



Agenda Item 5

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA
Twenty-first Session

Yaoundé, Cameroon, 27–30 January 2015

COMMENTS AND INFORMATION ON NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS, CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING AND THE USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
(REPLIES TO CL 2014/29-AFRICA)

(Comments from Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Mali and Zimbabwe)

Question 1: Strengthening national food control systems

Please describe any significant developments/actions taken in your country to improve national food control systems.

These may include actions relating to: National food law and regulations; food control management e.g. food administration structures, initiatives to improve multi-sectoral collaboration; inspection services; laboratory infrastructure and activities; information dissemination; training. Please also describe priority food safety issues to be addressed nationally and regionally.

BENIN

Since the last session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA), the reforms under way have been progressing. The Benin Food Safety Agency is gradually being set up. This Agency will bring together all monitoring structures and will take account of risk analysis activities. The new Central Food Safety Laboratory has also been built, furnished and its work has begun. The National Food Council has been established, pursuant to a presidential decree.

The texts regulating the national food control system are undergoing revision, to bring them into line with ECOWAS texts.

BURKINA FASO

In Burkina Faso food and food products are monitored by several ministerial departments, including those responsible for agriculture, animal resources, fisheries, health, trade and industry, which all work in their respective fields without any real coordination.

Significant actions taken in recent years

- A national Codex Alimentarius Committee (CNACA-BF) was set up as an institution in 2004, pursuant to an interministerial decision;
- A national Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (CNSPS-BF) was set up as an institution in 2012, pursuant to an interministerial decision;
- A Burkina Faso Standards and Certification Agency (ABNORM) was established in 2013 under the aegis of the Ministry for Trade and became operational from the beginning of 2014;
- Several legal and regulatory texts on food control have been drafted and are being implemented by the relevant ministerial departments involved in food safety (A compilation will be provided in due course);
- A Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) EDES programme (financed by the European Union) was run to strengthen the national food safety system (during the period 2012–2015), with the involvement of all relevant ministries;

- The laboratory of the Food Technology Department of the Research Institute for Applied and Technological Sciences was accredited (ISO 17025) in 2012 for microbiological parameters; and
- The National Public Health Laboratory is receiving support (in progress with EDES) for ISO 17025 accreditation on toxicological and mycotoxin parameters.

Priorities with regard to food safety at national and regional levels

- There is no coordination structure for food safety at national level and synergy between the relevant administrative authorities is lacking;
- Food control bodies, especially those at borders, are underequipped;
- Border control points do not meet international standards (no office laboratory) for conducting particular analyses in situ;
- There is a lack of staff and low levels of training and qualification for staff responsible for control and inspection; and
- Laboratories are underequipped and therefore cannot work efficiently.

GABON

The various activities undertaken with regard to this question are:

The establishment of the following new agencies:

- Gabonese Food Safety Agency
- National Laboratories Office
- Agency for the Harvesting and Trade of Agricultural Products
- Gabonese Standards Agency and
- Office for the Research, Introduction and Adaptation of Plant Material

The development of a new legal framework through the enactment of the following laws:

- Act No. 22/2008 on the Agriculture Code of the Republic of Gabon
- Act No. 23/2008 on sustainable agricultural development and
- the food safety bill (pending).

The national Codex Alimentarius Committee has been reorganized, and technical committees made operational.

Priorities with regard to food safety are centred on:

- prevention, through public education
- control of foodstuffs at borders and in markets
- training for those involved in control systems and
- providing laboratories with the necessary equipment for control.

MALI

1.1. Important activities undertaken in Mali to improve national food control systems:

1.1.1. Collection of data on risk factors

Establishment of a system for collecting and processing data on risk factors

In the context of health surveillance and monitoring, the National Food Safety Agency – the national body for coordinating food safety activities – receives and processes data from control service (National Directorate for Veterinary Services, National Directorate for Agriculture, Plant Protection Office) activity reports, and the results of control laboratory (National Health Laboratory, Veterinary Central Laboratory, National Water Laboratory) analyses.

1.1.2. Information and awareness raising among stakeholders

- Information and awareness-raising workshops have been held (in Bamako, Mopti, Sikasso and Kayes) on the National Food Safety Policy, and on authorizing marketing of foodstuffs, animal feed, and food additives.
- Control services and consumer associations have been given access to the updated list of products authorized for marketing after each meeting of the National Commission for Marketing Authorization.
- Broadcasting adverts on marketing authorization on national radio and television channels.

- Celebrating the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the National Food Safety Agency and the fiftieth anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

1.1.3. Enhancing the capacity of those involved in the food sector

- Local dairy processing units in the regions of Sikasso, Mopti, Segou, Kayes and Koulikoro, and Bamako District, are receiving support for the establishment of systems to address health risks.
- Technical support is being provided to 87 agro-food units for achieving marketing authorization.
- Training is being given to 30 staff members of the authorities responsible for health and phytosanitary risk management on how to use risk analysis for better food safety management in Mali, with more effective participation in Codex work (TCP FAO/ANSSA Programme: signature of an agreement between the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the FAO representative in Mali on 29 June 2014).
- Training and follow-up on food safety, street food and business management (TCP/RAF/3406 “Ensuring the provision of safe and quality street food for better public health”) is being provided for 150 street food vendors.
- Equipment is being provided for national authorities responsible for food safety (ECOWAS-Mali agreement signed November 2014).
- Training (good hygiene practices and good manufacturing practices) and auditing is being conducted for bakeries in the context of the Junior Chamber International’s “Golden Bread” competition.

1.1.4. Coordinating food safety activities

- Meetings are being held to coordinate technical structures responsible for monitoring health risks.
- Joint food inspection missions are being carried out in Bamako District, by multidisciplinary teams comprising representatives of: the National Food Safety Agency, the National Directorate for Veterinary Services, National Directorate for Trade and Competition, National Directorate for Agriculture and the Directorate-General of the National Police Force.
- Members of the Disposal Committee (National Directorate for Trade and Competition, National Food Safety Agency, National Directorate for Agriculture, National Directorate for Veterinary Services, National Directorate for Health, National Directorate for Sanitation and the Treatment of Pollution and Environmental Damage, Directorate-General of Customs, Directorate-General of the National Police Force, Consumers’ Association, etc.) are participating in operations to destroy products that have been seized and deemed unfit for human consumption.

ZIMBABWE

Food Regulations

Efforts have been made to improve food regulations in Zimbabwe. The process of gazetting regulations in general is however long and slow. In 2013 Zimbabwe finalized four food regulations for gazetting. These are: Food Import and Export regulations, Food Inspection and Certification regulations and Packaged Drinking Water Other than Mineral Water regulations. These are all new food regulations. Statutory Instrument 263 of 2002, Natural Mineral water regulations were amended and are also ready for gazetting. The permission to gazette was granted by the Minister of Health in 2014. These regulations are all based on respective Codex standards and were notified to all trading partners through the World Trade Organisation Secretariat. Work is also under way to amend the Labelling of Pre-packaged Food regulations. In 2015, the Food Standards Advisory Board will commence work on food fortification regulations.

Food Control Management Structures

Zimbabwe’s food management structures have not changed since the last session of CCAFRICA. However multi-sectoral collaboration has been enhanced through the national SPS Committee where other stakeholders have been updated periodically on food safety activities of the National Codex Committee. The National Codex Committee exists under the Apex National SPS Committee. The Codex Committee was invited to meetings such as the Peanut Butter Manufacturers Association to share with them the national position in as far as aflatoxin levels permitted in their product and food safety in general. We have also attended meeting of bee keepers’ association to explain food safety requirements for honey.

Food factory inspections are an on-going activity whereby all food products intended for certification for both local consumption or export have a pre-requisite of a satisfactory factory inspection report. Pre-shipment factory inspections have also been carried out for products intended for import into Zimbabwe.

Laboratory Infrastructure

Due to economic challenges facing the country, laboratory infrastructure has not improved. The national food laboratory requires state of the art equipment in order to carry out exhaustive tests before food products can be certified as suitable for human consumption. We are currently awaiting new equipment promised by the European Union under the EPA program on agricultural products. A GC-MS and an HPLC are to be purchased for the laboratory under the EU project. If availed, these pieces of equipment will go a long way in capacitating the laboratory to carry out tests on food samples.

Country Priorities

Currently Zimbabwe has experienced inflows of food products from within the SADC region and further abroad. There is serious concern on the safety of these food products. The country would like to ensure that capacity to inspect and test the products is restored. With existing and emerging food safety challenges it is necessary that the country be in a position to test for pesticide residues, veterinary drug residues, aflatoxins, PCBs PAH, *E. sakazaki* in infant formula and other restricted food additives as well as food contaminants. At local level, it is necessary to educate our farmers in GAP to avoid rejection of their agricultural exports as well as production of safe and quality food for local consumption. All this work requires resources which the country does not have at the moment. Peanuts and peanut products have been found to contain high levels of aflatoxins above the stipulated safe levels. In particular peanut butter randomly taken from shelves contains way above the 4ppb allowed for AB1 and total aflatoxin levels often exceed the 20ppb permissible. Equipment and resources need to be availed to closely monitor aflatoxin levels in peanut butter.

Question 2: Strengthening Codex at the national level

Please describe:

- i) Any significant actions that your country has taken to strengthen Codex at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex;
- ii) Any specific actions aimed at strengthening the Codex Contact Point, i.e. consultative structures and processes on Codex matters, including promoting increased involvement and participation of consumers and other stakeholders.

BENIN

The Codex Contact Point has had capacity building training from FAO, Switzerland and the United States, and has participated in several Codex sessions. Benin has participated in the following Codex capacity-building sessions:

1. Twentieth Session of the FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa, held in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 29 January to 1 February 2013: two delegates;
2. Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, held in Beijing (China) from 18 to 22 March 2013: one delegate;
3. Seventh Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, held in Moscow (Russian Federation) from 8 to 12 April 2013: one delegate;
4. Third course on using food risk analysis in ECOWAS countries, held in Cotonou (Benin) from 4 to 6 June 2013: six delegates;
5. Thirty-sixth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in Rome (Italy) from 1 to 5 July 2013: two delegates;
6. Forty-fifth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, held in Hanoi (Viet Nam) from 11 to 15 November 2013: one delegate;
7. Forty-sixth Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, held in Hong Kong (China) from 17 to 21 March 2014: one delegate;
8. Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food, held in The Hague (Netherlands) from 31 March to 4 April 2014: one delegate;
9. Technical Consultation on low levels of genetically modified (GM) crops in international food and feed trade, held in Rome (Italy) on 20 and 21 March 2014: one delegate;
10. Thirty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in Geneva (Switzerland) from 14 to 18 July 2014: one delegate;
11. Fifth Pan-African Meeting of National Codex Focal Points, held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 16 to 18 June 2014: one delegate;

12. Partnership programme for high-level government officials involved in the work of Codex Alimentarius, held in Washington, DC (United States) from 12 to 21 May 2014: two delegates;
13. Capacity-building workshop for Codex Contact Points, jointly organized by Switzerland and FAO, held in Ethiopia on 15 and 16 May 2014: one delegate;
14. Capacity-building workshop for Codex Contact Points, jointly organized by Switzerland and FAO, held in Uganda from 15 to 17 December 2014: one delegate; and
15. Electronic Working Group on the International Numbering System

Benin has also participated in electronic working groups on the following issues:

- revision of the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables;
- discussion on the use of note 161 in food additives (Codex Committee on Food Additives);
- descriptors for the General Standard for Food Additives and the provisions for food additives in the following categories: 01.1.1 Milk and buttermilk (plain) 01.1.1.1 Milk (plain), 01.1.1.2 Buttermilk (plain), 01.1.2 Dairy-based drinks, flavoured and/or fermented (e.g. chocolate milk, cocoa, eggnog, drinking yoghurt, whey-based drinks);
- revision of the *Guidelines for the Simple Evaluation of Food Additives* (CAC/GL 3-1989);
- International Numbering System for Food Additives;
- parasites in food;
- histamine in fish and fishery products;
- Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa on the identification and classification of foods of African origin that could be subject to a regional or international standard; and
- use of additives in additives.

Some working groups are still ongoing.

Participation in the various Codex meetings was reported to the National Codex Committee on 23 and 24 October 2013 with regard to the meetings attended in 2013, and on 23 and 24 December 2014 with regard to the meetings attended in 2014. Participants were briefed on the work undertaken in those meetings.

The National Codex Committee's report for 2013 was sent to the Council of Ministers.

BURKINA FASO

Significant actions taken to strengthen Codex at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex

In May 2014, the National Codex Alimentarius Committee drafted an advocacy paper for all key ministries involved in Codex issues, to encourage their involvement and commitment to the work of Codex Alimentarius at national and international levels. As a result, the Committee has received financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture for organizing annual meetings at the national level.

Requests have been made for financing for activities at the regional and international levels.

Actions aimed at strengthening the Codex Contact Point/ promoting increased involvement and participation of consumers and other stakeholders

During 2014, several associations and societies, as well as public and private services and consumer associations, were invited to participate in meetings of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee.

Thus, NGOs, such as Nestlé Central and West Africa, Helen Keller International, Micronutrient Initiative, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others, participated actively in Codex meetings in July and September 2014.

GABON

Gabon is a beneficiary of project TCP/SFC/3402 on support for strengthening the capacities of National Codex Contact Points for three countries in the Central African subregion: Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon.

The following actions have been taken:

- Drafting a budgeted action plan
- Obtaining IT equipment and materials
- Drafting the rules of the National Committee
- Setting up a website.

Members of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee have been informed about and received training in Codex Alimentarius activities. Through a participatory and consensus-based approach, the various relevant administrative authorities are helping to strengthen the National Committee.

MALI

2.1. Significant actions taken in Mali to strengthen Codex at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex

2.1.1. Support for drafting/revision of national/regional standards, based on international standards (Codex, International Plant Protection Convention, World Organisation for Animal Health)

2.1.1.1. Generating the necessary data for drafting regulations/legislation on food, in line with the provisions of international standards (studies and research relating to Codex):

- Evaluation of the hygiene standards of flour milled in Mali;
- Evaluation of food-related health risks to people living with HIV in Bamako District;
- Evaluation of the risks associated with the consumption of rice contaminated with aflatoxins, lead and cadmium in Bamako District;
- FAO/WHO programme – Evaluation of mycotoxins in sorghum in Mali;
- Evaluation of the microbiological quality of chicken meat consumed in Bamako District; and
- Project MTF/RAF/487/STDF – Total diet study for sub-Saharan Africa: Oral exposure to chemical contaminants in Benin, Cameroon, Mali and Nigeria.

2.1.1.2. Technical support for the drafting/revision of national standards

- Meetings of technical committees on the development of food standards;
- Fifth Session of the National Council for Standard Setting and Quality Control;
- Participation of Codex subcommittee members in the work of technical food standards committees;
- Dissemination of Codex standards (manual of procedure, standards, guides, codes of practice, guidelines, etc.) among the relevant structures (Mali Agency for Standard Setting and Quality Promotion, National Directorate for Animal Production and Industry; National Directorate for Veterinary Services, Central Veterinary Laboratory); and
- Support for the Codex Central Liaison Service for Mali to the food standards committees.

2.1.1.3. Support for the drafting/revision of regional and international standards:

- Eighth Session of the National Codex Committee, held on Thursday 11 December 2014 in the National Food Safety Agency's Conference room;
- Electronic preparatory meetings for Codex sessions to form national positions/ written observations on issues of interest for Mali;
- Participation of seven delegates from Mali in four Codex sessions (Codex Committee on General Principles, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Codex Committee on Food Hygiene) and in one meeting of Codex Chairpersons, at a side event during the Codex Committee on Food Labelling;
- Participation of eight delegates from Mali in six capacity-building meetings/workshops for African Codex and sanitary and phytosanitary experts;
- Drafting and submission to CCAFRICA and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, of a draft regional standard on shea butter;
- Provision of responses to questionnaires on Codex (WHO, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, Codex Alimentarius Commission);
- Participation in the investigation into the perception, awareness and expectations of African countries with regard to the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa;
- Provision of technical support for the establishment/ enhancement of national Codex committees in three African countries (project TCP/SFC/3402 on support for strengthening the capacities of National Codex Contact Points for three countries in the Central African subregion: Cameroon, Central African Republic and Gabon);

- Leading the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius training workshop, held in Grand Bassam (Cote d'Ivoire) from 1 to 3 October 2014, to enhance the participation of seven countries in the Codex Alimentarius Commission's international standard-setting activities.

In recognition of the high quality of Mali's participation in Codex activities at national, subregional, regional, and international levels, at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 18 July 2014, the international community elected Mali, through Doctor Mahamadou Sako, Deputy Director-General of the National Food Standards Agency, as Vice-Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for a three-year, non-renewable mandate (2014–2017).

2.1.1.4. Strengthening the Codex Contact Point

The Eighth Session of the National Codex Committee was held on Thursday 11 December 2014, in the National Food Safety Agency's conference room, under the chairmanship of Professor Boubacar Sidiki Cisse, Chairman of the National Codex Committee. The main outcomes of the Eighth Session were:

- Priority sessions of Codex Committees and the Codex Alimentarius Commission were selected for 2015;
- Mali's delegates for those priority sessions were appointed;
- Recommendations were drafted on good practices for Codex activities in Mali;
- Technical support was provided for the Consumer Defence Group of Mali for training agro-food production units with regard to food labelling; and
- Consumer organizations/associations took part in activities on food safety (Food Control/National Food Safety Agency, National Codex Committee and subcommittees, CNAMM, National Committee for Standard-setting and Quality Control, Scientific and Technical Committee, National Food Safety Committee, etc.).

ZIMBABWE

Consultations are currently limited on Codex issues due to resource constraints. There is however more and more awareness of Codex at national level. The National Codex Committee is made up of stakeholders from a wide range of institutions and organisations with an interest in food safety. These include farmers, consumers, food manufacturers, government Ministries and departments. There is however need to strengthen their participation.

Zimbabwe was among SADC countries which were to benefit from an FAO project on strengthening Codex at national level but the project has not yet been approved. We intended to set up mirror Codex sub-committees of interest to Zimbabwe a long time back but resources are not permitting. These should debate in detail the agenda issues at respective Codex Committee sessions as well as view- points of UA-IBAR African experts. The national Codex Committee finds work too much to deliberate on issues of all Codex Committees in detail and would wish to use own different sub-committees that will give recommendations to the main National Codex committee.

CCNFSDU 36 Discussion Paper on Biofortification

Zimbabwe offered to write a discussion paper on biofortification at CCNFSDU 35 in 2013. The discussion paper was done in Zimbabwe with participation of many stakeholders from different institutions. This was another good opportunity to raise awareness of Codex work among different stakeholders. Participants were very enthusiastic in the exercise and many contributions in form of literature search were presented by different stakeholders. All the contributions were eventually put together to come up with the final discussion paper. Comments were also received from South Africa. The discussion paper was presented at CCNFSDU 36 in Bali, Indonesia in November 2014 where the session accepted the paper as new work to be presented to the Codex Commission in July 2015. The participants were pleased to note that the paper was accepted and will also be keen to continue work on the definition of biofortification once the Commission approves.

CODEX Commission Executive Membership

At CCAFRICA 21st session, Zimbabwe wishes to offer its candidature to represent Africa in the Codex Executive Committee as a member elected on Geographic basis. This is an opportunity for Codex awareness-raising within Zimbabwe as well. That exposure will also strengthen Zimbabwe's participation in the work of Codex.

Question 3: Codex standards, national priorities and interests

Please describe:

- i) Which specific Codex standards and related texts (currently under development or already in existence) are of most importance and interest to your country;
- ii) What are the current priority areas for setting national standards; and
- iii) Use and relevance of Codex standards at national level.

BENIN

All texts of the Codex Committees on Food Hygiene, Food Additives, Contaminants, Pesticide Residues, and Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, are considered particularly important in Benin. Benin also aligns itself with the priorities of regional and subregional groups, such as the African Union and ECOWAS.

BURKINA FASO**(i)**

- Codex regional standard on baobab fruit
- Codex regional standard on shea butter
- Regional standard on dried meat (kilichi)
- Codex maximum residue limit on pesticides in oilseed products
- Codex maximum residue limit on antibiotics in imported meat.

(ii)

- Codex international standard on sesame seeds (*Sesamum induum* L.)
- Codex international standard on néré seeds (*Parkia biglobosa*) and soumbala (fermented néré).

(iii)

Codex international standards are disseminated broadly at national level. They are used as a point of reference when drafting national standards.

In practice, more than 131 Codex standards on foodstuffs that are either produced locally or imported have been adopted as national standards by ABNORM (previously FASONORM).

GABON

Priority sectors in need of national standards are:

- Public health
- Food control and inspection
- The use of pesticides in the production of vegetable produce
- Inspection of fish and fisheries products.

Furthermore, since Gabon does not have any accredited laboratories, it relies on Codex standards.

This concludes Gabon's contribution to this circular letter. I remain at your disposal should you have any further questions.

MALI**3.1. Specific standards and texts that are being drafted and are of interest to Mali**

Codex Committees	Issues of interest to Mali
47 th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: <i>Trichinella</i> spp. and <i>Cysticercus bovis</i> • Discussion paper on occurrence and control of parasites • Discussion paper on the need to revise the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
9 th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and proposed draft revision of maximum levels for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed • Proposed draft maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-

	<p>derived products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed draft maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in husked rice Proposed draft Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice Draft maximum levels for deoxynivalenol (DON) in cereal-based foods for infants and young children; in flour, meal, semolina and flakes derived from wheat, maize or barley; and in raw cereal grains (wheat, maize and barley) and including sampling plans for raw cereal grains Proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associate sampling plan Proposed draft revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals Discussion paper on approaches for phasing in of lower maximum levels for contaminants Discussion paper on maximum levels for methyl mercury in fish Discussion paper on radionuclides
47 th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds: selected vegetable commodity groups Proposed draft Table 2 - Examples of selection of representative commodities (vegetable commodity groups) (for inclusion in the Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups) Discussion paper on guidance to facilitate the establishment of maximum residue limits for pesticides for minor crops / specialty crops.
43 rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions on labelling in draft Codex standards Dating (Revision to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods) Proposal for revision to the General Guidelines for the Use of the Term "Halal"
24 th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Papers on the Amendment of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Sunflower Seed Oils – Revision of Limits of Oleic and Linoleic Acids (b) Soybean Oil – High Oleic (c) Palm Oil – Addition of with High Oleic Acid OxG (d) Peanut oil – Fatty acid composition and other quality factors (e) Sunflower Seed Oils – Inclusion of provisions for high Stearic High Oleic Acids Discussion Paper on the Amendment of the Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk
29 th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed amendments to the Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts Consistency of the Risk Analysis Texts across the Relevant Committees
22 nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion paper on principles and guidelines for the elaboration and management of questionnaires directed at exporting countries Discussion paper on the revision of the principles and guidelines for the exchange of information in food safety emergency situations Draft amendments to guidelines for the exchange of information between countries on rejections of imported food

37 th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft revision of the Codex Standard for processed cereal-based foods for infants and young children (CODEX STAN 74-1981) in order to include a Part B on underweight children • Draft additional or revised nutritional values for the purposes of labelling in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling
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3.2. Priority sectors requiring national standards

N°	Priority Sector	Standards to be drafted
1	Fish and fisheries products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on smoked fish • National standard on dried fish
2	Milk and dairy products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on fresh milk • National standard on camel cheese • National standard on ghee
3	Grains and their derivatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on fonio • National standard on sorghum • National standard on djouka • National standard on corn meal
4	Oils and fats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on shea butter • National standard on tineni (<i>brycinus leuciscus</i>) oil • National standard on sesame oil • National standard on peanut paste
5	Meat and meat products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on dried meat
6	Fruit and vegetables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National standard on dried mango • National standard on dried shallot

ZIMBABWE

Currently Zimbabwe is interested in standards on infant foods as well as fortification standards. With the finalization of the Codex guidelines on fortification that was done in Bali in November, Zimbabwe will take guidance from this document as we craft our food fortification regulations at national level.

The levels of stunting are quite high in Zimbabwe, as a result many NGOs are bringing in imported foodstuffs for children. We are eager to monitor these for safety as well as quality. In this regard guidelines on making foods for infants are very important and a priority.

Another area of high priority is the agricultural produce quality and safety. Zimbabwe has a predominantly agricultural economy. It is therefore necessary to ensure that our farmers are made aware of Good Agricultural Practices to avoid producing contaminated crops. Pesticide and Veterinary drug residues are an area of high priority if our produce are to compete on the international market. When crafting food regulations, Zimbabwe always makes reference to relevant Codex standards.