, based upon a sharing of resources and expertise, that can be applied to (1) develop food safety laws, regulations and standards suitable to the Pacific and based on Codex; (2) obtain data on the contamination of food in the Pacific; (3) obtain data regarding foodborne diseases in the Pacific; and (4) strengthen the competency of food inspectors in the Pacific. The meeting was held in conjunction with the FAO/WHO Food Safety Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

The “FAO/SPC/WHO Pacific Islands Food Safety and Quality Consultation” was held from 11 to 15 November, 2002 in Nadi, Fiji. A total of 37 participants and temporary advisers from the **Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu** attended the meeting. The objectives of this consultation were to (i) review the current status of food safety and quality and identify priorities in Pacific Island Countries (PIC); (ii) define options for more effective control of food safety and quality in the PICs; (iii) formulate strategies that address obesity prevention and control through more effective control of the food safety and quality of available food; (iv) recommend actions that can be taken by international organisations, development banks, key aid agencies and other interested parties to better coordinate food safety and quality efforts throughout the Pacific.

National Workshops and Seminars

SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the Solomon Islands, technical assistance was availed to carry out an in depth review of the draft food hygiene regulations and building thereupon, conduct a two-day “national stakeholder consultation” in October 2007 to discuss and finalise the regulations for gazetting. Furthermore, a two-day national training course on “Enhancing Participation in the Standard Setting Work of Codex” was conducted in Honiara in November 2007.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A five-day capacity building course on “Enhanced participation in Codex” was conducted in Port Moresby, PNG in October 2005. The course was attended by 19 participants from Papua New Guinea and three participants from the Solomon Islands.

TONGA

FAO provided technical assistance to Tonga in June 2003 to review the existing food control set up and propose appropriate alternative organizational structures for a “Food Division”. This was followed by a five-day “National Expert Consultation on the Development of an Integrated Food Control and Quality Assurance System for Tonga” held in Nuku’alofa in March 2004, held with the support of the WHO and the FAO. In 2006, FAO fielded technical assistance to carry out a comprehensive review of the existing national legislative and institutional framework for food safety and food quality control and draft a new Food Legislation for Tonga.

Field projects

A FAO sub-regional project on “Capacity Building in Codex, Food Regulation and International Food Standards Harmonization” was completed in July 2005. The project involved the **Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu** and conducted the following training activities: (i) a 2-week training course on “Food Regulation and Standards – Food Control and Quality Assurance” in November 2003 attended by two delegates from each of the five participating countries, (ii) a ten-day workshop on “Food Import/Export Inspection and Certification Systems” in March 2004 attended by two national delegates from each country and three national consultants, (iii) two sub-regional Training Courses on “Codex Information System and Management of Codex Contact Point” (3 to 13 August 2004 and 7-11 March 2005).

Project Code: TCP/RAS/2905

A FAO regional project on “Strengthening Food Analytical Capabilities in the Pacific Region” conducted the following capacity building activities (i) a four-day training course on food data compilation in September 2002, (ii) a two-week Study Tour to NZ on Multi residue Screening of Pesticides in November 2002, (iii) a five-day workshop on basic food analysis in July 2003 attended by two technicians from four participating countries; (iv) participation of an IAS/USP technician in the three-week International Course on Food Composition Data in Nutrition held at the Graduate School VLAG, Wageningen in October 2003, (v) a five-day workshop on pesticide residue and heavy metal analysis in November 2003 attended by two technicians from each of the five participating countries, as well as (vi) an end of project five-day Regional Round Table Meeting on Food Composition in August 2004 involving 18 delegates from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Regional and Sub-Regional Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

FAO organized a four-day regional seminar on “General Codex Alimentarius Norms in food additives and contaminants” in San José, Costa Rica, in June 2006. The host organization was the Secretary for Codex in Costa Rica. The seminar was addressed to the officials of the Health, Economy, Industry and Trade Ministries and to the employees of the industrial sector of **Central America**. The general objective was to provide knowledge and comprehension on the interpretation and practical application of the General Codex Alimentarius Norm in food additives in order to facilitate the working-out of a regional harmonized norm.

[Final Report in Spanish \[pdf 69kb\]](#)

A two-day regional workshop on “Enhancing participation in Codex” was held immediately prior the FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food safety for the Americas and the Caribbean, in San José, Costa Rica, in December 2005 using the FAO/WHO package developed on this matter by FAO/WHO.

FAO organized a four-day sub-regional training course on “Enhancing Participation in Codex” in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, in June 2006. The host organizations were Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) and the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI). The Training Course was attended by fifteen delegates from **Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago**. The objective of this course was to strengthen national Codex activities in the region and to enhance participation in the standard setting work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

[Final report \[pdf 270kb\]](#)

National Workshops and Seminars

HAITI

FAO organized a one-week national training course on “Enhancing participation in Codex activities” in Haiti, in November 2007, in collaboration with the Minister of Agriculture and with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, Health, Finance as well as exporters, national producers, and consumer’s associations.

PARAGUAY

FAO organised a one-day national seminar on Codex Alimentarius in Asunción, Paraguay, in August 2001, in collaboration with the National Codex Committee from Paraguay (CONACAP) and with the participation of 45 persons. Achievements and difficulties of CONACAP were discussed and several recommendations were agreed, one of them being the strengthening of the management of CONACAP. This recommendation originated the formulation of a FAO technical cooperation project (see section below).

 **Field Projects**

HAITI

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the national food control system of Haiti began in July 2002 and was completed in 2003. This was a second phase project following up on an 18-month project to reinforce national food control capacity. The main activities of this project included drafting of food law and basic regulations in accordance with Codex Guidelines, creation of a National Codex Committee, training of food inspector trainers, training of laboratory personnel and provision of basic laboratory equipment.

Project Code: TCP/HAI/2802

SURINAME

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the food control system of Suriname continued through early January 2006. The project was implemented by AGNS and the FAO sub-regional office for the Caribbean. The main objective was to strengthen the National Food Control System through providing training, upgrading laboratory facilities, and supporting the functioning of the National Codex Committee and its Working Groups. The project outputs included, among many others, a plan of action on food safety conforming to Codex Alimentarius Commission's recommendations.

Project Code: TCP/SUR/3002

GUYANA

An FAO TCP project designed to strengthen the food control system in Guyana began in May 2002 and was completed in October 2004. The project was implemented by the FAO sub-regional office for the Caribbean and AGNS. It assisted the government in upgrading the food law and harmonising national food standards with international standards. Among other achievements, the capability of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS) and the National Codex Committee were strengthened, therefore facilitating more active and effective national participation in Codex work.

Project Code: TCP/GUY/2801

Phase II of the project started in July 2005 and concluded in 2006. The objective, inline with the immediate aims of the original project, was to improve the efficiency of food inspection in order to facilitate compliance with WTO Agreements on SPS and TBT, as well as upgrade the analytical capabilities of the government food control laboratory. The project included the strengthening of the Codex Contact Point and allowed improved involvement in Codex work, with national interest protected and adequate representation in the international arena.

Project Code: TCP/GUY/3002

ANDEAN COUNTRIES

An FAO TCP regional project to strengthen the management of National Codex Committees and the application of the Codex Alimentarius Standards of the Andean Countries was initiated in September of 2002 and continued until December 2004. The project was implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and AGNS. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela participated in this project. The main objectives were to strengthen the management of the NCC, to develop a national and sub-regional training program, and to promote the harmonisation of the national standards to Codex.

Project Code: TCP/RLA/2904

The complete project, including objectives and activities with the corresponding reports and documents, is available at: www.rlc.fao.org/prior/comagric/codex/rla2904/default.htm

PARAGUAY

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the National Codex Committee (NCC) in Paraguay began operations in October 2002 and was completed in July 2004. The project was implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and AGNS. Its main objectives were to support the work of the NCC and the Codex focal point, to establish linkages between government sectors, industry and consumers, to develop an action plan to update national food standards in harmony with Codex guidelines and to establish a website for exchange of information on Codex.

Project Code: TCP/PAR/2801

The complete project, including objectives and activities with the corresponding reports and documents, is available at: www.rlc.fao.org/prior/comagric/codex/par2801/default.htm

URUGUAY

An FAO project designed to strengthen the National Codex Committee of Uruguay began in 2001 and was completed in early 2003. The main objective of this project was to improve national and local capacity of the NCC, by enhancing the decision-making structure and encouraging greater participation from government officials, industry and other stakeholders in National Codex activities. The outcome of this project was a stronger NCC able to inform and advise the state and civil society in matters related to Codex.

Project Code: TCP/URU/0065

CENTRAL AMERICA

A regional project to “Strengthen National Codex Committees in Central America” began in March 2001 and was completed in December 2002. The project was implemented in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic. The main objective of the project was to create and/or strengthen NCCs in each country and facilitate the application of Codex guidelines and recommendations. The objectives were met through a series of regional and national workshops to establish and strengthen NCCs and review the structure and responsibilities of subsidiary Codex bodies. The aim was to create a Codex information system in each country in order to disseminate to government and other stakeholders relevant information including new guidelines and regulations established by Codex.

Project Code: TCP/RLA/0065

The complete project, including objectives and activities with the corresponding reports and documents, is available at: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/prior/comagric/codex/pdf/rla0065d.pdf>

ARGENTINA

A second phase project to strengthen the National Codex Committee in Argentina was funded in May 2000 and was completed in April 2001. The objective of this assistance was to improve and expand the Codex information system and to enhance the capacity of the national body to highlight national issues of importance at international Codex meetings. The project aimed to strengthen the NCC through the appointment and training of 9 provincial Codex focal points on international criteria for the development of norms, guides and recommendations of Codex and their application in control programs.

Project Code: TCP/ARG/2903

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

An FAO TCP project to strengthen the food control system of Dominican Republic began in June 2007. The project is been implemented by AGNS and the FAO sub-regional office for the Caribbean. The main objective is to strengthen the national food control system in order to establish the national food safety system in the country. The main activities of this project include an assessment of the national food safety system, upgrading the food law and harmonising national food standards with international standards, improve the efficiency of food inspection in order to facilitate compliance with WTO Agreements on SPS and TBT, establishing of an information and communication system of food hygiene and control for the consumer, and enhancing of the various stakeholders, including the private sector, through the training in aspects relating to free trade agreements, food legislation, food control systems, food inspection, and quality management programs HACCP to improve products quality and safety.

Project Code: TCP/DOM/3102

Forthcoming Projects

A regional project on “Strengthening the national Codex Committee and National Codex Contact Point” in the counties of Dominica, Grenada, St.Kitts and Nevis and St.Vincent and the Grenadines is currently under elaboration by the Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean.

Direct Assistance

JAMAICA

During 2006 FAO and the Sub-Regional Office of the Caribbean provided direct technical assistance thought expert consultations to the Establishment of a National Codex

Committee in Jamaica and to the Jamaica Bureau of Standards in preparing its Plan of Action for the Codex National Committee.

COSTA RICA

During 2006 FAO/AGNS provided direct technical assistance through expert consultations to Costa Rica on harmonization of standards based on risk assessment for additives and contaminants, as well as advice to the National Codex Committee of Costa Rica and to the Central American region.

PERU

During 2006 FAO provided direct assistance to Peru on the strengthening of its National Codex Committee.

ACTIVITIES IN THE EUROPE REGION

✚ Regional and Sub-regional Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

FAO organized a three-day regional training course on Codex in Warsaw, Poland, in October 2007. The Training Seminar was jointly organized by the Governments of Switzerland (Swiss Federal Office in Switzerland) and Poland (The Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection and The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). The main objectives were to raise awareness of the significance of country participation in the international standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The seminar was attended by 42 delegates from **Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo (UNMIK), Latvia, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.**

FAO/WHO, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland, organized a one-day seminar on ‘Strengthening Knowledge of Codex Procedures and Risk Analysis’ prior to CCEURO in Vilnius, Lithuania, in January 2007. The seminar was attended by delegates from **Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Poland, Lithuania, Serbia, and Uzbekistan.** The objective of the seminar was to disseminate information on Codex procedures and address the importance of risk analysis as a basis for national food control programmes.

[Draft Report \[pdf 142kb\]](#)

FAO/WHO-EURO held a three-day regional training course on Codex in Vilnius, Lithuania in October 2005. The workshop was attended by 25 participants from **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Kosovo (Serbia & Montenegro), Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.** The objectives of this training course were to enhance the capacity of countries from the region to participate actively in Codex activities in general, and to increase their participation in the activities of the FAO/WHO CCEURO. This training course served as preparation for the 25th Session of the CCEURO, to be held in the last quarter of 2006.

A three-day sub-regional training course on "Enhancing participation in Codex" took place in March 2006 in Zagreb, Croatia. The host organization was the Croatian National Institute of Public Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. Representatives from **Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, and Kosovo** (Serbia and Montenegro) attended the training course. The training sessions focussed mainly on increasing knowledge in structure, organization and procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, as well as establishing national Codex programmes.

[Final report \[pdf 264kb\]](#)

A three-day sub-regional training course on food control and Codex was held in Dushnabe, Tajikistan in July 2006, in collaboration with Tajikstandart. The training course counted with the participation of delegates from **Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.**

✚ National Workshops and Seminars

UKRAINE

FAO organized a two-day national workshop on Codex in Kiev, Ukraine, in December 2007, in collaboration with the National Agricultural University of Ukraine, the Laboratory for Quality & Safety of Agricultural Products and the National Codex Committee in Ukraine. A total of 57 persons from relevant institutions and various stakeholders along the food chain participated to the workshop. The objectives were to understand the structure, management and operational procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission; to enhance participation in national and international Codex activities; to strengthen the Codex activities at national level; and to receive feedback on challenges and future capacity-building needs on Codex activities.

Field Projects

MOLDOVA

A project in Moldova to strengthen the organisation of the National Codex Committee was completed in 2002. The main objective of the project was to provide the basis for the establishment of an effective system for food standardisation and safety, consumer protection and market access through the strengthening of the NCC and its operational mechanisms, with the ultimate aim of enhancing government capacity to improve the level of national standards in both local food control matters and international trade. The main project outcomes were: establishment of a 23-member NCC; establishment of a Codex information system and national office; review of national legislation with the goal of harmonisation with Codex official standards; training in modern food control methods for key persons in the food control organisation of Moldova.

GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

An FAO TCP project on food safety capacity building related to Codex was conducted in Georgia and Armenia for 3 weeks in July 2007. The objective of the project was to inform national authorities and stakeholders on the importance of Codex Alimentarius as a basis for adjustment of food legislation and standards to improve food safety and facilitate food trade, and discuss and advise on the strengthening of national Codex activities. The second objective was to prepare and conduct a four-day training course which was held in Tbilisi, Georgia, with participants from both countries. The aim of the workshop was to train technical staff (representing the key stakeholder groups from Georgia and Armenia) on the Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO Agreements to be able to develop national Codex programmes.

Project Code: TCP/RER/3003

Forthcoming projects

TCP Projects in development which will include a component on Codex are in preparation for Belarus, Tajikistan.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON FOOD SAFETY

FAO and WHO recently convened a series of Regional Conferences on Food Safety in all regions of the world to assist Member Countries in developing practical national action plans to improve food safety laws, regulations and standards based on Codex, and to promote regional cooperation. These regional conferences on food safety were held in:

- **Europe:** A four-day “*Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality*” was held in Budapest, Hungary in February 2002, at the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture and Regional Development of Hungary. Over 200 delegates from 48 FAO/WHO member countries, the European Community and 18 international organizations attended this meeting.
[Final report \[pdf\]](#)
- **Asia:** A four-day FAO/WHO/SPC Regional Conference on Food Safety for Asia and the Pacific was held in Seremban, Malaysia, in May 2004 in an effort to facilitate the discussion of practical actions and capacity building recommendations to promote food safety in the countries of the Asian and Pacific region. The Conference was attended by high ranking policy officers and technical experts from 35 Asia and Pacific member countries and territories of FAO and WHO. It was also attended by 10 international organizations as observers.
[Final report \[pdf\]](#)
- **Near East:** A two-day FAO/WHO joint regional meeting on “*Practical Actions to Promote Food Safety*” was held at Amman, Jordan, in March 2005. Over 90 delegates from 11 member countries of the Near East Region and observers from 5 international governmental and non-governmental organizations participated in this meeting, under the general theme of “Practical Actions to Promote Food Safety”.
[Final report \[pdf\]](#)
- **Africa:** A two-day FAO/WHO regional meeting on “Food Safety in Africa” was held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in October 2005. The conference was attended by high-ranking policy officers and technical experts from 45 member countries of the African region of FAO and WHO. It was also attended by nine international governmental and nongovernmental organizations as observers
[Final report \[pdf\]](#)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** A four day FAO/WHO regional conference on “*Practical Actions to Promote Food Safety*” was held in San José, Costa Rica, in December 2005. The Conference brought together over 175 delegates from 32 member countries of the Americas and the Caribbean and observers from 14 international governmental and non-governmental organizations to discuss food safety issues in the region.
[Final report \[pdf\]](#)

PRE-CODEX WORKSHOPS

Pre-Codex Workshops can not be defined as capacity building activities as such since they do not aim to develop the understanding on operational mechanisms of Codex but are intended to extend guidance and share knowledge on **technical matters** directly related to Codex Activities, and give advice to national governments on specific food safety related issues that are being discussed within Codex. Between 2002 and 2007 FAO has organized a number of pre-Codex workshops:

- FAO and the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) organized a three-day workshop on “Traceability of food” in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2006.
[Workshop report in Spanish \[pdf 210kb\]](#)
- FAO/WHO and the CCLAC Coordination organized a one-day workshop on “Equivalence of medical measures and systems of control” in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2006, prior to the 15th session of the CCLAC.
[Workshop report in Spanish \[pdf\]](#)
- FAO/WHO/ILSI organized a one-day workshop on “Detection of Protein and/or DNA in Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology” in Budapest, Hungary, in March 2004. The workshop was held in the same venue and immediately prior to the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS).
[Workshop report \[pdf\]](#)
- FAO/WHO organized a one-day workshop on “Functional Foods: Safety and Regulatory Aspects” in Jeju-Do, Republic of Korea in September 2004, prior to the 14th session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA).
[Workshop report \[pdf 149kb\]](#)
- FAO/PAHO organized a one-day workshop on “Food Control Systems” in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2004. The workshop was held prior to the 14th session of the CCLAC.
[Workshop program in Spanish \[pdf\]](#)

- FAO/WHO organized a one-day workshop on “Food Control Systems- Modern Approaches in the Near East Region” in Cairo, Egypt, in January 2003, prior to the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA).
[Workshop report \[pdf 42kb\]](#)

- FAO/WHO organized a one-day workshop on “Applying Food Safety Risk Analysis in Asia: Practical Approaches” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2002, prior to the 13th session of the CCASIA.
[Workshop report \[pdf\]](#)

- FAO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency organized a one-day workshop on “Fish Inspection” in Vancouver, Canada, in October 2002, prior to the Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and the South-West Pacific (CCNASWP).

- FAO/WHO organized a one-day workshop on “Applying Food Safety Risk Analysis in Africa: Practical Approaches” in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2002, prior to the CCAFRICA session.
[Workshop Report \[pdf 26kb\]](#)

- FAO/WHO organized a one-day workshop on “Applying Food Safety Risk Analysis in Latin America: Practical Approaches” in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in December 2002, prior to the 13th session of the CCLAC.
[Workshop report \[pdf 27kb\]](#)