



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

**Twenty-first Session
Yaoundé, Cameroon 27 – 30 January 2015**

CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014/2019

(Prepared by Cameroon and Kenya)

BACKGROUND

1. The 20th Session of CCAFRICA agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG), led by Cameroon and Kenya, to identify the primary objectives of the new strategic plan and develop a draft CCAFRICA Strategic Plan 2014 -2019 for further discussion at its 21st Session. The Committee also noted that the meeting of contact points coordinated by AU-IBAR could be an opportunity for informal discussion of the proposed draft Strategic Plan by members of the region.

2. The kick-off message was issued in June 2014, and five countries registered to participate in the EWG (i.e. Madagascar, Benin, Botswana, Nigeria and South Africa). A draft outlined below was prepared and circulated and no comments received from members.

INTRODUCTION

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa was established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its Ninth Session, held in Rome, Italy from 6 to 17 November 1972, in line with Rule IX (b) of the Rules of Procedure of CAC.

4. Since its establishment, CCAFRICA has conducted, as required and within its mandate, activities related to issuing standards on African food products of importance in international and regional trade, and improving food safety for consumers through the consistent and efficient use of Codex standards.

5. CCAFRICA, which currently counts 48 of the 54 Member States that comprise the African continent, is performing the functions entrusted to it by the Codex Alimentarius Committee. These include, in particular:

- ‡ drafting regional standards;
- ‡ promoting the use of Codex standards;
- ‡ identifying and defining the Region's needs in respect of food standards and food control;
- ‡ promoting discussion between Members on food regulations; and
- ‡ developing food control procedures and infrastructures.

6. In order to perform its functions, CCAFRICA, like the Codex Alimentarius Commission, relies on risk assessment, the development of scientific advice, and a consensus-based approach.

7. CCAFRICA shares the objectives of CAC, in particular with regard to food safety and fair trading practices. Furthermore, it also seeks to improve the quality of foods produced in Africa and intended for worldwide consumption.

8. The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007–2013, which was drafted to facilitate the performance of CCAFRICA's functions, enabled the Codex community in Africa to perform to levels previously unattained within Codex, including with regard to:

- ‡ the continuous representation of Africa on the Codex management team;
- ‡ the harmonization of African countries' positions;
- ‡ the quality of interventions made by African delegates; and
- ‡ the performance of Contact Points and national Codex committees in Africa.

9. These positive results must not, however, cover up the gaps that have come to light during implementation of the Strategic Plan. Some activities have not been carried out and deserve particular attention. These include:

- ‡ conducting risk assessments in countries;
- ‡ producing data and scientific advice;
- ‡ effectively involving political and administrative authorities in Codex activities and food safety;
- ‡ drafting regional standards for Africa; and
- ‡ effectively using Codex standards to improve national food safety systems in countries.

10. This Strategic Plan has been devised in order to meet these challenges. It is based on four objectives, comprising specific goals and activities. Similarly to the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, it sets out a strategic vision and CCAFRICA's fundamental values, which are in line with those of CAC.

STRATEGIC VISION

11. CCAFRICA's strategic vision is to be the subsidiary body of the Codex Alimentarius Commission that participates effectively in achieving the objectives of Codex and playing a primary role in improving the quality and safety of food and nutrition in Africa.

CCAFRICA'S FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

12. Through the implementation of its strategic vision, CCAFRICA subscribes to the fundamental values of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which are:

- ‡ collaboration;
- ‡ inclusivity;
- ‡ consensus building; and
- ‡ transparency.

13. In fulfilling its tasks, CCAFRICA seeks to ensure that the concepts intended to protect consumer health and guarantee fair trading practices are consistently upheld during the Codex standard-setting process.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic objective 1: Ensure effective participation of African countries in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Objective 1.1: Establish a regional trust fund for financing Codex activities in Africa.

Activities:

- 1.1.1 Seek funding for Codex activities and food safety among donors and African governments.
- 1.1.2 Call on the African Union to encourage African heads of State to accept and put into practice the idea of establishing a trust fund.

Objective 1.2: Raise awareness among African decision-makers and encourage them to grant greater priority to Codex activities and food security in the distribution of national budgets.

Activities:

- 1.2.1 Organize awareness-raising and information campaigns aimed at decision-makers, on the importance of Codex standards for food security and the national economy, involving FAO and WHO representatives and the CCAFRICA Coordinator.
- 1.2.2 Call on the African Union to include food safety and Codex Alimentarius on the agendas of meetings of African heads of State and/or government.

Objective 1.3: Strengthen the capacity of Codex contact points and national committees in CCAFRICA Member States.

Activities:

- 1.3.1 Keep the list of contact points and members of national Codex Alimentarius committees in the African Region up to date.
- 1.3.2 Encourage the use of the CCAFRICA website for holding group discussions between delegates on issues of importance for Africa.
- 1.3.3 Build cooperation with FAO, WHO and development partners in order to strengthen the capacities of Contact Points and national Codex committees.

Objective 1.4: Produce scientific data in line with WHO and FAO specifications, and which can be used by those organizations' risk assessment entities.

Activities:

- 1.4.1 Build research capacity in Africa with a view to producing data and scientific advice, in line with international requirements.
- 1.4.2 Encourage cooperation between research bodies in Africa to form sectoral networks of researchers.
- 1.4.3 Urge African governments and development partners to allocate resources for generating scientific data in Africa.

Strategic objective 2: Draft African regional food standards that address current and future food challenges.**Objective 2.1: Encourage the governments of CCAFRICA Member States to compile and present technical information for drafting regional standards relating to their food products.**

Activities:

- 2.1.1 Develop and make accessible at the regional level a procedure for compiling technical information for drafting regional Codex standards.
- 2.1.2 Develop, with FAO, a technical cooperation programme, with a view to compiling technical information for drafting regional standards.

Objective 2.2: Generate and collect scientific data on the production, processing, composition, commercialization, quality and safety of food of relevance to Africa.

- 2.2.1 Create a regional database on the production, processing, composition, conservation, commercialization, quality and safety of foods in Africa.
- 2.2.2 Fund research in Africa geared towards the production of scientific data on food.

Strategic objective 3: Ensure the longevity of CCAFRICA activities.**Objective 3.1: Organize and encourage African countries to formulate a joint position on the relevant Codex activities.**

Activities:

- 3.1.1 Increase dialogue between African delegates, with a view to harmonizing national positions.
- 3.1.2 Use the CCAFRICA website as a tool to improve dialogue between African delegates.

Objective 3.2: Invite and assist African countries to take part in all of CCAFRICA's work.

Activities:

- 3.2.1 Continually update the list of Codex Contact Points in Africa.
- 3.2.2 Strengthen funding mechanisms for enabling African delegates to participate in CCAFRICA activities.

Objective 3.3: *Develop a permanent evaluation mechanism for CCAFRICA activities, with a view to improving them.*

Activities:

3.3.1 Develop and implement a regional monitoring and evaluation process for CCAFRICA activities, in line with its action plan and conforming to FAO and WHO rules.

Objective 3.4: *Develop cooperation with partners and mobilize African decision-makers to fund CCAFRICA activities.*

3.4.1 Campaign for funding for CCAFRICA's activities among partners and African governments.

Strategic objective 4: Use Codex standards and related texts to improve food quality and safety standards in CCAFRICA Member States.

Objective 4.1: *Help CCAFRICA Member States to take up and implement Codex standards.*

Activities:

4.1.1 Organize seminars and train-the-trainer workshops for CCAFRICA Member States on understanding and applying Codex standards.

4.1.2 Promote and develop support programmes for those involved in food safety in CCAFRICA Member States, for implementing Codex standards.

Objective 4.2: *Encourage and help CCAFRICA Member States to develop national food security systems, based on Codex standard and related texts.*

Activities:

4.2.1 Develop and make available a structure for establishing national food safety systems based on Codex standards.

4.2.2 Raise awareness among African decision-makers with regard to setting up national food safety systems based on Codex standards and related texts.

Objective 4.3: *Encourage and help CCAFRICA Member States to harmonize their domestic legislation and regulations regarding food in light of Codex standards and related texts.*

Activities:

4.3.1 Organize and encourage CCAFRICA Member States to dialogue and work together at the subregional level in order to harmonize legislation and national food regulations.

4.3.2 Strengthen the capacity of CCAFRICA Member States to incorporate Codex standards into their domestic legislation and food regulations.