

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.net

Agenda Item 4(a)

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

19th Session
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STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCAFRICA

(Replies to CL 2010/45-AFRICA received from Benin, Mali, Mauritania, Seychelles and Zambia)

OBJECTIVE 1: Use of electronic communication and sharing of information

BENIN

An Internet site has been designed in Benin with financial and technical support from the Project STDF 127 financed by FAO. This site has links with the CCAFRICA site and other sites of the National Codex Committee. However, the Permanent Secretariat of the NCC is still holding discussions to identify financial resources for hosting the site and for training permanent staff to feed and update it.

MALI

Taking into account the priority areas and actions of objective 1, please describe any significant developments/actions taken to improve electronic communications at the national level, including the development of a national Codex website, use of the CCAFRICA website and mechanisms for sharing information among countries of the region. Include any positive experiences or any difficulties experienced.

Development of a national Codex website. Use of the CCAFRICA website by the Codex Central Liaison Unit for Mali. Information/awareness-raising of stakeholders by the Central Liaison Unit on using the CCAFRICA website.

Appointment in the Codex Central Liaison Unit of a Secretary and an Assistant in charge of the Codex Secretariat.

Updating of list of electronic addresses of members of the National Codex Committee, technical subcommittees and stakeholders.

Use of the CCAFRICA website and the Codex site by the Secretariat of the Codex Central Liaison Unit for Mali. Timely transmittal to parties concerned of circular letters, working documents, standards, codes of practice, guidelines, monographs, documents and information relating to the CCAFRICA and the Codex.

MAURITANIA

The Codex National Committee is not operational because of a lack of resources and support. There is no national site but the aim is to use the site of the National Institute of Public Health Research (INRSP).

SEYCHELLES

The Seychelles Bureau of Standards which is the National Codex Contact Point is currently developing a new website which will include a link about the activities of NCC as well as a link to the Codex website. Expected to be operational by February 2011.

ZAMBIA

SADC (Southern Africa Developing Countries – a regional economic community) have been able to use CCAFRICA website and easily communicate among each other. SADC countries have also requested AU to host website. We have also been able to share experiences.

OBJECTIVE 2: Active and effective participation of countries in the region in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies**BENIN**

Benin has participated

- In the meeting of CCAFRICA in February 2009 with two delegates, one financed by the Trust Fund and the other by the FAO Project STDF 127;
- In the session of the Commission in July 2009, with a delegate financed by the Trust Fund;
- In the meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses in 2009, with a delegate financed by the Trust Fund;
- In the meeting of the Codex Committee on General Principles in April 2010, with a delegate financed by the Trust Fund;
- In the session of the Codex Commission in July 2010 with two delegates, one financed by the Trust Fund and the other by the national budget;
- In the meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene in December 2010 with three delegates financed by the Trust Fund;
- In Codex activities financed by FAO and WHO at national level;
- Through Project STDF 127, FAO financed a workshop on the validation of the regulatory texts of the National Codex Committee in February 2010, two workshops in June and October 2010 to provide feedback on participation and draw up national positions. FAO also financed the training of members of the National Codex Committee on the OIE, the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius in July 2009;
- Awareness-raising programmes implemented at national level to boost the participation of stakeholders in activities relating to the Codex Alimentarius.
- There are plans to increase the involvement of economic operators and researchers and to send them communications, but the necessary funding has not yet been found.

MALI

Taking into account the priority areas and actions of objective 2, provide an update since the eighteenth CCAFRICA on the following areas:

- An advocacy document was drafted by the National Codex Committee as part of the effort to raise the participation of stakeholders in Codex activities. Following missions of the NCC advocacy group, the parties met (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Artisanal Crafts and Tourism, Commission on Food Safety, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water, social and professional associations) undertook to support the activities of Mali's National Codex Committee.
- Establishment of working groups on:
 - Examination of the text establishing the National Codex Committee.
 - Evaluation of the Codex Sub-Committees.
- Organization of the field trip of the delegation from the National Agency for the Verification of Standards Compliance of Niger.
- Organization of the field trip of the delegation of the National Codex Committee of Burkina Faso.
- Participation in the regional consultative meeting on Codex-related matters of interest to Africa organized by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-BIRA), in

collaboration with the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) from 1 to 4 December 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

- Consideration of regional positions when drafting national positions.
- Exchanges with selected Codex Contact Points at regional and international level for the drafting of national positions.
- Feedback on outcomes of Codex sessions and transmittal of mission reports of Mali's delegates to Codex sessions by e-mail by the Technical Secretariat to NCC members, members of the subcommittees and interested parties.
- Presentation of Mali's experience in the organization and functioning of the NCC at the Codex training workshop held from 12 to 16 April 2010 in Praia, Cape Verde.
- Participation in the workshop on the Codex organized by the USDA from 9 to 11 August 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa.
- Preparation and dispatch of Mali's application to the FAO/WHO Trust Fund 2011.

MAURITANIA

In 2010, Mauritania participated in four Codex meetings with funding from WHO/AFRO.

No activity was financed at national level in 2010, but a request for 2011 has already been sent to the Codex.

Awareness-raising was limited as the functioning of the National Codex Committee needs to be improved.

SEYCHELLES

Since 2007, Seychelles graduated from the Codex Trust Fund. We however, pledged with the Codex Trust Fund and they managed to assist one participant from Seychelles to participate in the 30th Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) that was held in Morocco, 28 September to 2 October 2010. There is good communication between the Codex Contact Point, FAO National Coordinator and WHO Liaison officer. Copy of Codex communiqués received is forwarded to Department of Public Health and other stakeholders via email.

ZAMBIA

Codex meetings participated in, including working groups and the source of funding for participation:

CCMMP, CCFH, CCPR, CAC, CCEXEC, CCRVDF, CCMAS. All were supported by the Codex Trust Fund and the Government.

- National position papers were being presented and they prepared after consultation in the countries
- NCC meeting were held quarterly to conduct awareness programs at national and regional levels
- CCP made presentation at SADC meeting on CODEX and he is now a facilitator for codex issues at SADC
- NCC is member of the national SPS committee

The NCC held various workshops at country level on Codex matters, like the Chainama workshop to strengthen our NCC and create mirror subcommittees.

OBJECTIVE 3: Strengthening of National Codex Committees and/or Codex Contact Points

BENIN

FAO financed the training of members of the National Codex Committee on the OIE, the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius in July 2009. It financed a mission to Morocco to exchange experiences with the Moroccan National Codex Committee.

Through Project STDF 127, FAO financed a workshop on the validation of the regulatory texts of the National Codex Committee in February 2010, two workshops in June and October 2010 to report feedback on various participations and draw up national positions.

MALI

- Regular holding of statutory sessions of the National Codex Committee;
- Drafting of an advocacy document for the recurring financing of Mali's National Codex Committee.
- Organization of meetings of Codex subcommittees with the drafting and transmittal of written national positions to the corresponding Committee Secretariats with copies to the CAC Secretariat;
- Participation in Codex sessions considered a priority for Mali with defence of the national position;
- Organization of meetings for Malian delegates to report back on the outcomes of Codex Committee sessions;
- Promotion of the National Codex Committee documentation centre;
- Distribution of Codex documents, standards, guidelines and codes of practice to technical services and interested parties;
- Support for the review of Mali's food standards and their harmonization with Codex provisions;
- Support for the drafting of food-related legislative texts;
- Support for the formulation of national positions on collective food standards;
- Support for the production of guidelines on self-regulation in mango production in Mali;
- Organization of the National Food Safety Week;
- Operation and dispatch of the National Codex Committee activity report 2009-2010 to the CCAFRICA.

Participation in sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including the working groups (indicate the source of financing of participation expenses);

Year	Meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and subsidiary bodies	Financial resources
2009	32 nd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	National budget
	62 nd session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	FAO/WHO
	18 th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	FAO/WHO
	37 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling	National budget/ FAO/WHO
	41 th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	FAO/WHO
	25 th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles	National budget
	3 rd session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	National budget
	41 st session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives	National budget
	30 th session of the Codex Committee Methods of Analysis and Sampling	National budget
	18 th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa	National budget /NESTLE
	40 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	FAO/WHO
2010	33 rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	National budget
	63 rd session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	FAO/WHO

38 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling	FAO/WHO
4 th session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	National budget
42 nd session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	FAO/WHO
26 th session of the Codex Committee on General Principles	National budget
42 nd session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives	National budget
64 th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission	FAO/WHO
African Codex Delegates Colloquium	USDA
19 th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	National budget FAO/WHO
42 nd session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	National budget FAO/WHO

SEYCHELLES

A formal National Codex Committee has not yet been set up. However, some of the responsibilities of the NCC is being undertaken by the SBS technical committee for Food Standards which comprises of public and private stakeholders as well as the codex contact point.

ZAMBIA

Our CCP, Delphin Kinkese, has been holding meetings with SADC members to encourage them to have effective NCCs and share experiences.

Sharing of information on various studies and the subsequent need to carry out further studies, e.g.

- work on antibiotic residues in milk
- revision of the Public Health Act
- suspected high levels of additives and pesticides in one agricultural area (Makeni)
- development of a Food Safety Policy

OBJECTIVE 4: Available technical and scientific expertise and experiences of countries

BENIN

No scientist has been appointed or trained to contribute to the Codex work. No list of experts has been provided. However, Benin would like to train scientists who could contribute to the scientific work of the Codex.

MALI

- Existence of 14 operational Codex subcommittees;
- Existence of an updated database on national institutions and experts covering different domains of food safety;
- Collection and supply of data to FAO on food contamination by mycotoxins in Mali;
- Conduct of a health survey on foods of animal origin and provision of data to FAO;
- Participation in working groups of the CCFICS headed by Australia for the preparation of:
 - proposed draft principles and guidelines for the conduct of evaluations of inspection and certification systems abroad, presided by Australia;
 - discussion paper on aspects of obligatory nutritional labelling;
- Participation in CCFICS working groups headed by the United States of America for the preparation of:

- proposed draft criteria and principles of legibility and understanding of nutritional labelling;
- proposed draft Annex on Leafy Green Vegetables (Annex to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables);
- participation in the CCFICS working group headed by Canada on the preparation of the draft working document on the scope and impact of amendments to the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-Packaged Foods;
- Participation in the CCFICS working group headed by the United States on preparing the proposed draft provisions on food additives of the GSFA;
- Participation in the CCFA working group presided by Indonesia on preparing proposed draft guidelines and principles for substances used as processing aids (N14-2008) (CX FA 10/42/10) ;
- Participation in the CCFA working group presided by Finland on preparing proposals for changes and/or additions to the International Numbering System for Food Additives;
- Participation in the CCFA working group presided by Switzerland on preparation of the:
 - discussion paper on the identification of problems and recommendations relating to the inconsistent presentation of food additive provisions in Codex commodity standards;
 - discussion paper on the Standard for Food Grade Salt;
- Participation in the CCPR working group led by the Netherlands and the United States of America on preparation of the draft revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds at step 7: unresolved issues in commodity groups of fruiting vegetables, other than cucurbits, pome fruits and oil seeds;
- Preparation and transmittal to the CCAFRICA of items of priority to Mali for the meeting of the Contact Points organized by the AU-IBAR.

SEYCHELLES

Seychelles do have certain scientific experts, however, these experts have not yet participated in the list scientific work of Codex such as JECFA, JMPR, etc. We are in the process of compiling the list and will provide to CCAFRICA.

ZAMBIA

A list of our local experts exists. Zambia did organize a Codex Regional consultative meeting in 2009. Also USDA organized capacity building in Codex for Zambia in 2010.

One expert has also joined the CCP as a Consultant for SADC to facilitate risk analysis.