



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

18<sup>th</sup> session  
San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012

**PARTICIPATION IN CODEX WORK AND IN FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES ON SCIENTIFIC ADVICE**

Comments received in reply to CL 2012/20-LAC: Chile, Colombia and Costa Rica

**CHILE**

**Item 8: Participation in Codex work and in FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice**

**Question 7: Participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

**1. Please describe:**

**a. Priority committees for your country and the rationale**

All of them, especially inter-sectoral committees and those concerned with food safety.

**b. Difficulties encountered in participating in Codex meetings (e.g. lack of financial resources, human resources, etc.)**

Lack of financial resources to attend committee meetings.

Electronic working groups are usually in English, which limits the participation of most national experts.

**c. Identified need for capacity-building to strengthen participation in Codex work in addition to the Codex Trust Fund**

Timely translations of Codex texts into Spanish.

**Question 8: Participation in FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice**

**1. Please describe:**

**a. Participation of national experts in, and submission of national data to, FAO/WHO meetings providing scientific advice (e.g. JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA, ad hoc expert consultations, etc.)**

Chilean experts have participated in JECFA and JEMRA.

Yes, there is difficulty in obtaining national data, starting with the national diet.

**b. Difficulties encountered in participation of experts and generation and submission of data**

There are experts who could participate. The difficulties lie in generating and presenting official data.

**COLOMBIA**

**Item 8: Participation in Codex work and in FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice**

**Question 7: Participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

**1. Please describe:**

**a. Priority committees for your country and the rationale**

Colombia sees participating in and monitoring all Codex subcommittees as very important, given that regulations are developed on the basis of international standards, in particular the Codex standards, which are adapted in line with the country's situation. In some cases, standards have been completely harmonized with the Codex—as is the case with pesticide residues. With the remaining standards, there is a high degree of harmonization. Part of the strengthening of the national agricultural health and food safety policy consists of bringing regulations, in all areas, up to date, to achieve a fully integrated system.

## **COSTA RICA**

### **Item 8: Participation in Codex work and in FAO/WHO activities related to scientific advice**

#### **Question 7: Participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies**

##### **1. Please describe:**

##### **a. Priority committees for your country and their rationale**

**Ans/.** Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA), Codex Committee on Food Contaminants (CCFC), Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR); Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs (CCRVDF); Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (CCFFV); Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH); Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP), Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).

These committees are priorities for the country as they discuss issues of relevance to the industry, government, and consumers. As we have repeatedly mentioned, Codex standards are the basis of national legislation.

##### **b. Difficulties encountered in participating in Codex meetings (e.g. lack of financial resources, human resources, etc.)**

**Ans/.** Despite strong efforts to raise awareness in different sectors on national participation in the Codex, monitoring and developing country positions still depends on the degree of commitment, availability and responsibility of respective Subcommittee Coordinators, which is a more significant recurring problem in electronic working groups, as documents have been sent but no response received within the stipulated time frame.

Moreover, the problem of assigning a budget to ensure Costa Rica's participation in priority sessions is evident.

Costa Rica's increased participation in international sessions from 2010 to date has been possible thanks to the support of international organizations such as IICA and diplomatic corps and has not been due to the assigned country budget.

##### **c. Identified need for capacity building to strengthen participation in Codex work in addition to the Codex Trust Fund**

**Ans/.** A strategy must be identified to improve discussions on the various topics at national level. Subcommittee members and coordinators perform a wide range of tasks in addition to document review, which often limits the time that can be devoted to topic discussion and, consequently, the degree of detail. The comments are therefore not always adequately respected as required at the Committee Sessions at international level.

#### **Question 8: Participation in FAO/WHO activities related to scientific advice**

##### **1. Please describe:**

##### **a. Participation of national experts in, and submission of national data to, FAO/WHO meetings, by providing scientific advice (e.g. JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA, ad hoc expert consultations, etc.)**

**Ans/.** Costa Rica has only been able to participate in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) meetings on Veterinary Drug Residues in products of animal origin for human consumption. An ad hoc expert meeting on the ingestion of animal-origin products is a Codex topic of secondary nature due to time and resource limitations as indicated in staff workloads with many other daily fixed responsibilities.

##### **b. Difficulties encountered in participation of experts and generation and submission of data**

**Ans/.** Poor national and international dissemination and little knowledge on these expert groups, in addition to the relative lack of interest shown at national level in some cases.

##### **c. Identified need for capacity building to strengthen participation in FAO/WHO activities related to the provision of scientific advice to Codex**

**Ans/.** Training involving the academic sector is required to strengthen our expert participation in FAO/WHO scientific advisory work.