

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2.1

**CX/AFRICA 09/18/2Add.1
January 2009**

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

**18th Session
Accra, Ghana, 24 – 27 February 2009**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

**COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CL 2008/30-AFRICA, PART C FROM ETHIOPIA, GHANA, KENYA,
SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE**

- (i) Mechanisms and evaluation criteria at country level to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations (see Activity 4.5 of the Strategic Plan)**

Ethiopia

Consultation of delegation with technical committees developing different food standards in the National Standards Body (QSAE)

Kenya

We have done quite a bit but a lot needs to be done in the area among WTO, SPS and OIE focal points.

Mali

There is a National Codex Committee grouping all actors in the food standards sector (government services, production, distribution, universities and research institutes, experts, civil society, consumer associations);

There are seventeen functioning Codex Subcommittees grouping national experts in the different food sector priority areas;

As part of efforts to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various international organizations, Mali's Codex Contact Point collaborates effectively at national level with the Secretariat of the National Council for Standards and Quality Control and the SPS, OIE and IPPC Focal Points;

Organization of preparatory meetings for the participation of Mali's delegates in regional and international activities on food standards;

National, regional, subregional and international consultation to improve the participation of delegates in standards-related activities.

Senegal

The most promising mechanisms are the creation of National Codex Committees or similar structures that facilitate horizontal coordination and communication. These committees will only be functional with the full support of the authorities and top decision-makers, and the provision of sufficient resources.

Sierra Leone

One mechanism the National Codex Committee has put in place to improve horizontal coordination is to convene a meeting every two weeks so that the level of communication would increase among members.

Zambia

Encouraging attendance to Codex meetings both national and regional by all stakeholders.

Zimbabwe

Participation at meetings is still very minimal due to lack of resources. Communication is also limited. Communication is currently restricted to monthly meetings of the NCC/FSAB. Electronic communication is a problem since some stakeholders have not access to internet. Stakeholders rarely respond to email when certain information is requested.

(ii) Establishment of sound structures and processes for consultation on codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties, with a view to in particular enhancing the participation of non-governmental organizations in codex work at national, regional and international levels (see Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan).

Ethiopia

The National Codex Committee has developed an action plan to involve all interested parties in the work of Codex

Kenya

This would be a very positive move and can be achieved to enhance the inherent great gain. The Codex Contact Point is well structured and has created effective network of communication with all interested bodies. The involvement of cooperating bodies in codex work is still being improved. It has been realized among other things by drafting the internal procedure of proceeding within codex work at the National level and making surveys on defining issues of special concern for Kenya covered by Codex on usefulness of National Codex Contact Point link to KEBS. NCC is in the process of creating Codex Kenya website which will give the stakeholders possibility to become familiar and communicate with NCC and all who are interested in Codex issues.

Mali

The National Codex Committee and its Subcommittees are open to all interested parties. With logistic and financial support from Mali's Codex Contact Point, the National Food Safety Agency (ANSSA):

The National Codex Committee holds an annual ordinary session and extraordinary sessions as needed;

Each Subcommittee convenes before a session of the corresponding Codex Committee to draw up a national position, which is then conveyed to the national delegation;

A debriefing meeting is held so that the delegation can report on Codex Committee proceedings and conclusions, and the mission report is e-mailed to members of the NCC and other interested parties;

A report on Codex national activities is drawn up by the National Secretariat and submitted to the NCC during its statutory session ;

Transmittal of CAC Circular Letters to members of the NCC, the Codex Subcommittees and interested parties, for comment;

Administration of the library containing all standards, codes of use, guidelines, documents and publications on or related to food safety ;

Distribution of documents, publications and other Codex information to interested parties.

Senegal

The participation of all members and of intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations is essential for good decision-making and for Codex standards and related texts to reflect all interests and viewpoints.

The initiatives that led to the creation of the FAO/WHO Trust Fund to support participation in the Codex and the publication of training manuals and other tools to build Codex-related capacity are effective broad-impact decisions. The FAO and WHO capacity-building programmes also help countries participate in Codex activities. The Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO programmes should aim to familiarize Commission members with Codex processes. Fund beneficiary members should seize the opportunities made available to consolidate their continuing participation in the Codex by inviting their respective governments to pledge national resources to cover the cost of Codex meetings. However, FAO and WHO should continue to implement capacity-building programmes in a coherent manner, in particular in the developing and

transition countries, in order to strengthen national, administrative and consultative structures associated with the Codex (Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees) and to equip themselves with the technical expertise needed to participate effectively in the formulation of international standards. In addition to measures aimed at promoting Member State participation, the Commission should focus on encouraging consumers and public interest groups to participate in its activities at the international level and should urge governments to act at the national level. The Commission should make good use of new information technologies to enhance integration and transparency of the Codex process.

Sierra Leone

The National Codex Committee in Sierra Leone has put in place structures and processes for consultation on codex matters as it comprises also the private sector such as Sierra Leone Chambers and Commerce, Sierra Leone Export and Investment Promotion Agency, etc.

Zambia

Encouraging attendance to Codex meetings both national and regional by all stakeholders.

Zimbabwe

Current NCC structure is not inclusive of NGOs.