

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 8(b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

14th Session

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 November - 3 December 2004

SURVEY ON THE COMPUTER-RELATED NEEDS OF THE REGION

Members of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) wishing to submit information on the *Survey on the Computer-related Needs of the Region* should do so through their Codex Contact Points by filling in the electronic form (word file) distributed through the Codex Electronic Distribution List (Codex-L) and return it, **preferably by e-mail**, to the Codex Contact Point in Argentina, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fishing and Food, Under Secretary of Food and Farm Policies, Paseo Colón 922, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina (Fax No.: +54-11-49432549; E-mail: codex@sagpya.minproduccion.gov.ar), with a copy to the Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy, (Fax: +39 (06) 5705 4593, E-mail: codex@fao.org), **no later than 17 NOVEMBER 2004**.

BACKGROUND

1. At the 13th Session of the CCLAC, it became clear that one of the central problems of the region was the lack of communication.
2. The Strategic Plan for the Region adopted at the 13th Session of the CCLAC set the aim of **improving communication among CCLAC Members**.
3. Considering the dynamics of Codex work, one of the mechanisms to improve communication is to make optimum use of available electronic means of communication. However, any new proposal shall take account of the electronic communication capabilities (e.g. e-mail, Internet, etc.) of Codex Members of the Region. In view of this, the CCLAC Coordination developed a survey aimed at collecting data on the computer-related needs of the Region.
4. Argentina intends CCLAC to make the most of the recent advances in computational communications and the development of interconnection, which—together with the facilities provided by the Internet in services as well as in communications—have greatly contributed to facilitating information management in all decisive areas. Nevertheless, the development of new forms of communication should be harmonious and take into consideration real possibilities in all the countries in the region.

5. Last, the information obtained should be helpful to evaluate possible courses of action, in order to suggest actions to improve current conditions.
6. This survey was distributed to all CCLAC Member Countries in November 2003. Sixteen countries have responded to date¹.
7. The CCLAC Chair would like to solicit Member Governments which have not responded to do so, so a thorough analysis may be conducted which provides the chance not only to evaluate other possible forms of communication among members but also to show the actual situation of CCLAC Members regarding the national capacity to use the most widely-used means for the exchange of information in Codex.
8. The survey on computer-related needs is annexed to this document. The data should be submitted by using the electronic Form (word file) to avoid re-typing of the data. This will ensure the accuracy of the information that will be compiled in a separate document for consideration by the 14th Session of the CCLAC. In view of the short time period between the submission of comments and the 14th Session of the Committee, comments received will be kept in original language. CCLAC Members who have already responded to the questionnaire¹ are kindly invited to re-send their comments so that they can be included in the document that will be presented at the next Session of the CCLAC.

¹ Ecuador, Paraguay, Cuba, Bolivia, Uruguay, Guatemala, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Peru, Barbados y Nicaragua.

SURVEY ADDRESSED TO THE CCLAC ENQUIRY POINTS TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE OF THE CODEX CONTACT POINTS.

Please, fill in one form per person working at the office of the Codex Contact Point in your country.

Mark with an X the correct answer in the right column.

1. You have a computer

YES	
NO	
Other (please, explain)	
.....	
.....	

If your answer is YES, please, provide the description details of your computer.

CONFIGURATION	Computer 1	Computer 2	Computer 3
Branch and model			
Processor			
Memoria RAM			
RAM memory			
Hard disk capacity			
Does the video card have a 800x600 capacity?			
Is there a sound card?			
Does the monitor have an 800x600 capacity?			
Is there a modem? State the kind of modem.			
Is there a network interface card?			
Is there a microphone?			
Is there a webcam?			
Other comments:			
.....			
.....			

2. Internet access

You have access to full internet.	
Your access is restricted.	
You have access only to the e-mail from your computer.	
You have access only to the e-mail from other computer.	
You have neither internet nor e-mail.	
Other (please, explain):	

3. What kind of Internet access you have

Dial-up with modem of 56K max.	
DSL dial-up (wideband)	
Local area network with no intermediaries (wideband)	
Local area network with intermediaries proxies, firewalls, etc. (wideband)	
Cable (wideband)	
Satellite (wideband)	
Other (please, explain):	

4. Which operating system your computer uses

Windows prior to Windows 95	
Windows 95, 98, Me	
Windows XP, 2000, 2003	
MacOS	
Any Linux version	
Other (please, explain):	

5. You have software for

Name of the software

Internet (Netscape, Internet Explorer, etc.)	
E-mail (Netscape, Outlook, etc.)	
Forums and/or Discussion lists - (Netscape, Outlook, etc.)	
Chat (text) (ICQ, mIRC, Bersirc, HydraIRC, etc.)	
Conference. Chat (text and sound) (Messenger, Trillian, etc.)	
Videoconference. Chat (text, sound and image) (NetMeeting, Trillian, etc.)	
Other (please, explain):	

6. Which of these functions you use or have ever used

Surfing the Internet	
E-mailing	
Being engaged in Forums and/or Discussion lists from your e-mail	
Instruments that would facilitate the communication among CCLAC Members	
You know the chat communication systems (only text)	
Chat conference (text and voice)	
Videoconference (text, sound and image)	
Additional comments:	

7. You have hardware and software help desk that makes it easier for you to understand and deal with the hardware and software available

YES	
YES, but it's not enough	
NO	
Additional comments:	

8. For the purpose of doing your work related to the Codex contact point more efficiently - specially regarding chat, conference and videoconference - you consider it's essential to know elements listed in 6 better

YES	
NO	
Additional comments:	

9. You think it's important to use more than one electronic means for the CCLAC to increase its communication

YES	
(you may choose more than one option)	
E-mail	
Forums - Mailing lists	
Chat (text mode)	
Conference (text and voice mode)	
Teleconference (text, voice and image mode)	

NO	
Additional comments:	

10. You are willing to take part in discussion groups immediately

YES	
YES, but you need to be previously authorized by the authorities	
YES, but once you have the appropriate hardware.	
YES, but you have a problem other than the ones listed above.	
Please, state it.	
NO (please, explain)	

11. In which languages you can chat

	text mode	voice mode
Spanish		
English		
Both		
Additional comments:		

12. Finally, please, could you give your personal details?

Full name	
E-mail	
Address	
Zip code	
City and Country	
Telephone	
FAX	

Remarks (if wishing to write something else, please do so below)

In case of any doubt about this survey, please contact:

codex@sagpya.minproduccion.gov.ar