



Agenda Item 4(a)

CX/AFRICA 13/20/6-Add.1

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

**20<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Yaoundé, Cameroon, 29 January – 1 February 2013**

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCAFRICA**

**(Replies to CL 2012/25-AFRICA received from Botswana, Central African Republic, Morocco and Zimbabwe)**

**OBJECTIVE 1: Use of electronic communication and sharing of information**

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The National Codex Committee of the Central African Republic has no website but does have an email address that was set up in 2009: [codexcentrafrique@gmail.com](mailto:codexcentrafrique@gmail.com). We do not consult the CCAFRICA website often enough. Thanks to the Internet, there is an effective mechanism for sharing information among the countries of the Africa region.

**MOROCCO**

Until now, Morocco has not had a national website specifically for the Codex. However, the website of the National Office for Food Safety, which is the Codex focal point in Morocco, has a page dedicated to activities of the Codex Alimentarius.

The website CCAFRICA is rarely consulted by the members of the National Codex Committee.

Information is exchanged mainly through the FAO and WHO offices in Rabat, but also through the email address of the Codex focal point in Morocco, namely [cnc\\_ma@onssa.gov.ma](mailto:cnc_ma@onssa.gov.ma)

**ZIMBABWE**

The National Codex Committee of Zimbabwe also known as the Food Standards Advisory Board (FSAB) now has a website although it is still under development. The website is: <http://www.foodsafetyzim.com>.

Information is being uploaded bit by bit onto the website including national food regulations.

Members of the NCC and the public have been alerted of the existence of the CCAFRICA website and use of it depends on the individual.

Email communication is sometimes used to communicate food-borne incidents in SADC. In particular Botswana has communicated on detection of aflatoxins in some peanut butter products.

While this needs encouragement and strengthening, we think it is a commendable effort.

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

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

**BOTSWANA**

Botswana has participated

- CCNFSDU 33 (Germany, November 2011), supported by Botswana Government Project for 2 delegates and one supported by AU/IBAR;

- CCFH44 (USA, November 2012), supported by Botswana Government
- CCNFSDU34 (Germany, December 2012), supported by AU/IBAR and Botswana Government.

### **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Since the 19th session of CCAFRICA, the National Codex Committee of the Central African Republic has taken part in meetings of the CAC and other committees of subsidiary bodies such as the CCMAS, CCGP and CCPR. Our participation in these meetings is financed by trust funds. However, although our national committee anticipates taking part in the activities of working groups, this has never been possible for lack of funds.

### **MOROCCO**

Morocco has participated in the following meetings:

In 2011:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils;
- 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling;
- 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods;
- 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues;
- 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products;
- 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling;
- 6<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East;
- 34<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses;
- 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

In 2012:

- 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling;
- 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives;
- 6<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods;
- 44<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues;
- 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on General Principles;
- 40<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling;
- 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

With regard to financing, the members of the national delegation are the responsibility of their respective structures (the State budget for government bodies, while in the case of professionals their businesses are responsible for their delegates).

**ZIMBABWE**

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

**CODEX MEETINGS ATTENDED AND SPONSORED BY ZIMBABWE IN 2011**

NO.	Meeting.	Venue. Dates	Sponsor
1	CAC	Switzerland July 2011	Ministry of Health
2	CCPR	China April 2011	Ministry of Health
3	CCMAS	Hungary March 2011	Ministry of Health
4	CCNFSDU	Chile November 2011.	Ministry of Health

**CODEX MEETINGS ATTENDED AND SPONSORED BY ZIMBABWE IN 2012**

NO.	Meeting.	Venue. Dates	Sponsor
1	CAC	Switzerland July 2012	Ministry of Health
2	CCPR	China April 2012	Ministry of Health
3	CCMAS	Hungary March 2012	Ministry of Health
4	CCNFSDU	Germany November 2012.	Ministry of Health

**Codex activities supported by FAO/WHO at the national level****CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Despite a number of requests for financing made by our national committee to support implementation of the various activities included in our annual programmes of activities, we have never benefited from any funding from WHO or FAO (concerning Codex-linked activities).

**Awareness programmes undertaken at national level to strengthen participation by stakeholders in Codex activities****BOTSWANA**

Codex is a standing agenda item in the regular quarterly meetings of the National Food Control Board and the Food Legislation Advisory Committee of the Board which is also the NCC.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Various awareness-raising activities have been planned for those involved in food safety (Codex-linked activities) as part of our annual programme of activities. Those targeted by these awareness-raising activities

include community leaders, industrialists, producers, consumers' associations and public-sector officials involved in food safety policy.

### **ZIMBABWE**

Exhibitions at agricultural shows.

### **Regional bilateral or multilateral programmes developed to strengthen participation of stakeholders in Codex activities**

### **BOTSWANA**

Member of the African experts for CCNFSU, supported by AU/IBAR.

Attended a Codex workshop in Cameroon 2011.

Attended a Food Safety Experts consultative meeting on establishment of African Union Food Safety Authority (October 2012, Kigali). Codex activities are also expected to be addressed by this. I proposed intercontinental Food Safety Authority. This project is currently being implemented by AU/IBAR.

### **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The National Codex Committee of the Central African Republic is involved, alongside certain countries in the subregion (Cameroon and Gabon), in a technical cooperation programme with FAO as part of its efforts to boost the participation of the National Committee in Codex activities and strengthen national food safety policy.

Our National Committee is also involved, with the above-mentioned countries, in a programme to strengthen food safety legislation with the European Union's European Advisory Services. These two programmes have not yet been put into execution.

### **ZIMBABWE**

Meetings of experts organised by AU-IBAR to provide guidance on issues to be discussed at strategic Codex meetings.

AU-IBAR provides feedback to guide our discussions at NCC level.

AU-IBAR organizes meetings of National Contact Points to discuss African Experts opinion. WE have found the exercise very useful.

### **Other relevant Codex activities**

### **BOTSWANA**

Codex documents are distributed electronically to key stakeholders.

### **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Awareness-raising activities have been organized at the national level for the ministries involved in the Codex process (food safety) and some private-sector players through the distribution of leaflets and posters. These information documents and kits were requested by the National Codex Committee and provided by the Codex Commission in Rome.

### **MOROCCO**

The 19<sup>th</sup> session of the National Codex Committee was held on 6 October 2012.

FAO project TCP/CVI/3301: Organization by the Standardization Service of the National Food Safety Office of a study trip by two experts from Cape Verde in order to learn about Moroccan experience in organizing and coordinating the work of the Codex Alimentarius. The delegation took an interest in all matters relating to food quality and safety, control and monitoring procedures, and the use of national and Codex standards (6– August 2012).

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

Composition of NCC – representatives from relevant ministries including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Local Government, Food Research Institution, National Standards Body, Consumer organization and industry organization.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

The National Committee was formally established in 2011 with the signing of the Interministerial Decree creating a National Codex Committee in the Central African Republic. This legal framework is an essential tool in boosting national activities within the Codex framework. Due to the lack of financial resources, only the activities noted above have been carried out at the national level, although a number of other activities have been planned.

**MOROCCO**

Participation of the Standardization Service in the Mentoring Program organized by the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington for officers of the Codex contact points and the National Codex Committee secretariats of eight African countries, including Morocco (21-25 May 2012).

**ZIMBABWE**

Our FSAB is provided for by statute Food and Food Standards Act. This means that we are able to request funds from the fiscus. In the past two years we were allocated some finances as an institution for the first time. Although this is enough only to pay for limited sitting and membership allowances for members, we found it is a step in the right direction by our government.

We hope to get bigger allocations in future.

**OBJECTIVE 4: Available technical and scientific expertise and experiences of countries****CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

A number of scientific experts are involved in Codex activities at the national level (participation in Codex meetings) and have not been specifically trained in the Codex framework. Many other scientists have been identified, but a list of them has not yet been sent to the CCAFRICA secretariat to be entered into its database.

**ZIMBABWE**

One Zimbabwe expert was invited by AU-IBAR to participate in the deliberations on the agenda issues of the oncoming CCNFSDU in Germany.

We have submitted a list of experts to CCAFRICA for consideration. Zimbabwe has so far had no experts contributing at JECFA or JMPR level.