

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 4

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Seventeenth Session

Rabat, Morocco, 23-26 January 2007

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR COORDINATION OF CCAFRICA

Comments from Ghana, Kenya and Lesotho

Ghana

TIME FRAME FOR GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The Draft Strategic Plan should have a time frame and we suggest the time frame from year 2007 -2015 so that it would be linked with the Millennium Development Goal which highlights food security and economic emancipation. Alternatively, the time frame could be linked to that of the Draft Strategic Plan for the Codex Alimentarius Commission which is 2008 – 2013.

TIME FRAME FOR SPECIFIC ACTIONS

The time frame for specific objectives and activities for achieving all objectives should be determined by the plenary session of CCAFRICA as required under column 4 of the Draft Strategic plan.

ACTION COLUMNS FOR OBJECTIVES

We suggest the removal of the word 'To' which precedes all the verbs in the action columns for objectives 1 - 6. This is because the action column should start with a command verb but should not be framed like an objective. We have noticed that the action column for objective 7 has been framed with command verbs and therefore no need for amendment. We suggest that the action columns for objectives 1-6 be amended to read as follows:

Action column for Objective 1

1. Maximize the use of electronic communication systems in countries of the region, and encourage the development of a web page for each contact point;
2. Encourage countries to continuously provide updated contact details of National Codex Contact Points to the Codex Secretariat;
3. Organize a virtual chat room with the primary objective of exchanging information prior to Codex meetings among CCAFRICA members as well as other regional committees or Codex members;
4. Establish a mechanism whereby the Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees in the CCAFRICA region can share their expertise with each other.

Action Column for Objective 2

1. Search for financial assistance from possible sources to support Codex activities (Trust Fund, WHO, FAO, UNDP, International organizations);
2. Ask for collaboration in the translation of relevant information into English, French and Arabic;
3. Establish working groups responsible for examining strategic aspects of Codex activities;

4. Involve all countries in the region in the activities CCAFRICA;
5. Hold in conjunction with sessions of CCAFRICA, Member countries of the region seminars/workshops on food safety and related matters of concern to the region;
6. Encourage countries that have a common interest to coordinate their position and present it as a uniform position at Codex committee meetings;
7. Give support to countries of the Region in organizing Codex events.

Action Column for Objective 3

1. Identify needs for capacity building with other organizations and look for possible financing resources;
2. Encourage and support CCAFRICA member countries in establishing National Codex Committees.

Action Column for Objective 4

1. Identify and establish a list of specialists and institutions available in the region based on the information provided by each country that could provide support and specialized advice to the CCAFRICA.
2. Establish a regional evaluation body that will coordinate communication of expert data with other Codex evaluation bodies;
3. Identify and prioritize issues that require specialized expertise;
4. Organize working groups that will formulate and oversee projects to research resources and to ensure their follow-up.

We suggest the removal of the comma after the word 'groups' in the sentence '**Organize working groups, that will formulate.....**' for the sentence to read as follows '**Organize working groups that will formulate.....**' for the fourth action of objective 4.

Action Column for Objective 5

1. Design a biennial plan of action, to be implemented between the CCAFRICA meetings;
2. Conduct periodic evaluations and follow up on the actions contemplated in the Strategic Plan;
3. **Establish handing over procedures during the transition of the co-ordinationship;**
4. Present a final report on the achievements in the key result areas contemplated in the Strategic Plan at the next meeting of CCAFRICA.

Note: We suggest the replacement of the sentence number 3 of the action column for objective 5:

Establish mechanisms for transfer of information for the transition of the coordination

to read as follows:

'Establish handing over procedures during the transition of the co-ordinationship'

Action Column for Objective 6

1. Elaborate a list of organizations that could provide technical and financial cooperation;
2. Organize working groups that would formulate and oversee research projects;
3. Develop and analyze proposals for the creation of trust funds and other means of financing within the Codex domain, keeping in mind the region's interests.

Action column for Objective 7

The first sentence for the action column for objective 7 which reads as follows:

'Identify issues of economic interest that have consensus within the region for elaboration of Codex Standards'

should be amended to read as follows:

'Identify economic and priority issues that have consensus within the region for elaboration by the Codex Alimentarius Commission'.

This objective should be the responsibility of both Coordinator and Members of the region. Therefore we suggest the insertion of the word '**Coordinator**' in addition to Member Countries at the third column for objective 7.

Kenya

OBJECTIVE 1

Kenya proposes that timeframes be determined for:

Action 1 - one year, June 2007 – 2008;

Action 2 - yearly or when necessary. This update should include the interval by which information is availed to Codex committees irrespective of changes;

Action 3 – Kenya proposes that this action should be done as soon as possible, user name and password should be sent Codex Contact Points for each member country of CCAFRICA and that it should have a continuous timeframe depending on the frequency of CAC meetings; and

Kenya has no objection to **Action 4**.

OBJECTIVE 2

It is proposed that the time frame for **Action 1** should be continuous;

Action 2 – Kenya proposes the Kiswahili language to be included for those countries which speak the language and should be implemented as soon as possible.

OBJECTIVE 5

Action 1 – This action should be the responsibility of both the coordinator as well as member countries.

OBJECTIVE 6

Action 2 – Kenya noted that Objective 4, Action 4 and Objective 6, Action 2 are interrelated.

Lesotho

We find the draft strategic plan quite comprehensive and that it covers all necessary aspects.

However, under objective 2 (achieving active and effective participation), we feel that it will be difficult to achieve such without effective support from policy/decision makers. We, therefore, propose an action plan that seeks to engage leadership in Africa. The proposed wording is:

"To design strategies targeted to national leadership that will lead to higher priority and enhanced support to codex activities."

You may find a better way of presenting this, but we feel involvement of national leadership is key.