

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 5

**CX/AFRICA 00/5
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Fourteenth Session

Kampala, Uganda, 27 – 30 November 2000

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CODEX CONTACT POINTS AND NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEES IN THE REGION

1. BACKGROUND

The roles of National Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees in a member country's effective participation in the activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission has been discussed at different fora of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. Active participation will enable such countries derive full benefits of their membership of the Commission. During the 12th Session of this Committee which was held in Abuja in 1995, the Committee considered report of a Workshop which was organised by the Food Quality and Standards Service in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office in Africa.

Participants who attended that Workshop identified 5 major obstacles to the effective and efficient performance of the Codex Contact Points (CCPs) and National Codex Committees (NCCs) in their roles and provided appropriate recommendations to match the obstacles. Delegates attending the 12th Session of the Committee endorsed all the recommendations.

As a follow up to the Workshop, participants were requested to relate the identified obstacles to situations in their respective countries and thereby draw up an Action Plan to establish/strengthen the country's Codex Contact Point/National Codex Committee, which would be circulated to policy makers, and other concerned authorities. The Government may wish to consider requesting financial and technical assistance from interested donor agencies to implement the Action Plan¹.

Participants agreed that progress made on the implementation of the Action Plan by countries in the Region, should be included in the agenda of future sessions. By Circular Letter CL 1998/39-AFRICA of November 1998, Member Countries which are yet to set up their CCP and NCC or whose CCP and NCC have been resuscitated and/or strengthened, were requested to provide progress report on the implementation of National Action Plans to Establish/Strengthen the roles of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees in the Region. The responses which were received by the Secretariat are reported below.

¹ ALINORM 95/28, paras. 51 & 52.

2. RESPONSES TO CL 1998/39-AFRICA RECEIVED BY THE CODEX SECRETARIAT

2.1 UGANDA – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE (NCC) – JUNE 2000

In response to item 2 of Part B of CL 1998/39-AFRICA, November 1998, requesting progress report on the implementation of the National Action Plans to Establish/Strengthen the roles of Codex Contact Points and the National Codex Committee (NCC), please find attached report on the two-day “*Codex Workshop on the Responsibilities and Functions of the NCC*” which was held on 6th and 7th June 2000. The two-day Workshop was concluded with the launching of the NCC by Brigadier Moses Ali, the Rt. Hon. 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry.

The Workshop was sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, under the technical assistance to Uganda, TCP/UGA/8922 (A) – “Fish Processing and Fish Export Sector”. A sub-component of the project was the establishment and launching of the NCC. while The Codex Contact Point which is located in the Uganda National Bureau of Standards, was also strengthened under the project by the provision of electronic equipment, accessories and appropriate furniture to improve its information system. The Chairmanship of the NCC resides with the Ministry of Health. The inaugural meeting of the NCC held at the Uganda National Bureau of Standards on 16th June, 2000 established the following technical committees (TCs), their responsibilities and composition.

(a) General Purposes Committee

To consider work in the following areas

- Pesticide residues and Veterinary drugs residues in food
- Food additives and contaminants
- Methods of analysis and sampling
- Food labelling
- Food hygiene, and
- Food import and export inspection and certification
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Composition

- ◆ Institute of Public Health
- ◆ Department of Food Science and Technology – MUK
- ◆ Department of Veterinary Public Health – MUK
- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- ◆ Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
- ◆ Uganda Police
- ◆ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
- ◆ National Agricultural Research Organisation
- ◆ Uganda Manufacturers Association
- ◆ Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ◆ National Environment Management Authority
- ◆ Uganda Revenue Authority
- ◆ Uganda Consumer Protection Association
- ◆ National Drug Authority
- ◆ Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- ◆ Ministry of Local Government
- ◆ Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTTI)

(b) Animal and Animal Products Committee

To consider the following areas

- Meat hygiene

- Fish and fishery products
- Milk and Milk products
- Animal feeds
- etc.

Composition

- ◆ Institute of Public Health
- ◆ Department of Veterinary Public Health – MUK
- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- ◆ Department of Food Science and Technology – MUK
- ◆ Uganda Police
- ◆ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
- ◆ National Agricultural Research Organisation
- ◆ Uganda Manufacturers Association
- ◆ Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ◆ Uganda Consumer Protection Association
- ◆ National Drug Authority
- ◆ Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- ◆ Ministry of Local Government
- ◆ Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTTI)
- ◆ Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

© Plant and Plant Products Committee

To consider work in the following areas

- Cereals, pulses, and legumes
- Vegetable proteins
- Fats and oils
- Cocoa products, chocolate
- Sugars, Honey
- Fresh fruits and Vegetables
- Processed fruits and Vegetables
- etc

Composition

- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- ◆ Department of Food Science and Technology – MUK
- ◆ Uganda Police
- ◆ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
- ◆ National Agricultural Research Organisation
- ◆ Uganda Manufacturers Association
- ◆ Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ◆ Uganda Consumer Protection Association
- ◆ Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- ◆ Ministry of Local Government
- ◆ Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTTI)
- ◆ Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

(d)Special Committee

To consider the following areas

- Biotechnology
- Food for special dietary uses

- Mineral waters
- Bottled waters
- etc.

Composition

- ◆ Institute of Public Health
- ◆ Department of Food Science and Technology – MUK
- ◆ Department of Veterinary Public Health – MUK
- ◆ Ministry of Health
- ◆ Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- ◆ Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
- ◆ Uganda Police
- ◆ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology
- ◆ National Agricultural Research Organisation
- ◆ Uganda Manufacturers Association
- ◆ Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- ◆ National Environment Management Authority
- ◆ Uganda Revenue Authority
- ◆ Uganda Consumer Protection Association
- ◆ Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- ◆ Ministry of Local Government
- ◆ Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTTI)
- ◆ Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)

The inaugural meeting of the NCC also established four (4) main local organising sub-committees to make adequate arrangements for the forth coming 14th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa.

CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

For the benefit of those member countries which are yet to set up their CCP, the Commission at its 23rd Session adopted the Proposed Core Functions of Codex Contact Points² which is reproduced as Annex to this paper.

The delegates are invited to report on the progress made in establishing/strengthening their Codex Contact Points and/or National Codex Committees.

² Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, 11th Edition, p. 98.

ANNEX***CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS***

The operation of Codex Contact Points will differ in each country depending on national legislation, government structures and practices.

CODEX CONTACT POINTS:

1. Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries;
2. Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries;
3. Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries;
4. Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat;
5. Work in close collaboration with the national codex committee, where such a committee has been established. The Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and all other concerned to ensure that the government is provided with an appropriate balance of policy and technical advice upon which to base decisions relating to issues raised in the context of the Codex work;
6. Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;
7. Receive the invitation to Codex Sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants from their own countries;
8. Maintain a library of Codex final texts; and
9. Promote Codex activities throughout their own countries.