

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Fiftieth Session, FAO Headquarters, 26-28 June 2002

JOINT FAO/WHO EVALUATION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS AND OTHER FAO AND WHO WORK ON FOOD STANDARDS

Progress Report to the Executive Committee

The following evaluation activities are underway:

Country visits

Country visits are designed to provide more in-depth information than is available from country questionnaire responses and to:

- obtain the views of countries which may not fully complete the questionnaire (usually developing countries);
- discuss with national non-governmental stakeholders (agricultural and fisheries producers, food processors, agricultural input supply business, consumers);
- provide the opportunity to explore a wider range of issues that may arise impromptu and have not been foreseen in the questionnaire;
- understand the nuances underlying national positions;
- review any FAO or WHO capacity building activities; and also
- hold discussions with FAO and WHO Offices.

The initial country visits provided the opportunity to discuss issues which might be included in the questionnaire to countries and observers.

A formalised set of criteria was used to select countries to be visited. By the end of July the evaluation team will have held discussions in :

- Africa: Côte d' Ivoire, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania;
- The Americas: Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, USA;

- Asia and Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Thailand;
- Europe: EU, France, Netherlands, Hungary, Switzerland; and
- Near East: Egypt, Jordan.

Questionnaires and the Public Call for Comments

- The initial public call for comments elicited some 50 replies from individuals and organizations which have been supplied to the evaluation team and expert panel. This is now being followed-up with a questionnaire addressed specifically to national organizations, which is being made available for completion on the Web. National organizations are being alerted by Codex Contact points and international NGO Codex observer organizations;
- Formal questionnaires have been sent to all Codex member countries and to FAO and WHO member countries which are not in membership of Codex. They have also been sent to all Codex observers. Replies will be received in July.

Discussions with Other Organizations Concerned with Standards and Trade

In addition to the parent organizations (FAO and WHO), the evaluation team are holding discussions with ISO, OECD, OIE, IPPC, UNCTAD and WTO.

Preparation of the evaluation report

The evaluation team will prepare a comprehensive report working in close consultation with the expert panel. The report will be submitted together with the comments and any additional consideration raised by the expert panel and those of FAO and WHO management. . The findings and recommendations will be based on

- the country visits and other discussions and questionnaires outlined above;
- the study of published and other written materials;
- a number of mini-case studies of individual standards; and
- information compiled on FAO and WHO capacity building activities.

The report is expected to be finalised in November.

Schedule - Discussion of the Evaluation Report by Member Countries of Codex and FAO and WHO

- Comment by the chairman and three vice-chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (early November 2002)
- Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission at special sessions (to be decided possibly December 2002);
- Programme Development Committee of the Executive Board of WHO (January 2003) - with simultaneous release to the FAO Programme Committee;
- WHO Executive Board (January 2003) and through it, together with its comments to the WHO World Health Assembly (May 2003);
- FAO Programme Committee (May 2003);
- FAO Council discussion of the Programme Committee Report June 2003
- FAO Conference discussion of the Council Report November 2003

The Evaluation Team and the Expert Panel

The evaluation team and expert panel are now fully constituted with representation as follows:

Evaluation Team:

Team Leader:

Professor Bruce Traill (UK): Head of Department of Agricultural and Food Economics, University of Reading, UK: Prof. Traill has a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University and has a distinguished academic record, having published widely on the food industry. He is a past editor of the Journal of Agricultural Economics and is associate editor of the journal, Agribusiness. Professor Traill served for five years as a Principal Scientific Officer of the Commission of the European Communities, heading teams dealing with science and technology issues in food. He has also worked in the South Pacific.

Members:

Rachel Bedouin (FAO evaluation staff) has a Masters' degree in Economics from Université Paris 9. Prior to taking up her current post in evaluation, she has worked extensively on food security issues and on rural investment in the developing world.

Katharine Gourlie (Canada) has a degree in Pharmacy and was in Canadian Government Service where she was Director-General of the Consumer Products Branch in Industry Canada (responsible for development and delivery of consumer protection policies and regulatory, compliance and enforcement programs). She headed her country's delegation to Codex and served as Chair of the Committee on Food Labelling as well as leading work in a number of sub-committees in international trade negotiations. Since 1995, she has headed her own consultancy firm undertaking national and international assignments concerned with consumer protection and food safety.

Jerri Husch (WHO evaluation staff) has a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts. She has worked as an assistant professor and extensively with international organizations, including ILO and WHO on human and policy aspects of drug abuse, primary health care and health management.

Alicia Lustre (Philippines) has a Ph.D. in Food Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is currently Director of the Food Development Center of the Philippine Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for a programme of research and development, training, food testing and quality control and certification for the food industry. She has travelled widely, participating in meetings and assignments with international organizations for food regulatory matters, including heading her country's delegation to the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants. She is Vice-Chair of the ASEAN Sub-Committee on Food Science and Technology.

The Expert Panel:

Chairperson:

Alejandro Cravioto MD (Mexico), Dean Faculty of Medicine, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (joint FAO-WHO nominee).

Members:

Irina du Bois (Switzerland), Vice President, Head of Regulatory Affairs and Environment Nestec Ltd.

Ken Buckle Ph.D. (Australia), Professor and Associate Dean of International Development, Faculty of Food Science, University of New South Wales, Past President of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology.

Spencer Henson Ph.D. (U.K.) Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Business, and Department of Consumer Studies, University of Guelph.

Abderrahmane Hilali Ph.D (Morocco) Chief of the "Direction de la Protection des Végétaux, des Contrôles Techniques et la Répression des Fraudes

Anwarul Hoda, Professor (India) Indian Council For Research on International Economic Relations, former WTO Deputy Director-General.

Liu Xiumei (China) MD Professor and Director Department of Microbiology and Natural Toxins, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Diane McCrea (U.K.) (independent consultant) Former Representative Consumers International.

Ruth K. Oniang'o Ph.D. (Kenya) Professor of Food Science and Nutrition, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology.

Kaye Wachsmuth PhD (USA) Former deputy administrator for the Office of Public Health and Science in the Food Safety and Inspection Service USA and Chairperson of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

South American (to be identified)