



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
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OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE CCAFRICA STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2019

The CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2007 – 2013 is in the final phase of implementation, just as the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission is studying the new Codex Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019.

Evaluation of the plan reveals that some initiated actions are still ongoing and warrant further funding from the CCAFRICA, given their importance. There is no doubt that Africa must now continue to seek enhanced communication among CCAFRICA members, with other regions and with the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius.

It must also strengthen the capacities of National Codex Committees (NCCs) and Codex Contact Points (CCPs) to foster greater participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius. Similarly, there is an unprecedented need for closer cooperation with the organizations that provide technical and financial support.

In addition to initiated actions that need to be pursued, the CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2007 – 2013 also envisions activities that have not received as much attention, namely:

- ✦ Risk assessment
- ✦ Production of data and scientific advice
- ✦ Drafting of regional standards.

The new strategic plan must therefore take these relevant concerns into account. The priority given them will depend on the needs expressed by individual countries.

In addition to these concerns which already featured in the former strategic plan, the African Codex community must also tackle other priorities, in particular the improvement of food safety in African countries. The strategic plan should therefore consider the need to make effective use of Codex standards in food production and in formal food inspection procedures in individual countries in order to improve national food safety systems.

An electronic working group should be established to draw up the CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019. This group would be co-chaired by two countries (one French-speaking, the other English-speaking), working in both languages and tasked with:

- ✦ identifying the primary objectives of the new strategic plan, in the light of the vision and objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019, Africa's current concerns about food standards and food safety, and the conclusions of the evaluation of the CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2007 – 2013;
- ✦ developing a draft CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019, by revising the former strategic plan or producing a new plan;
- ✦ submitting the resulting draft for examination by African delegates. Such a review of the preliminary draft CCAFRICA Strategic Plan could take place at a meeting organized during the 4th CCP meeting.