

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION **E**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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Agenda Item 4a

CX/AFRICA 11/19/7

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

19th Session

Accra, Ghana, 1-4 February 2011

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCAFRICA
(PREPARED BY GHANA)**

INTRODUCTION

1. The 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa adopted the strategic plan for the coordination of Codex activities within CCAFRICA, 2007-2013¹
2. At the 18th Session of CCAFRICA held in Accra, the Committee established two in-session physical working groups open to all interested parties, one chaired by Ghana and working in English and another, chaired by Cameroon, working in French. The Terms of Reference of the working groups were to discuss the implementation of the CCAFRICA Strategic plan and to make recommendations on how to better facilitate its implementation.
3. The Committee agreed to all the priority activities identified by the two in-session working groups with minor changes, except for the proposal identified under objective 7 (e.g., develop regional guidelines on GM foods) of the CCAFRICA strategic plan. These priority activities were incorporated in the strategic plan².
4. The strategic plan incorporates a checklist that should be regularly updated for sessions of CCAFRICA and to monitor the status of implementation. The strategic plan is presented in Annex 1 to this document. Information on progress made on activities in the strategic plan can be presented in the column "Note of on progress made" of Annex I.

¹ ALINORM 07/30/28, para 41 and Appedix II

² ALINORM 09/32/28, para 31 and Appendix II

Annex I**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCAFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2013 (as of December 2010)**

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: To strengthen the role and enhance the participation and effectiveness of CCAFRICA within the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex African region

Objective 1: To foster effective and dynamic communication amongst the CCAFRICA members and other regions, other Codex members, the Codex Secretariat and relevant organizations							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes on progress made
1.1 Maximize the use of electronic communication systems in countries of the region, and encourage the development of a webpage for each National Codex Contact Point.	Encourage development of websites for each National Codex Contact Point. -have a standardized format for contents. - include details on NCC composition, input and update database on national food control system.	Member Countries of the region	Continuing	Current working websites in Member Countries Codex Contact Points by December 2008	Determine the frequency of use of electronic communication against other forms of communication	Ongoing	Most NCC of member countries do not have webpage for their NCC
	Make requests to AU to host Website	Coordinator				Started	Request made to AU

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1.2 Encourage countries to continuously provide updated contact details of national Codex Contact Points to the Codex Secretariat	Each country to continuously update contact details, in order to facilitate communication, and inform the Codex Secretariat and the Regional Coordinator	Member Countries of the region	Yearly	Evidence of details of Codex Contact Point provided to Coordinator half yearly	Members to copy the coordinator on updated information on National Contact Point for Coordinator to collate information	Ongoing	Countries continue to provide update on contact details
1.3 Organize a virtual chat room with the primary objective of exchanging information prior to Codex meetings, among CCAFRICA members as well as other regional coordinating Committees or Codex members	Conduct a trial run with an initial discussion topic and the Coordinator acting as moderator	Coordinator	Jan 2009 onwards	Records of documents of chat sessions	Determine the number of responses through the chat rooms prior to Codex meetings	Ongoing	Forum on private standards commenced on the CCAFRICA website
1.4 Establish a mechanism whereby the Codex Contact Points and/or national Codex Committees in the region can share Information and expertise	Create opportunities for countries from the same region to share their experiences. Support from the Trust Fund is possible.	FAO/WHO and Member Countries of the region	Starting from February 2008	Countries exchange reports of stakeholders Committee meetings or National Codex Committee meetings. Evidence of system whereby related organizations provide database on work done and	Request that the Coordinator be copied on information shared between countries	Ongoing	Mechanism for coordination of African position on food safety standards drafted with support from the AU/IBAR

				expertise to be uploaded unto National website.			
Objective 2: To achieve an active and effective participation of all countries in the Region in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, particularly CCAFRICA							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes on progress made
2.1 Undertake actions targeted at responsible Parties at national level that will lead to a higher priority and enhanced support to Codex activities	<p>Conduct awareness programmes at national and regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include advocacy programmes for political leaders, Parliamentarians, Policy Makers. - consultant for preparation of documents / materials for advocacy, preferably at national level to account for national differences. - special delegation to make presentations on Codex at FAO/WHO Regional meetings, regional economic bodies, and also AU. -Draw up a 2008 annual report on the participation of members in the different Codex meetings, with a breakdown of the 	Coordinator / Member Countries of the region	Continuing	Documentary evidence of collaboration from political figures, NGOs, Parliamentarians and outcomes at the national level annually	Request for annual reports from NCCs, report to include information on activities of NCCs	Ongoing	Several member countries taking steps to involve policymakers in and support Codex activities

	share funded by the public administration, the private sector and the Trust Fund -Countries which are able to provide information for 2008 should do so						
2.2 Search for financial assistance from possible sources to support Codex activities (trust funds, WHO, FAO, UNDP, International Organizations, etc.)	Similar to Activity 2.1	Member Countries of the region	Continuing	NCCs must have documented plans to solicit for funds through workshops, appeals etc and evidence of monies received accounted for	Collate information on fundraising activities of NCCs (to be included in annual report)	Ongoing	
2.3 Ask for collaboration in the translation of relevant information into English, French and Arabic	-Create an electronic information exchange, in order to share each country's experience with translation, and establish a list of potential translators by language	Member Countries of the region/FAO/WHO	From June 2009	List of collaborators ready to assist in translation	Evaluating the translation done from/into English, French and Arabic	Ongoing	
2.4 Establish working groups responsible for examining strategic aspects of Codex activities	-Continue to request the holding of workshops in the margins of the CCAFRICA meeting	Coordinator	From June 2009	Evidence of database of Experts, Research conducted	Determine the number of working groups established	Ongoing	Working groups for CCCF, CCPR and CCFH established in collaboration with the AU/IBAR
2.5 Involve all countries in the region in the activities CCAFRICA		Coordinator	Continuing	Codex Contact Points established in countries of the region	Compare the number of Codex Contact Points with January 2009 as the reference point	Ongoing	Coordinator continues to consult CCAFRICA member countries on food safety issues and activities undertaken

							within the region
2.6 Hold in conjunction with sessions of CCAFRICA, seminars/workshops on food safety and matters of concern to the region		Coordinator and FAO/WHO	From June 2008	Reports of seminars, workshops held in conjunction with CCAFRICA	Determine the number of Workshops/Seminars held	Ongoing	One of such workshops to be held on 2011-01-31, before the 19 th Session of CCAFRICA
2.7 Encourage countries that have a common interest to coordinate their position and present it as a common position at Codex Committee meetings.		Member Countries of the region	From June 2008	Evidence of meetings. Joint reports and communication with countries before every Codex meeting	Determine the number of issues that at least two Member Countries present with a common position	Ongoing	Common position developed for CCPR and CCCF meetings in 2009 and CCFH meeting in 2010 through the support of the AU/IBAR. Another Expert meeting on CCPR and CCCF to be held in Accra from 27-29 January 2011
2.8 Give support to countries of the Region in organizing Codex related events		FAO/WHO	Continuing	Reports of activities/events undertaken	Assess the number of Codex related events organized with support from FAO/WHO	Ongoing	Refer to CX/AFRICA 11/19/4

Objective 3: To promote the development of and to strengthen National Codex Committees and/or Codex Contact Points in member countries of the region							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes on progress made
3.1 Identify needs for capacity building with other Organizations and look for possible financial sources	Establish a National Codex Committee for member countries which do not currently have an NCC. - Strengthen structures of existing NCC. Each NCC to conduct a needs assessment and submit it to the FAO, through the Coordinator, duly supporting the request with information on how this matches government priorities	Member Countries of the region and Coordinator	Continuous	Diagnostic reports of capacity needs. Identified possible financial sources for capacity building activities	Determine the number of capacity building activities undertaken in Member Countries	Ongoing	Based on the annual country reports submitted to the coordinator, nine countries have provided information on needs for capacity building
3.2 Encourage and support CCAFRICA Member Countries of the region to establish a National Codex Committee	-Invite countries with an NCC to supply a detailed report on the organisational structure and operation of their NCC -Encourage and support the other countries to create their own NCC	FAO/WHO	Continuous	National Codex Committees established in all Member countries by December 2008	Write to each member country to provide the status of NCC and their activities	Ongoing	The Coordinator and other members were in Cape Verde, 2009 to assist them in their preparation to establish an NCC

Objective 4: To take advantage of available technical and scientific expertise and experiences of the member countries of the region							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes on progress made
4.1 Identify and establish a list of specialists and competent institutions in the region based on the information provided by each country that could provide support and specialized advice to CCAFRICA	<p>Identify, train and reorient experts in the region. - orientation needed to redirect current research activities to be more relevant to Codex activities in order to provide the needed data for Codex requests.</p> <p>Draw up a list of potential experts to involve in international specialist groups (JECFA, JEMRA etc) and make the call for expert candidates more transparent</p>	Member Countries of the region/ Coordinator	Continuous	Database of specialists, competent institutions	Determine the number of Experts identified and participating in Codex activities in respect of scientific advice	Ongoing	Experts identified for Codex Committees on Contaminants in Foods, Pesticide Residues and Food Hygiene.
4.2 Establish a regional risk assessment body that will coordinate communication of expert data with FAO/WHO expert bodies	<p>Create a centralized database on relevant data with input from all member countries.</p> <p>Draw up a list of potential experts to involve in international specialist groups (JECFA, JEMRA etc) and make the call for expert candidates more transparent</p>	Member Countries of the region /Coordinator	Dec 2009	Risk assessment body established by December 2009 in each country	Invite countries to indicate Risk Assessment Body established and legal framework if any	Not yet started	

4.3 Identify and prioritize issues that require Specialized expertise	Organize regional consultative workshops to identify areas of priority.	Member Countries of the region/ Coordinator	Continuous	Diagnostic report on priority issues requiring specialized expertise	From annual report	Ongoing	Regional consultation workshop organized for Codex Contact Point Officers in Nairobi, 2009. Another consultation workshop to be organized in Accra, 27-29 January 2011 through the support of the AU/IBAR
Objective 5: To ensure the continuity and sustainability of CCAFRICA activities							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes
5.1 Design a biennial plan of action to be implemented between CCAFRICA meetings		Coordinator	Continuous	Evidence of annual plan of action to be implemented between CCAFRICA	Review of plan of action at CCAFRICA meeting	Ongoing	
5.2 Conduct periodic review and follow up on the actions in the strategic plan		Coordinator	Continuous	Report by Coordinator annually	Request information from CCAFRICA Members on actions taken	Ongoing	Nine country reports received. Annual report to be presented at the 19 th Session of CCAFRICA
5.3 Establish information transition procedures to ensure a better transition of		Coordinator	Continuous	Guidelines for transmission of Coordinatorship	Presentation of proposed procedures at 2009 CCAFRICA	Ongoing	Guidelines for transmission of Coordinatorship

the Coordinatorship				developed by end of 2008. A draft to be presented at 2009 meeting	meeting		adopted by the 18 th Session of CCAFRICA.
5.4 Present a progress report on the achievements in the key areas of the Strategic plan at meetings of CCAFRICA		Coordinator	Quarterly	Progress report available at CCAFRICA meeting in 2009	Progress report available at CCAFRICA	Ongoing	
Objective 6: To obtain technical cooperation and develop a funding mechanism that would enable CCAFRICA to develop and sustain its activities in accordance with its objectives							
6.1 Elaborate a list of organizations that could provide technical and financial cooperation		Coordinator /Member Countries of the region	June 2007-Dec 2008	A database of organizations that can provide technical assistance. Establish by end of 2008.	A database of organizations that can provide technical assistance. Establish by end of 2008.	Ongoing	Database available on CCAFRICA website
6.2 Organize working groups tasked with formulating fundraising plans and ensure their follow-up		Coordinator / Member Countries of the region	Half yearly	Reports on formation of Working Groups prepared half yearly and presented by Members to Coordinator	Review annual reports and determine Member countries contributions to working Groups	Not yet started	
6.3 Develop and analyze proposals for the creation of trust funds and other means of financing within the codex domain, taking into consideration the region's interests		Coordinator /Member Countries of the region	Continuous	Report on creation of Trust Funds	The amount of funds generated to support the region's interest.	Not yet started	This activity should be started following the completion of Activity 6.2

Objective 7: Identify and prioritize regional needs in matters of food safety and other areas with a view to finding solutions to meet these needs							
Actions	Priority areas and actions	Responsible Parties	Time Frame	Objective Verifiable Indicators	Mechanism for monitoring progress	Current Status	Notes
7.1 Identify priority economic and /or food safety issues for which consensus exist within the region for the elaboration of Codex standards		Member Countries of the region /Coordinator	Continuous	Reports on priority economic and /or food safety meetings of stakeholders available to Member Countries by end of 2008	Determine the number of economic and Food Safety issues for which consensus exist within the region	Ongoing	
7.2 Elaborate standards, guidelines and other recommendations that have been identified as being of interest to the region		Member Countries of the region /Coordinator	Continuous	Reports of Member country Working Groups on standards, guidelines and recommendations by the end of 2008. Reports ready for Coordinator to present during the 2009 meeting	Determine the number of standards and guidelines elaborated	Not yet started	
7.3 Encourage contacts between other interested Parties regularly attending CCAFRICA meetings on food safety matters		Member Countries of the region /Coordinator	Continuous	List of contacts of interested Parties available to Coordinator by December 2008. Evidence of circulation of reports to relevant Members	Information on interested parties shared with CCAFRICA members	ongoing	