

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 6

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

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

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

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

(i) Use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

Ethiopia

We use codex standards in our testing laboratories,

Codex Standards are also used as a reference to develop some of the national standards, and

Some Codex standards are adopted by COMESA at regional level (Example: Dairy Standards).

Kenya

Codex Contact Point KEBS adopt/adapt 90% of Codex standards and they are implemented as national standards and are used where there is dispute in trade.

Ghana

Almost all Ghana standards on food are elaborated based on Codex standards. The Codex standards are either modified or identically adopted depending on the peculiar needs of the country.

Mali

Codex standards are the reference food standards in Mali.

To enhance Mali's food standards, the National Food Safety Agency (ANSSA), in collaboration with the National Directorate of Industry (DNI), provided technical and material support to the technical committees on food standards for the review of 52 approved Malian standards and the drafting of 32 new standards based on Codex standards. The elaboration of further Malian standards based on Codex standards was ongoing in 2008.

Codex standards and related texts are the reference standards for the control services and certain laboratories.

Actions are underway at subregional level to harmonize community standards with Codex standards.

However, difficulties still exist for the implementation of the standards at national and subregional levels.

Senegal

Codex standards are the reference for the elaboration of national or regional standards. The latter are usually more rigorous.

Sierra Leone

Presently, the Codex Standards have been adopted as Sierra Leone National Standards. It is as a result of harmonizing the national standards throughout West Africa.

Zambia

Working at domesticating CODEX and WTO/SPS agreement.

Zimbabwe

All Zimbabwe national regulations are based on CODEX standards.

(ii) Non-use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level, with reasons where applicable

Ethiopia

Implementation of some of the standards require high skill and testing facilities. For example monitoring of veterinary drugs and mycotoxins.

Kenya

In situations where there is no Codex standard, Kenya drafts her own national standard or uses harmonized East African standard instead. The harmonized standard supersedes the national standard.

Ghana

Non-use of Codex standards occur when there are no Codex standards for the product, for example shea butter.

Senegal

Under the surveillance of the national control institutions, Senegal's enterprises and economic operators seek to comply with client requirements to foster exports on world markets.

Sierra Leone

Not all the Codex Standards have been adopted as National Standards. Therefore, adoption is based on the country's priority needs to develop or adopt standards on certain areas.

Zambia

Private standards are taking advantage.

Zimbabwe

Small scale food businesses do not use CODEX texts. This is due to lack of awareness and in some cases failure to understand the jargon.

(iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level

Ethiopia

Implementation of some of the standards require high skill and testing facilities. For example monitoring of veterinary drugs and mycotoxins

Kenya

Most Codex food standards do not have clauses on specific microbiological limits and this makes application of Codex standards sometimes difficult. Inclusion of this clause would make work easier.

Mali

❖ Organizational:

- Limited organization of agri-food sectors;
- Limited organization of enterprises;
- Multitude of small producers;
- Limited organization of consumer associations;
- Limited organization of technical services charged with standard setting and risk management;
- Insufficient operational resources for the Focal Point.

❖ Technical:

- limited capacity of the analytical and testing laboratories;
- limited capacity of the standard setting and inspection bodies;
- lack of technical expertise in the fields of standard setting, legislation, inspection, audit evaluation, risk assessment, risk communication, certification and accreditation.

Senegal

The difficulties encountered relate mainly to the inadequate technology level of control tools, the shortage of qualified staff, and the diversity of regulations and standards in the same economic and geographical area.

Legislation enforcing application of Codex standards or related texts does not always follow or is very late.

Sierra Leone

As of now Sierra Leone encountered difficulties because: (a) Sierra Leone cannot participate effectively in Codex meetings; (b) The Standards Bureau needs more training on Standardization; and (c) Sierra Leone Standards Bureau cannot collaborate with other Standards Organization in West Africa to harmonize the standards to facilitate trade.

Zambia

Need to review local legislation.

Zimbabwe

At national level there is difficulty in understanding the jargon. Regionally countries are at different levels of adoption and use of international standards.

(iv) Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration

Ethiopia

Codex Standards are very relevant to be a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations. However, it is not implemented as it was supposed to be.

Kenya

Where members take far varying positions, Codex standards have been used as a common ground for consensus building.

Ghana

Ghana has a memorandum of understanding with Nigeria with the intent of harmonizing a number of standards including food. The process is at its infant stage. However, nationally, regulations are being drafted making reference to Ghana Standards which are based on Codex.

Mali

Codex standards and related texts are the reference food standards for the WAEMU. They are essential for harmonizing legislation and regulations, and help to protect consumer health and enhance the international food trade.

Senegal

The consensual nature of formal Codex standards gives them status to facilitate the harmonization of legislation and regulations at subregional level for the enhanced integration of trade in geographical areas with shared interests (WAEMU, ECOWAS).

Sierra Leone

The adoption of Codex Standards as National Standards would bring us closer to harmonize with other countries and the international communities. Hence Sierra Leone would slowly integrate to the world market.

Zambia

Access to markets and fair trade.

Zimbabwe

Reference is made to CODEX, IPPC and OIE standards in harmonisation of SPS issues.

(v) Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level**Ethiopia**

Implementation of standards is often difficult due to sub-standard processing practices, low level of awareness, and lack of clear strategy and low capacity.

Kenya

none

Ghana

At the national level, a lot of food products being imported lack the basic labelling requirements and do not conform to Codex labelling requirements. Exporters in Ghana are not making use of available regulations and standards on their target markets.

Mali

- Multiplicity and divergence of national standards of the Codex member countries;
- Dispatch to developing countries of food not meeting sanitary quality requirements of the producer countries.

Senegal

Because of their rigor and/or geographical limits, some Codex standards act as barriers to market access of products from developing countries.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone products such as fishery product are currently banned in the European Union because of non compliance of European Union directives. Presently, the Standards Bureau and Ministry of Health in collaboration with European Union is working very hard to put in place, the Standards and technical regulations on fishery products.

Zambia

- Private standards
- High cost of production by producers (Farmers)
- Lack of inputs locally for producers

Zimbabwe

SPS_notification is not understood. Some countries ban products from other countries without notification even when there is no emergency.