



## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

### **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

**38<sup>th</sup> Session, CIGG**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 6-11 July 2015**

### **CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2019**

### **GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

**(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat in collaboration with FAO and WHO)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. CAC36 (2013) adopted the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for 2014-2019. It includes a work plan identifying for each activity: the responsible party, timeline, expected outcome and measurable indicators/outputs.
2. The Executive Committee and the Commission are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan annually. The CAC37 (2014) agreed to establish a monitoring framework for the implementation of the Strategic Plan in subsidiary bodies and tasked the Codex Secretariat to elaborate this framework (i.e. templates).
3. This report has been done for the first full calendar year (2014) of implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Reporting by calendar year (and not Commission to Commission) was chosen, as this time period is easier to delineate and will enable analysis and document preparation well ahead of annual Executive Committee and the Commission meetings.
4. Data and information describing the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan are presented in Appendix I.

## **SOURCES OF DATA AND INFORMATION**

5. Three sources of data and information have been used in this status report, and are summarized for each activity in Appendix II.

### Existing Data

6. The data and information obtained through existing Codex documents (e.g. Committee reports and working documents) were used to measure implementation of 18 activities<sup>1</sup>. Corresponding documents from 2008 to 2013 were used for creating a baseline with which to compare the 2014 implementation of activities 2.3.3, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.
7. The ongoing discussions concerning Codex work management and functioning of the Executive Committee (CX/CAC 15/38/9) and the Codex communication strategy (CX/CAC 15/38/22) which may eventually impact on the implementation of the Strategic Plan were also taken into consideration.

### Survey of the Codex Committees held after 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Strategic Plan implementation

8. Based on the recommendation endorsed by CAC37, the Codex Secretariat prepared a template to gather information on the implementation of the Strategic Plan (see para.2), and asked all Codex Subsidiary bodies meeting between September 2014 and May 2015 to provide replies to the template. Out of a total of 19 subsidiary bodies that met during this period, 13 reported on their activities using the template.
9. Implementation of 12 activities<sup>2</sup> were measured using this template.

<sup>1</sup> Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.3.1, 1.3.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.1, 2.2.3, 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.5, 3.2.3, 4.1.1, (4.1.2) 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.1, 4.2.2

<sup>2</sup> Activities 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 3.1.5, 3.2.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.2.1

### Data and Information provided from FAO and WHO

10. FAO/WHO capacity building initiatives significantly enhance the relevance of Codex and will contribute towards achieving strategic outcomes if they are geared toward the goals of the plan. As a contribution to monitoring of the Strategic Plan, data and information related to 6 activities<sup>3</sup> were provided by FAO and WHO.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

11. Information and data relevant to monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Plan is currently generated as part of regular Codex activities, without much additional burden to Codex subsidiary bodies and members. Having decided on what information and data to use and how to present it, the same approach will be used by the Secretariat in future implementation reports, unless changes for improvement are suggested.

12. For some activities, data and information still need to be generated through specific requests for information to Codex subsidiary bodies, development of *ad hoc* surveys, and assistance of FAO and WHO. For some of these activities, data and information may not need to be requested annually.

13. A uniform platform for communication between FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat and the member states is under development, from which information on the following activities could be gathered. For this way of information gathering to be effective it would require that the rate of Codex Contact points actively using the platform should be high.

- Activity 2.3.4 # of networks developed. # of countries joining a network. # of times input received from developing country by expert committees, as a result from participation in a network.
- Activity 3.1.2 # of developing countries identifying their willingness to co-host Codex meetings.
- Activity 3.2.2 # of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees.

14. For the following activities, data and information are still not available or there is not enough. Reasons for this are shown in the brackets. In order to monitor these activities, the following measurable indicators need to be clarified or modified.

- Activity 2.1.2 # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.

[Need clarification on “scientists and technical experts” and how to distinguish between scientists/technical experts and other people involved in the Codex process.]

- Activity 2.1.3 # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.

[Difficult to judge whether a document identifies all relevant factors or not.]

- Activity 3.1.1 Baseline # of Members with permanent national Codex structures developed. Annual reports on the # of Members with permanent national Codex structures reporting an increase in such structures.

[Need clarification on what is meant by “permanent national Codex structures”.]

- Activity 3.2.1 # of countries with functioning national Codex structures.

[Need clarification on what is meant by “functioning national Codex structures”.]

- Activity 4.1.1 Reports of reviews of work processes and procedures identifying: # of impediments to standard-setting work identified / # of processes and procedures updated to address the identified impediments, if necessary.

[Difficult to identify and count “impediments”, are we talking about general or particular issues impeding progress of the standards-setting process?]

Consideration should be given to and opinions are invited on whether all indicators proposed in the Codex Strategic Plan are still relevant, or if higher level measurable indicators, targeted to the Objectives or to the Strategic Goals, would be preferred.

<sup>3</sup> Activities 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. It is recommended that the Commission:

- (1) Identify activities that are no longer relevant and for which data and information may not be needed for every year. This may lead to a reformulation of the template queries.
- (2) Consider for activity 4.1.1, changing the measurable indicator to: (i) identify the Committees that have held discussions on impediments, (ii) whether the Committee identified any impediments under that discussion, and (iii) has any action been taken by that Committee to resolve the identified impediments.
- (3) Clarify or modify the measurable indicators provided in para.11 (excluding activity 4.1.1.).
- (4) Request that the Codex Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO:
  - present at the next Session of the Commission and Executive Committee a status report of the 2015 implementation of the Strategic Plan for those activities for which information and data are available;
  - prepare a plan for the development of surveys or other platforms to monitor activities considered important but for which information and data are not available, such as those mentioned in para.10.

## STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### Strategic Goal 1:

#### ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS THAT ADDRESS CURRENT AND EMERGING FOOD ISSUES

##### Objective 1.1:

Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

**Activity 1.1.1** - Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.

##### **Status of Implementation:**

According to information gathered from Codex Committees, below “the template answers”, all committees that responded follow the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities in the Procedural Manual. In addition to that, CCCF, CCFH, CCPR, CCRVDF and CCFICS have specific criteria with which to prioritize their work. For CCRVDF, there is ongoing discussion exploring the feasibility of adopting a rating type system to establish priorities for the work of the Committee, which was inspired by the system used in CCFH. No committee expressed any imminent plans for review or possible revision of the current criteria.

Considering that all new proposals were assessed using Criteria in the Procedural Manual, the number of standards developed and revised based on priority setting criteria equals the number of standards and related texts adopted at the CAC37, which is 28.

**Activity 1.1.2** - Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.

##### **Status of Implementation:**

The critical review process has been addressed, among other things, in the Secretariat’s document on Codex Work Management and Functioning of the Executive Committee (CX/CAC 15/38/9). The agenda item will be discussed in the Executive Committee as well as in the Commission meeting, and this can be expected to result in recommendations concerning also the critical review process.

##### Objective 1.2:

Proactively identify emerging issues<sup>4</sup> and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

**Activity 1.2.1** - Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.

**Activity 1.2.2** - Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.

##### **Status of Implementation:**

According to the template answers Codex Committees primarily rely on Members, other committees, and the FAO/WHO to identify emerging issues. Most Committees have not developed a systematic approach for identification of emerging issues (a few have), and more than half of those that responded see a merit in doing so if current practices were shown to be insufficient.

##### Objective 1.3:

Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities

**Activity 1.3.1** - Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations

##### **Status of Implementation:**

There are many cross-cutting themes on the agendas of Codex and the OIE, and the existing collaboration should be continued and strengthened. Procedural and organisational differences between Codex and OIE exist, but should not stand in the way of cooperation. Collaboration between Codex and the IPPC at this moment is mainly at the administrative level, because of the similarities in secretarial structures. There is also cooperation because of common interests in WTO and STDF matters, while common programmatic issues have not been identified.

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<sup>4</sup> Emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations and emerging hazards, related to ongoing investigations or extra-ordinary events (e.g., natural disaster, external threats).

The cooperation between Codex and other international standards-setting organizations is further elaborated in documents CX/CAC 14/37/15 and CX/CAC 15/38/19. The cooperation between Codex Committees and the OIE is described in more detail in the following documents: CX/FFP 14/33/4; CX/GP 14/28/6 and CX/GP 14/28/6 Add1; CX/FICS 14/21 INF/3; and CX/FH 14/46/4.

**Activity 1.3.2** - Promote cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.

**Status of Implementation:**

Cooperation between Codex and other international standards-setting organizations may in some instances have a long history, but this cooperation could benefit from a more strategic approach, where areas of mutual benefit would be actively sought. As these organizations may play a central role in the enhancement of Codex standards it would be advisable to increase interaction with them, eg. a good start would be to improve and increase the presence of Codex in all relevant meetings of such organizations.

The present cooperation between Codex and other international standards-setting organizations is further elaborated in documents CX/CAC 14/37/15 and CX/CAC 15/38/19. Cooperation between Codex Committees and particular international standards-setting organizations can be assessed from the following documents: CX/SCH 14/1/3 (ESA); CX/SCH 14/1/3 Add1 (ISO); CX/FFV 14/18/3 (UNECE and OECD); CX/FFV 14/18/4 (UNECE); CRD1 of CCMAS35 (Inter-Agency Meeting report); CX/CF 14/8/4 (Joint FAO/IAEA); CX/PR 14/46/4 (Joint FAO/IAEA and OECD); and CX/FICS 14/21 INF/4 (WCO).

**Strategic Goal 2:**

**ENSURE THE APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CODEX STANDARDS**

**Objective 2.1:**

Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.

**Activity 2.1.1** - Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the *“Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius”*.

**Status of Implementation:**

For a given year, the cases of requested and utilized scientific advice do not match, as there is a natural delay between request and use of such advice. Therefore the numbers reported below shall be seen as indicative, gaining more meaning in the coming years as the reporting of the implementation of the Strategic Plan progresses.

Among 16 Committees held in 2014, five Committees (FH/PR/CF/FA/FFP) requested scientific advice from FAO/WHO and six Committees (NFSDU/FH/PR/CF/FA/NASWP) used scientific advice from FAO/WHO. An overview of scientific advice provided by FAO/WHO can be found in document CX/CAC 15/38/16.

**Activity 2.1.2** - Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.

**Status of Implementation:**

According to the template answers from 11 Codex Committees, Members typically seek and engage national scientific and technical expertise from within their government and from those outside of government prior to developing and advancing a country's position. Meeting delegations are ideally constituted by selecting experts who have sufficient knowledge for items shown in the Provisional Agenda and are sufficiently qualified to be involved in the discussions.

The mentoring approach used in 2012 in the revision of the Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997) is an example of a mechanism used by the CCFH to engage scientific and technical expertise at national level in the work of Codex. According to CCRVDF, training and *ad hoc* workshops can contribute to strengthen technical participation of countries in the work of Committees.

The Committees do not believe that any specific guidance on this issue is currently needed.

As regards the Outcome Indicators<sup>5</sup> listed in the Strategic Plan, no data is presently available but could be gathered for future reports. However, this would require clear advice on what criteria to use for distinguishing between scientists/technical experts and other people involved in the Codex process.

**Activity 2.1.3** - Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.

<sup>5</sup> Indicator 1. The number of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. 2. The number of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.

**Status of Implementation:**

According to the template answers from 13 Codex Committees, all Committees (except CCASIA, the only regional committee that responded) ensure that all relevant factors in exploring risk management options are considered. The Committees follow the Working Principles for Risk Analysis in the Procedural Manual and for some Committees also their own specific criteria, if such have been established.

As regards the Outcome Indicators<sup>6</sup> listed in the Strategic Plan, no data is presently available but could be gathered for future reports. However, this would require clear advice on what criteria to use for identifying the committee documents mentioned as measurable indicators.

**Activity 2.1.4** - Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.

**Status of Implementation:**

In 2014, 28 standards and related texts, i.e. Codex Codes of Practice, Guidelines and Standards and MRLs were adopted at CAC37 and either published or revised on the Codex website.

According to the template answers from 12 Codex Committees, communication of the risk management recommendations are done through standards, guidelines, and other related texts, which are posted on the Codex website. All Committees agree that the development of an overarching Codex communication strategy that is fine tuned to the specific audiences of each committee would be helpful to members.

In developing codes of hygienic practice, the CCFH often includes a section on consumer awareness and training which helps in communication of risk management measures. CCFICS sees it as relevant, but at the moment the committee does not actively communicate outcomes of its work.

**Objective 2.2:**

Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

**Activity 2.2.1** - Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.

**Status of Implementation:**

No data is presently gathered on the number of Members making interventions at the WHO governing bodies in support of sustainable funding for scientific advice.

According to WHO officials, the present resources allocated to the provision of scientific advice by WHO is not adequate. Support from WHO is given as activity funds and as a part of the staff salaries, and is reported in document CX/CAC 15/38/15.

The agenda of any FAO governing body session is a critical factor regarding whether there is any discussion of food safety and related scientific advice. Due to the broad mandate of the organization opportunities to discuss these issues occur infrequently. In October 2014, after a period 10 years, food safety was discussed as an item on the agenda of the FAO Committee on Agriculture<sup>7</sup>. During the discussion *there was strong support from members from country delegations for FAOs food safety strategy and programme including the provision of scientific advice to Codex and the committee recommended that FAO, its Members and its partners explore new sources of funding to be allocated in order to meet the challenge of the growing demands on FAO's food safety scientific advice programme*<sup>8</sup>. This report was brought to the attention of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (6-15th June 2015)

**Activity 2.2.2** - Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.

**Status of Implementation:**

FAO and WHO are developing a strategy to support efforts to support resource mobilization for the scientific advice programme. The current donor base remains extremely small as noted in CX/CAC 15/38/14, with only about 7 countries contributing extra budgetary financial resources for scientific advice.

**Activity 2.2.3** - Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.

**Status of Implementation:**

The work of the CCEXEC sub-committee identifying potential options for financial support (established by CCEXEC68/CAC37) was superseded by a discussion paper, to be prepared by FAO and WHO, on sustainable funding for the provision of scientific advice to Codex and Member States. The matter is being followed up by FAO and WHO.

<sup>6</sup> Indicator 1. The number of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations; Indicator 2. The number of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.

<sup>7</sup> The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is one of FAO's Governing Bodies providing overall policy and regulatory guidance on issues relating to agriculture, livestock, food safety, nutrition, rural development and natural resource management.

<sup>8</sup> Report of the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ML895e.pdf>

**Objective 2.3:**

Increase scientific input from developing countries.

**Activity 2.3.1** - Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.

**Status of Implementation:**

FAO and WHO issue 6 to 8 calls for data every biennium depending on the requests for scientific advice from the various Committees. All of these calls for data are distributed through the Codex mailing lists, as well as the FAO and WHO websites and various relevant networks. Baseline data is being collected for the current biennium regarding the replies to Calls for data against which future responses can be compared. However, some calls for data target industry rather than countries, a factor that is being considered in establishing the baseline.

**Activity 2.3.2** - Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.

**Status of Implementation:**

Support was provided through a range of capacity development modalities as follows:

FAO/WHO data collection project on contamination of sorghum by mycotoxins (funded by EC through the CTF) supported Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali and Sudan.

Generation of individual food consumption data to Tunisia, Turkey, and Mali [through FAO's TCP Programme - TCP/TUN/3102, TCP/TUR/3501;TCP/MLI/3502].

Implementation of a regional Total Diet Study (TDS) in Nigeria, Mali, Cameroon and Benin - FAO/WHO managed this STDF funded project.

An FAO/WHO pilot survey on veterinary drugs usage (Latin America - Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Paraguay; South Asia - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam; Europe - Albania; and Africa - Nigeria). Report submitted and utilized by CCRVDF.

FAO support to African Pesticide Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/359) for - Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia (2013 – 2015)

FAO support to Latin America Pesticide Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/436) - Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru (2014-2015)

National FAO training in China, November 2014 on evaluation of pesticide residue data for MRL estimation and for dietary risk assessment.

In addition, FAO and WHO are developing two global tools to collate available sex and age disaggregated food consumption data. They are:

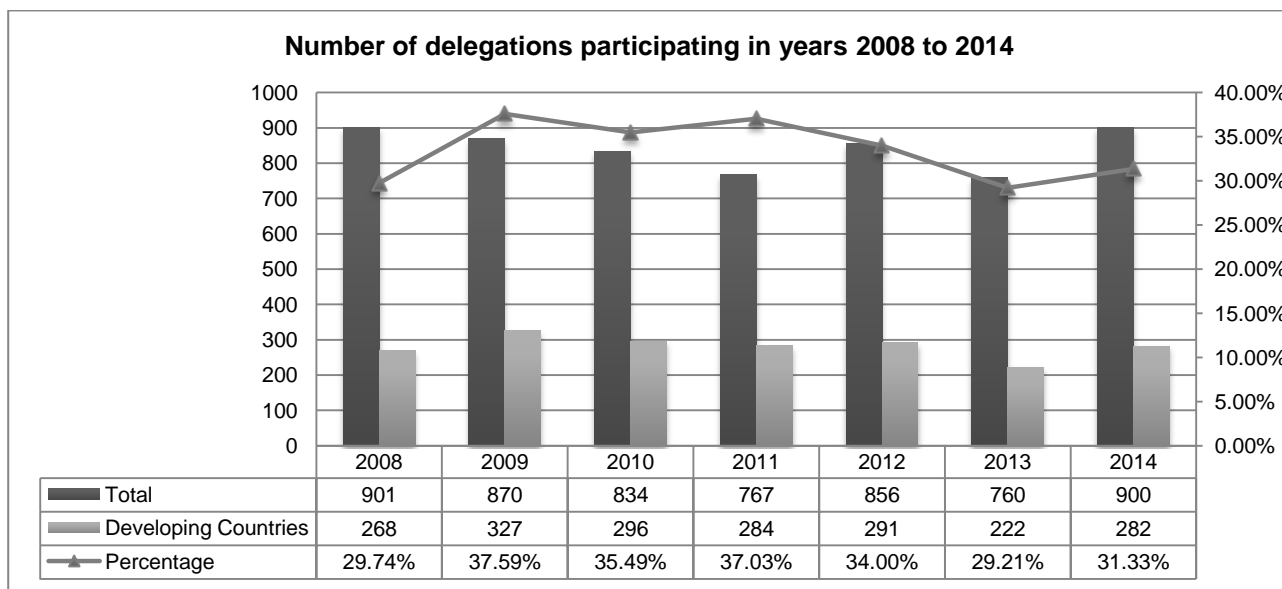
- CIFOCOss (FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption Data summary statistics) now published at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>
- FAO/WHO GIFT (FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool) is a comprehensive database collating micronutrient data using the EFSA food categorization system. More information is available at <http://www.fao.org/food/nutrition-assessment/foodconsumptiondatabase/en/>.

**Activity 2.3.3** - Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.

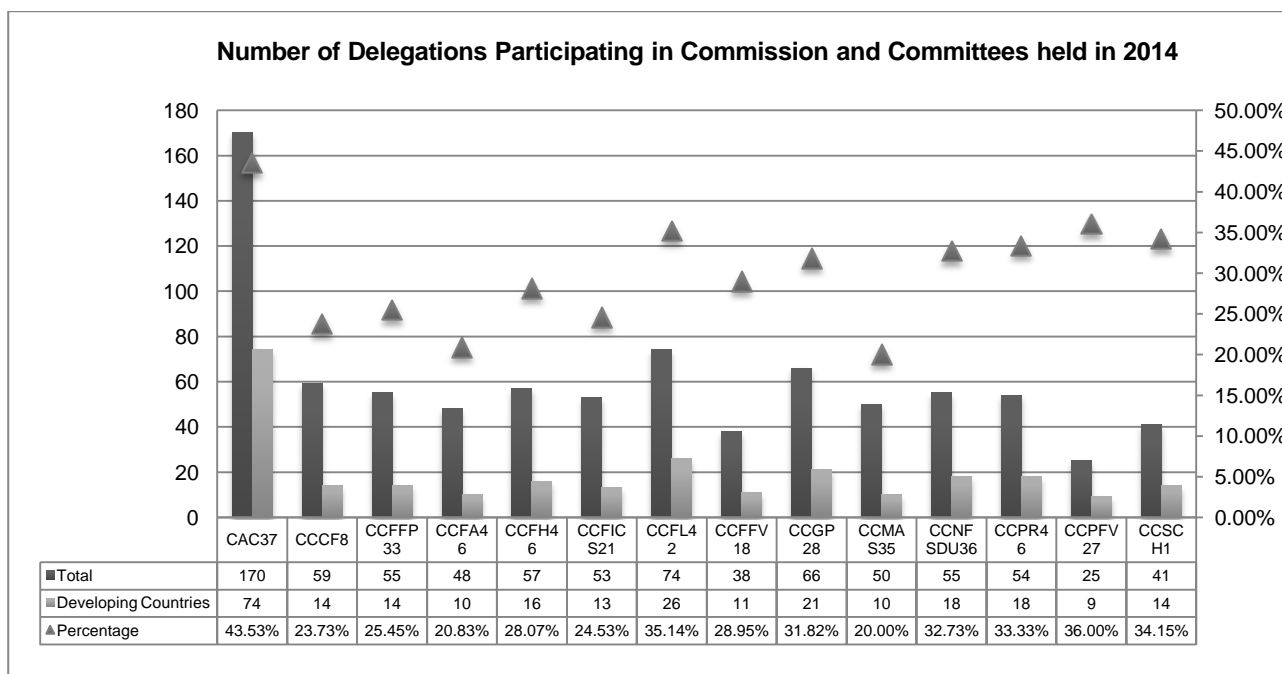
**Status of Implementation:**

The following Chart and Table show the total number of delegations (Member country base, including EU) and number of delegations from developing countries<sup>9</sup> that participated in Commission and Committee (excluding EXEC and Regional Coordinating Committees) meetings held in 2008 to 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Developing Countries: Low-income economies (34 Countries) and Lower-middle-income economies (50 Countries) under classification provided by World Bank for current 2015 fiscal year (<http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>)



The following Chart and Table show the total number of delegations (Member country base, including EU) and number of delegations from developing countries that participated in Commission and Committee (excluding EXEC and Regional Coordinating Committees) meetings held in year 2014.



**Activity 2.3.4** - Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.

**Status of Implementation:**

FAO Fisheries Department supports the following networks, which includes updates on relevant Codex work and seeking technical input to FAO/WHO expert committees.

- FAO FISHINFO Network (INFOFISH - an Intergovernmental Organisation in Asia-Pacific Region). A quarterly Newsletter "Fish Inspector" is published.
- Biannual International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety (ICMSS). In 2014, FAO prepared a round table session on FAO/WHO work on Technical Guidelines for bivalve sanitation programme.

FAO (through the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme) supports a number of laboratory networks – e.g. RALACA (Red Analítica de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.)

At present there is no systematic collection of data on networks. If Codex members think that this is an output of the strategic plan which should be measured as part of annual implementation monitoring more guidance is



requested. If many networks for generation of scientific data exist or are currently being developed, it would be worthwhile to collect information on them. On the other hand, if members do not know of many such networks it may be a waste of resources to collect information at this stage.

### Strategic Goal 3:

Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

#### Objective 3.1:

Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

**Activity 3.1.1** - Encourage Members to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.

#### Status of Implementation:

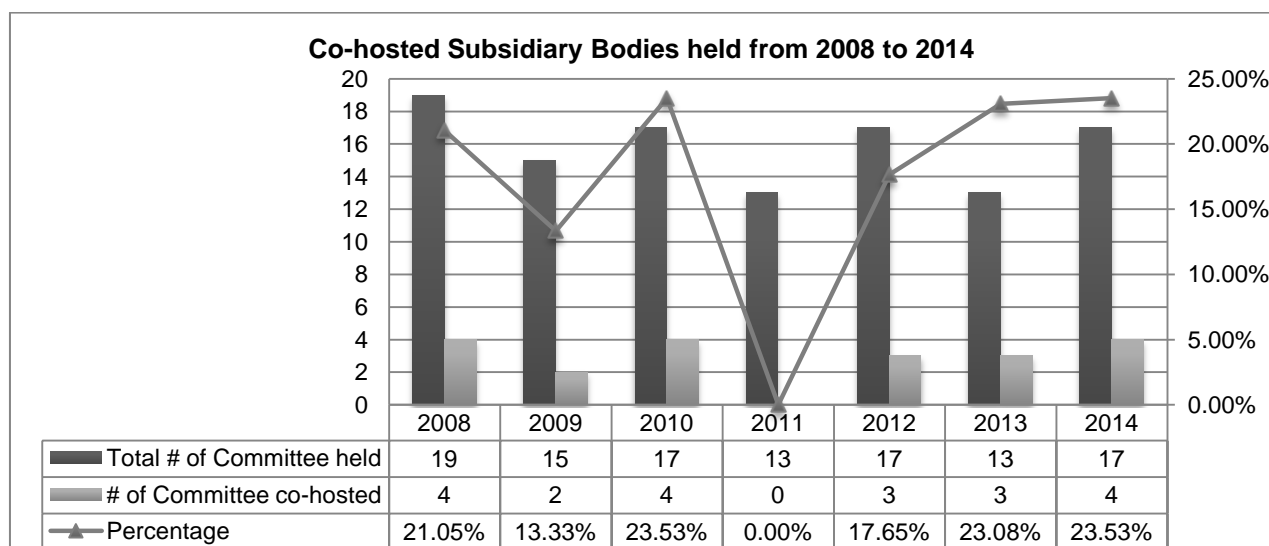
As of March 2015, there are 186 Member countries in Codex, and all have established national Codex Contact points. However, having a CCP does not necessarily mean that the Member has developed permanent national Codex structures, which is the measurable outcome given in the Strategic Plan. Ideally, Members should have a CCP communicating actively on Codex issues both upstream and downstream, and be actively supported in their task by a National Codex Committee meeting regularly and involving all stakeholders.

Together with FAO/WHO, the Codex Secretariat is conducting a survey in 2015 to establish the needs and expectations of CCPs, which will enable an estimation of the current situation of national Codex activities. Based on the survey, future Secretariat support and capacity building needs for CCPs will be determined.

**Activity 3.1.2** - Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.

#### Status of Implementation:

Co-hosted Subsidiary Bodies: For year 2008 to 2013, on average 17 % of Committee meetings were co-hosted. In 2014, 17 Committee (except for EXEC) meetings were held, and among them 4 Committee meetings (CCFFV18, CCASIA19, CCFH46, CCFNSDU36) were co-hosted (24 %).



Co-hosted EWGs and PWGs: In 2014 a total of 65 EWGs were established and among them 35 EWGs were co-hosted (60 %); and a total of 12 PWGs were held and among them 4 PWGs were co-hosted (33 %).

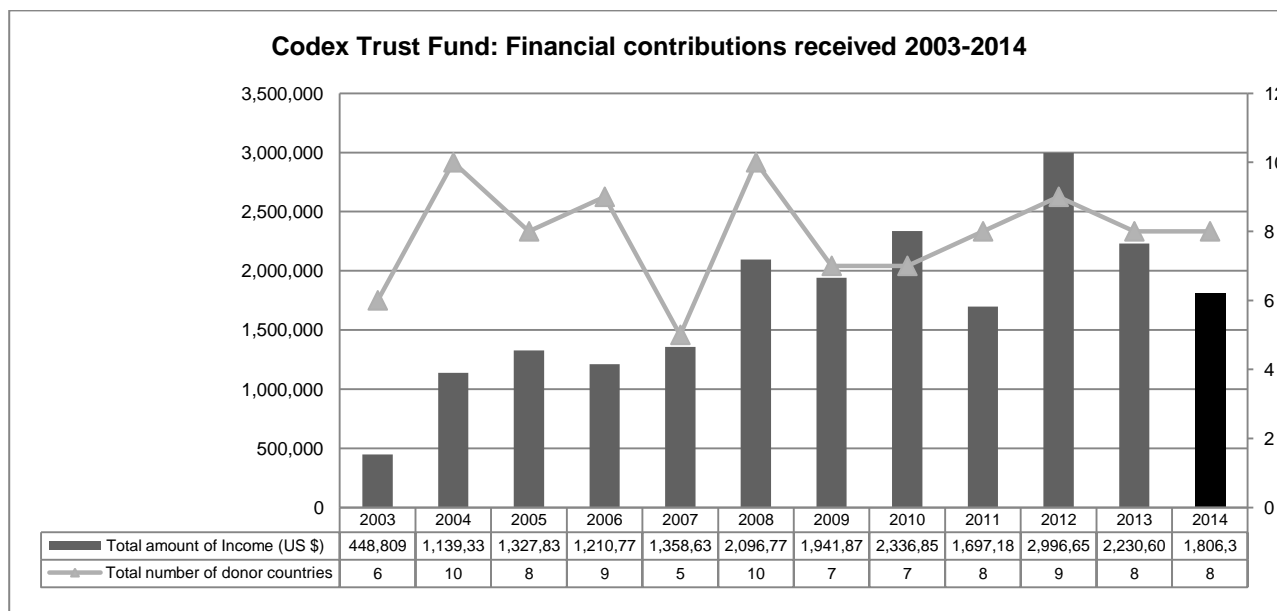
In 2009-2010 a study was conducted regarding co-hosting of Codex Sessions based on the Activity 5.3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013. As a result of discussions on this matter in CAC and CCGP the Guidelines to Host Governments of Codex Committees and Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces (Section III of the Procedural Manual) was amended to include text referring to co-hosting, and a webpage<sup>10</sup> referring to procedures for co-hosting arrangements was posted on the Codex Official Website. If further guidance is needed, members should indicate to the Codex Secretariat what may still be missing.

**Activity 3.1.3** - Encourage financial contributions to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.

#### Status of Implementation:

As can be seen in the Figure below, there was no increase in 2014 in amount of financial contributions or the number of countries contributing to the Codex Trust Fund.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/meetings-reports/co-hosting-meetings/en/>



(Data taken from Table 3 of CX/CAC 15/38/18)

**Activity 3.1.4** - Support the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.

**Status of Implementation:**

See CAC38 Agenda item 9 and document CX/CAC 15/38/18-Add.5 (Codex Trust Fund Successor Initiative; Project Proposal)

**Activity 3.1.5** - To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.

**Status of Implementation:**

Commission and Committees held in 2014: All 6 official languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian) were used in CAC37, and EXEC69 used all official languages other than Russian. All General Subject Committees and Commodity Committees used English, French and Spanish as their working languages. For Regional Coordinating Committees, the following languages were used: CCNASWP13 (English only), CCEURO29 (English, French, Spanish and Russian), CCASIA19 (English and Chinese), CCLAC19 (English and Spanish), CCAFRICA (English and French) and CCNEA (English, French and Arabic)

EWGs established in 2014: a total of 65 EWGs were established. All EWGs worked in English. Among them, 10 EWGs used the following additional working languages; one EWG used French, 8 EWGs used Spanish and one EWG used Russian.

PWGs held in 2014: a total of 12 PWGs were held. All 12 PWGs worked in English. Among them, three PWGs used French and Spanish in addition to English.

**Objective 3.2:**

Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

**Activity 3.2.1** - Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.

**Status of Implementation:**

FAO provided direct technical support on understanding Codex texts and development of national food safety standards using Codex texts to Cambodia, Mongolia (TCP/MON/3401), and Bhutan (TCP/BHU/3401), and all ASEAN countries were supported in design and evaluation of mycotoxin sampling protocols using Codex texts.

FAO direct support allowed for more effective participation at Codex sessions and for strengthening national Codex programmes in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/047/NET); Chile (UTF/CHI/033/CHI); Cote D'Ivoire; Nepal (TCP/NEP/3402), Lebanon (TCP/LEB/3401), Central African region: Cameroon, Gabon and Central African Republic (TCP/SFC/3402).

Support was provided to Cameroon in its capacity as the coordinator of CCAFRICA through TCP/SFC/3402.

Three pre-CC FAO/WHO workshops were implemented (funded by the CTF):

- FAO/WHO (CTF funded workshop) for CCASIA region, November 2014 on Enhancement of Capacity on Codex Standards in ASEAN Countries.

- FAO/WHO pre-CCNASWP Technical Workshop on Developments in Codex relevant to Pacific Island Countries, PNG, September, 2014.
- FAO/WHO Pre-CCEURO workshop, 2014 (involved staff of Codex Contact Points of following countries: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, FYR of Macedonia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine).
- FAO supported 2 Codex workshops during 2014, funded by the Swiss Government, for the Africa region to strengthen participation in Codex work, and the second one on food hygiene issues.

An FAO Regional Consultation was held in 2014, for Asian countries on GMP/HACCP in which a regional guidance document on Criteria for GMP/HACCP for Asian countries has been developed which adapts the Codex HACCP text into standards or criteria which are more direct and specific and therefore enforceable.

As regards the other Outcome Indicator<sup>11</sup> listed in the Strategic Plan, no data is presently available but could be gathered for future reports. However, this would require clarification on what “functioning national Codex structures” means.

**Activity 3.2.2** - Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.

**Status of Implementation:**

At present the number of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees is not known. This data could be requested for CAC 39 through a survey of Codex Contact Points which will take place later in 2015, or alternatively the Uniform platform could be used when ready.

**Activity 3.2.3** - Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.

**Status of Implementation:**

In 2014, more than 15 events were held in conjunction with CAC and Committees, as follows:

- OECD/Codex Special Event on Pomegranate (CCFFV18)
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme Side Event on Feed Safety (CCCF8)
- FAO GM Foods Platform-Update on the Platform progress and result from the FAO Technical Consultation on Low Levels of GM Crops (CAC37)
- Update on the Codex Website – Online registration and commenting (CAC37)
- Technical Workshop on Developments in Codex relevant to Pacific Island Countries (CCNASWP13)
- WHO/FAO pre-CCEURO Workshop supported by Codex Trust Fund on Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex with emphasis on chemical food safety (CCEURO29)
- Workshop on Food Recall/Traceability within the Risk Analysis Framework- Prevention of Food Safety Emergencies (CCASIA19)
- OIE Side Event: Contribution to Human Health through Enhancement of Safety of Foods of Animal Origin (CCASIA19)
- FAORAP Side Event: Enhancement of Capacity on Codex Standards in ASEAN Countries (CCASIA19)

**Strategic Goal 4:**

Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

**Objective 4.1:**

Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.

**Activities 4.1.1** Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.

**Status of Implementation:**

To some extent, impediments to standard-setting work have been addressed in the Secretariat’s document on Codex Work Management and Functioning of the Executive Committee (CX/CAC 15/38/10). The agenda item will be discussed in the Executive Committee as well as in the Commission meeting, and this may also result in recommendations concerning identified impediments to standard-setting work.

Codex Committees were not queried in the template on this activity, but this is something that could be done in future template queries. Probably each Committee looks upon impediments to standard-setting work differently (including possible solutions), and this might be valuable information for all Codex stakeholders to reflect upon.

<sup>11</sup> Indicator 2. The number of countries with functioning national Codex structures.

As an example, CCRVDF discussed<sup>12</sup> impediments to its work in its 22<sup>nd</sup> session (April-May 2015), and this approach could be useful for other committees as well.

**Activities 4.1.2** - Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.

**Activities 4.1.3** Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve Member participation in committees and working groups.

**Status of Implementation:**

As part of the new Codex Communication Strategy, new technologies as well as improved workflows will be considered, assessed and implemented. Already some innovations (SharePoint cloud services, phpBB discussion forum, automated mailing) are being introduced in selected working groups and Committees, and if proven effective, will be taken into work processes by the Codex Secretariat as a whole.

An updated Codex website will be active by the end of 2015, and will include many features that will improve Member and Observer participation, as well as the Secretariat's workflow.

**Activities 4.1.4** - Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.

**Status of Implementation:**

The timely distribution of Codex documents depends on several factors both inside and outside the Codex Secretariat. While the Secretariat will introduce an improved and more automated flow of documents as part of the new Communication Strategy, also host governments and Committee chairs need to ensure that documents are processed and distributed in a timely manner consistent with the timelines in the Procedural Manual.

**Activities 4.1.5** - Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

**Status of Implementation:**

In 2014, a total of 12 PWGs were held, and with one exception the PWGs (92 %) were held in conjunction with Committee meetings. According to the template answers all Codex Committees strive to hold PWGs in conjunction with Committee meetings, unless doing otherwise is justifiable by specific needs.

**Objective 4.2:**

Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.

**Activities 4.2.1** - Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.

**Status of Implementation:**

Information is missing for three indicators (out of four). Guidance on consensus building will be developed within the expected timeline (2016).

In 2014, total 17 Committees (except for EXEC) were held, among them at least five Committees (CCSCH1, CCFFP33, CCPFV27, CCCF8 and CCFICS21) organized a seminar/workshop for first time delegates before the Plenary Session.

**Activities 4.2.2** - Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.

**Status of Implementation:**

Coaching and sparring of Committee Chairs will continue with two PWGs in 2015 (in connection with CCGP29 and CAC38) arranged by the Codex Secretariat. At the end of 2015 the Secretariat will query the training needs of the Chairs in order to provide more tailored working groups for the Chairs in 2016.

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<sup>12</sup> Discussion paper regarding the issues and concerns that impact the ability of the CCRVDF to efficiently perform its work (CX/RVDF 15/22/2)

## Appendix II

## AVAILABILITY AND SOURCE OF DATA AND INFORMATION FOR MONITORING

Activity	Availability	Source
<b>Strategic Goal 1:</b> Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues		
<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.		
<b>Activity 1.1.1</b> - Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	Partly available	Template answers Existing Data
<b>Activity 1.1.2</b> - Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Objective 1.2:</b> Proactively identify emerging issues <sup>13</sup> and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.		
<b>Activity 1.2.1</b> - Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Partly available	Template answers
<b>Activity 1.2.2</b> - Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	Partly available	Template answers
<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities		
<b>Activity 1.3.1</b> - Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations	Available	Existing Data
<b>Activity 1.3.2</b> - Promote cooperation with other international governmental and non-governmental standard-setting organizations to support development of relevant Codex standards and to enhance awareness, understanding and use of Codex standards.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Strategic Goal 2:</b> Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.		
<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.		
<b>Activity 2.1.1</b> - Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the <i>“Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius”</i> .	Partly available	Template answers. Existing Data
<b>Activity 2.1.2</b> - Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Partly available	Template answers.
<b>Activity 2.1.3</b> - Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	Partly available	Template answers
<b>Activity 2.1.4</b> - Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Partly available	Template answers Existing Data

<sup>13</sup> Emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations and emerging hazards, related to ongoing investigations or extra-ordinary events (e.g., natural disasters, external threats).

Activity	Availability	Source
<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.		
<b>Activity 2.2.1</b> - Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.	Partly available	Information from FAO/WHO
<b>Activity 2.2.2</b> - Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.	Available	Information from FAO/WHO
<b>Activity 2.2.3</b> - Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Objective 2.3:</b> Increase scientific input from developing countries.		
<b>Activity 2.3.1</b> - Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.	Partly available	Information from FAO/WHO
<b>Activity 2.3.2</b> - Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.	Available.	Information from FAO/WHO
<b>Activity 2.3.3</b> - Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Activity 2.3.4</b> - Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.	Partly available	Existing Data
<b>Strategic Goal 3:</b> Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.		
<b>Objective 3.1:</b> Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.		
<b>Activity 3.1.1</b> - Encourage Members to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.	Partly available	Existing Data
<b>Activity 3.1.2</b> - Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.	Partly available	Existing Data
<b>Activity 3.1.3</b> - Encourage financial contributions to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.	Available	Information from WHO
<b>Activity 3.1.4</b> - Support the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Activity 3.1.5</b> - To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	Available	Template answers. Existing Data
<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.		
<b>Activity 3.2.1</b> - Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.	Partly available	Information from FAO/WHO
<b>Activity 3.2.2</b> - Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.	Not available	-
<b>Activity 3.2.3</b> - Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Available	Template answers. Existing Data

Activity	Availability	Source
<b>Strategic Goal 4:</b> Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.		
<b>Objective 4.1:</b> Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.		
<b>Activities 4.1.1</b> Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed, if necessary.	Partly available	Existing Data
<b>Activities 4.1.2</b> - Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Activities 4.1.3</b> Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new technologies to improve Member participation in committees and working groups.	Available	Existing Data
<b>Activities 4.1.4</b> - Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	Available	Template answers. Existing Data
<b>Activities 4.1.5</b> - Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	Available	Template answers. Existing Data
<b>Objective 4.2:</b> Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.		
<b>Activities 4.2.1</b> - Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Available	Template answers. Existing Data
<b>Activities 4.2.2</b> - Through networking, training and workshops, seek to improve the skill set of chairs of working groups and committees to achieve consensus.	Available	Existing Data