

codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
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WORLD
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JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 7

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Tenth session

Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 28-31 October 2008

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD
STANDARD SETTING

Replies to CL 2008/12-NASWP, Part A of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea,
Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

1. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

(i) Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)

AUSTRALIA

Food safety issues in Australia are managed at the national level by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and its associated agency - the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS); and by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and its associated agency - Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ). The development and implementation of food safety policies and programs is undertaken by these agencies in close consultation with state and territory governments, who have constitutional responsibility for public health and safety within Australia.

There have been a number of structural changes within DAFF since the 9th Session of the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP). This new structure will help the department to implement the new government's priorities. One significant change is that the food regulation and safety responsibilities within DAFF have been merged into a single division - Product Integrity, Animal and Plant Health division, with the aim of providing a more streamlined, scientific approach to food regulation and safety. The food regulation and safety area work closely with Codex Australia to ensure that Australian industry stakeholders are actively engaged in the work of Codex and that Australia's interests are adequately and effectively represented in the outputs of Codex.

CANADA

Canada promotes a "gate to plate" approach to food safety in partnership with all levels of government, industry and consumers. At the Federal level, regulatory responsibility for food safety and nutrition is a shared responsibility between Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Health Canada is the regulatory body responsible for establishing standards and policies for food safety and nutrition. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is the regulatory body responsible for enforcing the standards established by Health Canada.

NEW ZEALAND

Until 1 July 2002, New Zealand had two separate regimes for food administration. The Ministry of Health administered the Food Act (covering most of the food sold on the domestic market including imported food). The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry administered other food related legislation including the Animal Products Act (which has since replaced the Meat Act and the Dairy Industry Act) and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act. MAF legislation was for the most part aimed at primary production, processing and exports.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) was established on 1 July 2002 as a semi-autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and was given responsibility for the administration of all food regulation. From July 2007 NZFSA separated from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry thereby creating a new Public Service department administering Food Safety.

The new department, which retained the name New Zealand Food Safety Authority, continues to protect and promote public health and safety in relation to food and food-related products, and to develop economic opportunities by facilitating access to international markets for these products.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Department of Agriculture and Livestock have National Codex Policy (2003) and currently undergoing Codex restructure under FER (Functional Expenditure Review) to expand on activities. However, Department of Health has Food and Sanitation Act (1991) and it also has a Food Regulation Act 2007. The National Agriculture Quarantine & Inspection Authority (NAQIA), National Institute of Standards & Industrial Technology (NISIT), National Fisheries Authority (NFA), Independent Consumer Competition Commission (ICCC) and National Capital District Commission (NCDC) also have different Acts in place and they play very significant roles in food control. The relevant stakeholders, private sector NGOs and laboratories are part of the food control system (refer structure).

SAMOA

Food Control issues are managed at the national level by legislations administered by the Samoan Government Ministries including Health; Agriculture and Fisheries; Commerce, Industry and Labor; Natural Resources and Environment; and the Samoa Water Authority.

The Samoa National Codex Committee (“SNCC”) directs the development of Food Safety Standards. Work priority on standards development is determined from complaints received from the public. Consumers are represented in the SNCC and in the development of food safety standards.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

1) Environmental Health Division, under the Ministry of Health has a legal Document known as the Pure Food Act 1996, under this division is the Food safety and Quality Control Unit, which is responsible for addressing all the National Food safety Issues. The inspectorate and Food Testing laboratory all come under this division. The Codex Contact Point is also mandated to be under this division. Apart from the Pure Food Act we have two working tools like the Pure Food Fisheries Product Regulation and the draft Food Hygiene Regulation. These two Regulations have been derived from Codex Standards, Pure Food Act and the EC Regulation. We are still yet to come up with a National standard for food imports. WHO has offered to assist with providing T.A for our Food Import Standards as well as our Integrated Food Safety Policy.

TONGA

The food control system in Tonga is currently under the Public Health Act 1992 of the Ministry of Health. In 2005, a National Food Control System proposal was approved by the cabinet, of which a National Food Authority is structured under the Minister for Agriculture, Food, Forests with a proposed National Food Bill 2008. The National Food Bill was submitted to the Ministry of Law in 2006 and yet to be progressed to the Parliament for enactment.

VANUATU

Vanuatu Quarantine and Customs are the two government departments that carry out inspection and control at border services. Health, Quarantine and Municipality carry out routine inspections in wholesalers, retailers, butcheries. At present inspections are done in regard to consumer complains.

(ii) Legislation and regulations on food safety and quality - including import/export matters (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)

AUSTRALIA

Food Regulatory System

The Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council) is primarily responsible for the development of domestic food regulatory policy and the development of policy guidelines for setting domestic food standards and has the capacity to request that these be reviewed.

Changes in Food Regulation

A number of policy guidelines have been endorsed by the Ministerial Council over the past two years and are available on the FSANZ website www.foodstandards.gov.au including:

- ***National Food Safety Audit Policy***

The policy focuses primarily on regulatory audits, including those conducted on behalf of regulators by approved private third-party food safety auditors.

- ***Policy Guideline on the Addition to Food of Substances other than Vitamins and Minerals***

This guideline applies to Food Standards Australia New Zealand assessments of new applications or proposals seeking to amend the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code) to add to food substances other than vitamins and minerals.

The Joint Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

New arrangements for processing applications and proposals to amend the Food Standards Code came into effect in October 2007. Any individual or organisation can apply to amend a food standard. Applicants must be able to identify a regulatory problem and provide FSANZ with evidence supporting the inadequacy of existing standards or the need to create a new standard.

Once an application is submitted, FSANZ has ten working days to conduct an Administrative Assessment to confirm that all the required information is to hand. If it is not, the applicant may be asked to provide the information. If sufficient evidence is still not forthcoming, the application may be rejected at that stage.

If the application proceeds, a risk assessment of the scientific evidence provided by the applicant is conducted to confirm that a regulatory problem exists and to estimate the risk to human health of making the requested changes to the Code. Risk managers, in association with the risk assessors, then decide if any food standard should be amended, and if so, how. This process takes 9 months for most applications (general procedures). It can take 12 months for major procedures requiring a new food standard or significant amendment of a standard, or 3 months for a minor procedure.

Built into this process are board approvals to a next step and periods of public consultation. The latter is especially important to the development of a food standard because stakeholder comments can sometimes provide new evidence and indications of how stakeholders perceive the risk associated with a project.

FSANZ is also able to raise proposals for amending food standards, either in response to an identified need or as a result of requests made by the Ministerial Council. The assessment process follows the same structure as for Applications, except that there are usually no time limits on the work.

Once the board has approved a change to the Food Standards Code, the Ministerial Council is notified of the decision and has sixty days in which to request a review of the decision by FSANZ. If no review is requested, or one is completed and accepted, FSANZ gazette (publish) the food standard and incorporate it into the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*.

Primary Production and Processing Standards

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is continuing to develop *primary production and processing standards* in accordance with the policy guidelines.

These standards will complement other existing food safety standards that apply to the manufacturing, processing and retail sectors of the food supply chain. The standards for seafood and dairy are completed and being implemented. Standards for poultry meat and egg and egg products are in development and

preliminary work has commenced on the standards for raw milk, plant and plant products and meat and meat products.

Mandatory Fortification

The Standard for the Mandatory Fortification of Food with Folic Acid was gazetted on 13 September 2007. Work has commenced on the development of an Australia-only standard for Mandatory Iodine Fortification to address public health concerns.

Novel Foods

A review of Standard 1.5.1 – Novel Foods was concluded in December 2007. The purpose of the review was to ensure consistency in the application of the standard. A key outcome of the review was the amendment of the definition of ‘novel foods’ to provide more clarity.

Nutrition, Health and Related Claims

The proposed draft standard for Nutrition, Health and Related Claims is currently being reviewed by FSANZ. This standard addresses nutrient content, nutrient function and risk reduction claims.

Export Legislation

The export legislation for meat, dairy, plants, eggs and seafood products was updated in 2005 and is available from the AQIS website www.aqis.gov.au

CANADA

On December 17, 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Canada’s Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan. The Action Plan proposes a series of initiatives to modernize and strengthen Canada’s safety system for food, health and consumer products and to better support the collective responsibilities that government, industry and consumers have for product safety. The food element of the *Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan* sets out initiatives to support the better identification of risks in the food supply, build-in preventative risk mitigation approaches from the start, provide a targeted oversight approach to verifying that industry’s preventative approaches are effective, and responding rapidly when problems do occur. Amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* which will facilitate the initiatives under the Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan were tabled in the House of Commons in April 2008. These amendments will better position the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada to exercise their food safety mandates.

NEW ZEALAND

Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997

An amendment to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act (ACVM) 1997 was passed by Parliament in October 2007. The key amendments are: increased coverage of the Act – including that risks to Public Health are managed under the Act, and that all parts of the supply chain can be regulated; the inclusion of a specific statement on the Scheme of the Act and its relationship to other legislation including the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act; restructure of the way in which the sector is regulated by providing for setting of standards by regulation rather than codes of practice and for the Director-General (Chief Executive of NZFSA) to make notices; and the ability to exempt agricultural compounds from registration in specified special circumstances. NZFSA expects the immigration of standards into regulations to occur over the next 10 – 12 months.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Food Sanitation Act (1991) and Food Regulation Act (2007) are under Department of Health looks at the food safety and quality. NAQIA under the Agriculture and Livestock Sector are responsible for food import and export of food.

SAMOA

a. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) is the principal organization charged by the Government of Samoa to provide regulatory and technical advice, training, and support for subsistence farmers, commercial farmers, agric-processors, and exporters to effectively manage and use their potential in agriculture and fisheries for food security, income generating opportunities, commercial development, and sustainable

management of resources. Their role and functions are mandated under the following legislation to achieve its aforementioned goals.

i. Quarantine Biosecurity Act 2005

This Act is to consolidate the law relating to the importation of regulated articles and associated bio-security risk, and the control of pests and diseases of animal, plants and the wider environment. The scope of bio-security is inclusive of but is not limited to measures in relations to examination, exclusion, detention, observation, segregation, isolation, protection, testing, treatment and regulation of conveyances, installations, people, regulated articles or other goods or things. Its objective is the prevention or control of the introduction, establishment or spread of pests and diseases that could cause significant damage to human beings, animals, and plants, other aspects of the environment or economic activities.

ii. Export of Meat Act 1997

Establishment of export facilities and controls relating to licensing and inspection of slaughter houses, cannery and conditions for meat export with the issuance of export permit by veterinary services for processed meat products.

iii. Abattoir and Meat Supply Bill – Animal Production and Health

Establishes abattoir for the slaughter of animals in hygienic conditions, provides for the certification of meat retailers/ butcheries, and provides for the promotion of trade and national food safety.

iv. Fisheries Act 1988 (& subsequent Amendments 1999-2002)

Provide legislative framework for licensing & fees of authorized persons, certification & establishment of Samoa Seafood Standards Council (SSSC). Under the SSSC umbrella the following regulations were developed.

v. Fish Processing and Export Regulation 2002

Covers details on the licensing of fish processing establishment including obligations of operators, certification of seafood products for export, standards and operational requirements that apply to fish processing establishment.

vi. Industry Agreed Standards (Fisheries) 2002

Covers the composition, TOR, authority and overarching principles of the SSSC; the processing, trading and marketing of fish and fish products for export, document control, export requirements, design, operational & instruction requirements.

The Industry Standards are part and parcel of the 2002 Amendment to the Fisheries Act 1988.

vii. MAF also has the following Acts under its mandate. The Agriculture and Fisheries Ordinance 1959; Animal Ordinance 1960 and the Produce Export Ordinance 1961. These legislations require the Ministry to facilitate, encourage, promote, advise, provide, implement and strengthen the backbone of the Samoan economy in agriculture food security and export; and to maintain the standard of primary produce exported from Samoa.

b. Ministry of Health administers the following legislation:

i. The Food and Drugs Act 1967

The Ministry is reviewing this legislation in an effort to separate Food Safety from Drugs. The Act however consolidates and amends the law relating to the sale of food and drugs including provisions to make regulations prescribing standards of strength, weight, quality, purity, quantity or composition in respect of any food as well as requirements for hygienic in building structures such as ventilation, sanitary facilities and others. It also provides for seizure and condemnation of food unfit for human consumption.

ii. The Health Ordinance 1959

This Ordinance gives powers to the CEO to issue annual licenses to use abattoir, bakery, or dairy. It gives power of entry and inspection of any dwelling, building, land or premises and inspects the same and may execute thereon any works authorized under or pursuant to the Ordinance. The Samoa Village Regulations

1938 and amendments come under this Ordinance in so far as they relate to cleaning of villages, cemeteries and burials, latrines, water supplies, keeping of animals, and treatment of disease.

The Board of Health also administers the Restaurant Regulation 1942.

c. Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Meteorology:

i. The Protection of Biological Diversity Act 2004

ii. GMO Regulation 2004

Address issues related to genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and living modified organisms (LMOs) in Samoa. Provides for surveys of baseline information on the importation and use of GMOs and LMOs in Samoa and sets national policy measures to control the introduction and use of these organisms in Samoa.

iii. The National Biosafety Framework projects

This project involves about 14 Pacific Island countries and closed cooperation and coordination among the PICs have been promoted under this project. One of its projects includes Samoa's International Waters (IWP) Project under the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program's International Waters Programme aimed at improving water catchment areas which are sources of freshwater supplies in the country. The project has a largely grass root community driven approach – empowering grass root communities practice conservation and sustainable use of their water catchment areas in partnership with government and non-governmental agencies.

d. Samoa Water Authority:

i. Samoa Drinking Water Standards Manual 1998

The Standard consists of five parts: Treatment and Disinfection, sampling, monitoring and notification, microbiological limits and aesthetic guidelines. The Standard has been based on standards from various countries and organizations in particular, New Zealand and Australia.

e. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour:

i. Fair Trading Act 1998

The Act provides for the purpose of product safety and quality standards on the preparation and importation of goods for consumption. It prescribes a comprehensive set of standards that should be pursued by those engaged in producing, selling and distributing goods and services to consumers.

ii. Fair Trading (Proposed Standard – Eggs) Regulations 2008

The above Regulation is intended to provide guidance for the safe production and distribution of eggs from domesticated chickens for human consumption. It addresses procedures to eliminate external and internal sources of contamination from formation to the point of sale. The Standard takes into consideration the possibility of illness in the general population due to the consumption of eggs contaminated by Salmonella species, other enteric pathogens or other contaminants as well as the susceptibility to illness of sectors of the population such as the elderly and children. For microbiological contamination, this approach is consistent with the approach identified by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Microbiological Hazards in Foods.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- i) Pure Food Act 1996.
- ii) Pure Food Fishery Product Regulation 2005. Export of Fishery Products.
- iii) Final Reviewed Food Hygiene Regulation. For Domestic Market.
- iv) WHO support on the Integrated Food Safety Policy
- v) WHO support, on the National Import Standards.

TONGA

Public Health Act 1992: no regulations, Ministry of Health

Consumer Protection Act 2002: with a Regulation, Ministry of Labour, Commerce & Industries

Marine Resource Management Act 2002: Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries

National Food Bill 2006: Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests & Fisheries

VANUATU

Since the 9th CCNASWP Vanuatu has had its Food Regulation no. 37 of 2007 gazetted as of 5th November 2007. The Press Release and public awareness only took place in May this year and we are in the process of implementation and enforcement. However, continuous awareness is carried out through annual programmes in Health, Agriculture and Trade plus through community requests.

(iii) Establishment of equivalence or other trade facilitation agreements with other governments**AUSTRALIA**

Equivalence of a number of elements of the Australian export meat program was recognised by the US Food Safety and Inspection Service, including in relation to pre-export testing of meat for E. coli O157 intended for grinding.

Codex guidelines related to the judgement of equivalence have been used as the basis for judging equivalence of food safety measures between Australia and New Zealand as part of the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement.

Australia and New Zealand determined the domestic dairy production systems in both countries are equivalent. Free trade of dairy products produced in New Zealand now occurs as there are no certification or inspection requirements for dairy products produced in New Zealand entering Australia.

CANADA

Canada has no specific input/comments on this section.

NEW ZEALAND**Joint Australia-New Zealand Food Labelling And Composition Issues and Trans-Tasman Issues Outside the Joint Food Standards Setting Treaty Arrangements**

There are three major issues that have been or are currently being considered in the area of joint Australia-New Zealand food labelling and composition.

Addition of Substances other than Vitamins and Minerals

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code prescribes permissions for the addition of substances to foods. There is a group of foods termed food type dietary supplements that have substances added that are not permitted in the Code. In New Zealand these products are currently regulated by the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985. There is no parallel legislation in Australia but these products can be imported into and sold in Australia under TTMRA. This is seen as an inequity by Australian manufacturers who can not manufacture these products for sale in Australia.

A working group chaired by the Commonwealth Government consisting of Australian jurisdictions, the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Food Standards Australia New Zealand and NZFSA was formed in 2004 to develop a Policy Guideline on the Addition to Foods of Substances other than Vitamins and Minerals. The presence of a policy guideline will assist FSANZ on receipt of applications or proposals for new standards or variations to standards in the Code for the addition of these substances to food.

Food Fortification

There have been two recent developments in the area of food fortification. These are the mandatory fortification of bread with folic acid and the replacement of plain salt with iodised salt to bread (except organic and unleavened).

New Zealand has a population-wide problem of iodine deficiency and it is currently difficult for most consumers to obtain adequate iodine from their normal diet. Iodine deficiency in the general population is attributed to several factors, these being: increased consumption of commercially prepared foods (usually made with non-iodised plain salt); the low iodine levels in New Zealand soils (thus low levels in New Zealand produce); and less salt being used in home cooking because of messages about reducing salt intake.

A New Zealand only standard for the mandatory fortification of bread (except organic and unleavened) with iodine came into effect on 13 March 2008.

Health Claims

Health claims are currently regulated under the a transitional standard, which prescribed that health claims are not permitted on foods. The exception is a pilot health claim relating to the link between added folic acid and the prevention of neural tube defects in babies.

FSANZ has been in the process of developing a standard to regulate Nutrition Health and Related Claims for a number of years now. A draft FSANZ standard is currently under review and the revised draft is likely to be considered by Ministers in the first quarter of 2009.

Dietary supplements

In New Zealand dietary supplements are regulated under the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 (the Regulations), which operate under the Food Act 1981. The Regulations were originally intended to cover products that were not food in use, appearance or presentation, but nor were they medicines in the generally accepted sense.

The range of products sold under the Regulations has expanded significantly over the last 20 years, to the point at which there are now many dietary supplements in tablet, capsule or powder form that are being used for therapeutic purposes. The range of products has also expanded to include foods such as drinks and health bars with vitamins, minerals and other substances added to provide a "health" benefit. Provisions within the Regulations have, for some time, been recognised as inadequate to regulate this large and growing range of products.

NZFSA has conducted two rounds of public consultation on a proposal to divide products currently sold under the Regulations into food-type and therapeutic-type dietary supplements. This proposal has wide support from regulators, industry and consumers.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG is a member of FAO, WHO, WTO, APEC, SPC and MSG (Melanesia Spearhead Group) between Pacific Island Melanesian countries. They are the United Nations organizations and bilateral agreements that facilitate trade throughout the world.

SAMOA

Samoa has bilateral arrangements with NZ (eg. on commodities like banana) and HTFA commodities (like breadfruit etc) as well as Tonga and Fiji and American Samoa. However, all need to be updated.

Samoa has signed the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) which exists to establish the free trade of goods between Pacific Island countries. The relevant legislation and standards pertaining to consumer protection and trade facilitation are being reviewed with the aim to protect consumers from unsafe and defective goods imported for consumption. Similar to PICTA, Samoa has ratified the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) whereby the members must begin to negotiate for the free trade of goods by 2011 at the latest. Samoa is also a signature of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)

Consumer views on trade facilitation matters specific to food issues are heard within the National Codex Committee.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- i) MSG Trade Agreements, with other Pacific island Melanesian Countries.
- ii) PICTA
- iii) PACER
- iv) WTO
- v) EPA

TONGA

Bilateral Trade Agreements with New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa. Regional Trade Agreements, Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA), South Pacific Island Countries Pacific including New Zealand & Australia (PACER)

VANUATU

Import Health Standards (PhytoSanitary and Sanitary) with New Zealand and Australia and other Pacific Island Countries.

(iv) Identified need for capacity building and training to strengthen the national food control system**AUSTRALIA**

Australia has a well developed national food control system, therefore there is no requirement for capacity building or training.

CANADA

Canada has no specific inputs/comments on this section.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand does not have any specific comments on this issue.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Codex PNG which include NCC would like to build capacity by attending to Codex training sessions both in country and overseas to fully understand the main goal and objectives of CAC, its structure and how it functions. National experts in various food control systems have been identified and would be recommended for further training to strengthen food control system in PNG. The following are Codex PNG requirements (1) library development including capacity; (2) Risk Analysis; and (3) Food Registry Development. PNG has population of over 6 million at the birth rate of 2.6%, hence continuous awareness through workshops on Food Hygiene preparation Practices, HACCP, etc is way to educate, especially the community public at large should be targeted.

SAMOA

There is a capacity building need in meat inspection for the staff of the Animal Protection and Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries given the proposed national abattoir establishment and meat microbiology and bacteriology.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Capacity Building and Training is our main area of concern right now, in terms of Control on the Imports, in terms of training of the inspectorate and the analyst.
- Additional Training on Food Auditing skills and HACCP is also required by the Inspectorate.
- Specific Training for the Food Chemistry and Food Microbiology is also a requirement.
- Advanced Capacity Building needs of the CCP. Post Graduate in Food Safety Management.

TONGA

The National Food Bill legislation is critically needed to be in place before any solidarity action is carried out, since it places a sense of uncertainty on the commitment of various partners of the national food control system.

VANUATU

A proper analytical laboratory set up to carry out analyses. The need for research in Food.

(v) Activities to increase awareness on food safety and quality among the consumers and other specified groups**AUSTRALIA**

FSANZ continues to encourage consumer engagement by being open and transparent in the standards setting process. FSANZ consults widely on all standards with anyone able to provide comments and information. In addition to the open and transparent consultation, FSANZ have a number of WEBinars (a WEBinar is an on-line seminar delivered over the internet with audio, video and slideshow presentations) available on the internet at the FSANZ website www.foodstandards.gov.au for consumer access and information. Topics for which FSANZ have WEBinars include:

- Food Additives;
- Intense Sweeteners;
- Choosing the Right Stuff - A Consumer Guide to Understanding Food Labels;
- How FSANZ Develops Food Labelling and How Consumers Use Food Labelling; and
- Food Safety – A Consumer Guide to Reducing Your Risk of food Poisoning.

All of these WEBinars are aimed at increasing awareness and food safety among consumers. FSANZ also produces consumer information and awareness materials (factsheets, posters, books etc.) that can be accessed either in hard copy or via the internet.

In late 2005, the FSANZ Board endorsed the establishment of the Consumer Liaison Committee (CLC). It was intended that the CLC be a means of promoting consumer input into FSANZ consultation and standards setting processes. Currently, the CLC is comprised of 14 members; one representative from a peak Australian consumer body; one representative from a peak New Zealand consumer body; one representative from the National Council of Women of Australia (NCWA); and one representative of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ). The majority of the CLC is made up of ten “grassroots” consumers, including two members from the Indigenous Australian community and one member from the Maori community in New Zealand.

The CLC meets on a regular basis to discuss current issues. Regular self-directed discussion of current issues occurs via email and via an internet chat room established in April 2008, for exclusive use by CLC members. Members may raise topics of interest for further discussion at regularly scheduled teleconferences or at the annual face-to-face meeting.

FSANZ supports the ongoing work of the CLC by providing information and the opportunity to talk to experts on specific issues via teleconference or face-to-face meetings. FSANZ also provides the opportunity for CLC members to become involved in standards setting process through discussion with project staff and involvement in standards development committees.

Since its inception in May 2006, the CLC has been involved in a number of FSANZ projects such as the Folic Acid Draft Assessment Report and the Iodine Draft Assessment Report in 2006.

Currently, CLC members are involved in a number of Standards Development Advisory Committees including the Catering Advisory Group and the Primary Production and Processing of Egg and Egg Products Standards Development Advisory Committee, to provide consumer input on standards development at FSANZ. The CLC is also regularly involved in providing consumer input on communications materials for publication, such as the recently published fact sheets on Folic Acid and Nanotechnology.

DAFF participates in a number of FSANZ Standards Development Advisory Committees, and consults industry and government stakeholders on various food standard and policy development matters.

DAFF also sponsored the Issues and Crisis Management in the Food Industry Conference in June 2008. The conference was attended by representatives from Australian governments, industry organisations and international guest speakers. The conference discussed preventative food safety measures and recent food safety incidents.

DoHA provides funding to the Food Safety Information Council (FSIC) to educate the Australian public and local government on safe food handling. FSIC is an independent, non-profit organisation and is the only national body that seeks to educate consumers on food safety. FSIC works closely with State/Territory health authorities and FSANZ to develop nationally agreed food safety messages. Each year FSIC conducts campaigns, such as Food Safety Week, that aim to promote behavioural change, by raising consumer awareness and understanding of safe food handling.

CANADA

Canada has no specific inputs/comments on this section.

NEW ZEALAND

One of NZFSA's three outcomes is "Consumer food practices and choices that support better health". This outcome will see New Zealanders:

- practice safe handling of food in their homes and communities to minimise risk of foodborne illness – including harvesting, hygiene, cooking, transporting and storage practices
- use information to choose foods that support better health, lessening the chance of nutrition-related diseases.

NZFSA has undertaken a range of activities that to increase awareness on food safety and among consumers and other groups. Significant programmes include:

- preparing information food safety practices in preparing and cooking a hāngi
- preparing a booklet on Agricultural Compound Residues, which aims to explain the complexities around chemical residues in food
- developing a strategy to help support a consistent approach to food safety as it affects Maori
- preparing information on non-commercial wild foods – the food safety risks
- continued support for the "Foodsafe partnership" The Foodsafe Partnership was set up by NZFSA in 1998 to promote consistent and appropriate food safety messages to New Zealand consumers.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Codex PNG is increasing awareness by informing the Heads of relevant stakeholders through the Codex Information Paper. Also, the NCC have committed themselves to conduct awareness within their on-going programmes.

SAMOA

The Samoan Government through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour ("MCIL") organized an Industry Stakeholders Forum as the main activity of the World Consumer Rights Day celebration held annually every 15th day of March. Invitations were extended to all food handlers, hoteliers, caterers, restaurant owners, manufacturers, educational institutions as well as consumers. The MCIL representative presented on Codex processes with emphasis on the importance of Codex in any country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health presented on specific codex issues affecting the Samoa Food Industry and ways to overcome these issues.

MCIL also publicizes on television advertisements relating to consumer rights on food safety for public awareness, unfortunately, financial constraints has put a hold on this important activity for this financial year.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries held a stakeholders training program on meat hygienic practices to its livestock and meat sector. The Quarantine and Crops Division of the Ministry held a workshop on the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation from the 07th to the 11th of July 2008 to its staff members.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Solomon Islands would very much agree on the increase awareness on Food Safety and Quality among consumers and other specific groups. These would mean being able to run more workshops and seminars to advocate on the importance of Codex Standards. Additional funds would be required for these activities.
- Use of media to increase awareness for consumers.

TONGA

Radio and television programs of Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Labour, Commerce, are the main medium of raising awareness on food safety and quality among the consumers,

VANUATU

Vanuatu National Codex Committee had submitted a funding proposal to UNCTAD last year for its awareness programme and this was approved. A Stakeholders workshop is organized for June but it has been postponed to September 2008. This workshop is to provide awareness on SPS with regard to health, Agriculture and Trade. There is to be follow-ups of this workshop to run small workshops in each of the 6 provinces of Vanuatu. Other awareness includes Panel discussions on our national television, radio, newspaper providing information on food safety issues. There will also be posters, stickers and brochures produced and sent out to various stakeholders. The public Health department, Quarantine and local authorities also play a responsibility role in this area.

(vi) Any other relevant information

AUSTRALIA

FSANZ Capacity Building Activities

FSANZ has fostered strong collaborative relationships with APEC Forum Member Economies, with domestic government agencies such as AusAID and international agencies such as the WHO/FAO. In doing so, FSANZ has implemented a range of capacity building activities, under the banner of the APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum.

Managing Microbiological Food Safety Risks

Managing Microbiological Food Safety Risks was an AusAid-funded capacity building project presented by FSANZ to 21 participants from the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China and Papua New Guinea. The objective of the activity was to develop participant's knowledge, expertise and skills in assessing and managing microbiological food safety risks using the process of risk analysis.

The first phase of the capacity building activity involved a five day training workshop in the Philippines from 23 - 27 July, 2007. The second phase of the training program was undertaken over a period of four months and required participants to undertake practical field work on selected food commodities and microbiological hazards (undertaken as a series of in-country case studies). Participants were assisted by an on-line mentor during this period. The third and final stage of the activity was a three day follow-up workshop held from 27 - 29 February, 2008. This workshop provided participants with an opportunity to present their field work case studies and to learn from the experience of other participants.

An evaluation of the activity was undertaken. The workshop was very well received by all participants and considered very successful in terms improving levels of knowledge and skill in the area of microbiological risk analysis.

Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies

FSANZ, in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), presented a capacity building workshop entitled *Strengthening capability to assess the capacity building needs of food control systems and develop capacity building action plans in developing APEC Member Economies*. The activity was held over five days from 19-23 November, 2007 in Beijing, China. The purpose of this activity was to:

- improve the knowledge and skills of food safety regulators from developing APEC Member Economies to plan and conduct capacity building needs assessments regarding their national food control systems; and
- assist the food safety authorities in APEC Member Economies to develop national capacity building actions plans based on the outcome of the assessments.

The project was funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and undertaken collaboratively by FSANZ, the FAO, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) and invited APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum Member Economies. This activity marked the first time that FSANZ undertook a food safety capacity building activity in collaboration with the FAO and the STDF.

Twenty experts in various aspects of food safety and quality from nine APEC Economies attended the workshop. The workshop was held as a 'train the trainer' workshop with participants encouraged to coordinate follow-up activities in their own country after attending the workshop. The majority of participants were representatives of government agencies involved in food control management, food inspection, standard-setting and regulatory affairs and SPS management. Two participants (Thailand and China) represented the food industry. In addition to active participants, three observers (from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ), the Australian Embassy and FAO's representation in China) were present for components of the workshop.

DAFF Master Class in Agricultural Trade Policy and Biosecurity

DAFF held a Master Class in Agricultural Trade Policy and Biosecurity from 2 - 24 August 2008. Modules were tailored to the needs of the participating countries (Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Eritrea, the United Arab Emirates and Libya) and to meet DAFF's market access and biosecurity objectives.

The objectives of the 2008 Master Class were to enhance capacity in participant countries by:

- (a) providing information on Australia's agriculture and policies;
- (b) promoting the benefits of trade liberalisation;
- (c) developing a greater understanding of the World Trade Organization (WTO) architecture, with particular emphasis on the operation of the SPS Agreement and the role of the relevant international standard setting bodies; and
- (d) providing an opportunity for Master Class attendees to discuss relevant trade issues in their respective countries.

The Master Class forum is an efficient and effective way of responding to the regular requests that Australia receives from our developing country trading partners for this type of training and assists in meeting Australia's international obligations.

Funding is provided for the Master Class through the International Agricultural Cooperation Program and covers the costs of overseas participants.

The Outcomes of the Workshop will be used to guide further development of future Master Classes and related capacity building activities.

CANADA

An updated, voluntary code of practice for food importers, *Good Importing Practices (GIP)* is now available on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) web site. The updated gip is a voluntary code of practice that provides guidance to food importers regulated under the *Food and Drugs Act* on establishing effective controls to ensure food safety and on how to ensure imported products meet Canadian regulatory requirements. CFIA inspectors will use the GIP to assess the relevant industry's food import controls and to aid the agency in establishing inspection priorities.

As a result of a review of the government's policies on the use of "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" on food labels and in advertising, the Canadian Food Labelling Initiative was announced in May 2008. The initiative proposed new guidelines aimed to provide consumers with clear information regarding the Canadian content of food products while providing industry with options for making truthful claims. The revised guidelines come into effect for products made after December 31, 2008.

NEW ZEALAND

Please refer to section 3 – nutrition survey (CX/NASWP 08/10/11).

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Chairman of Codex PNG is also the member of the Food Sanitation Council under the Ministry of Health. The CCP (PNG) has been appointed as Director for Science and Technology Branch, which the Office of Codex PNG is one of the sections. The CCP in his capacity as the Director will enable structure development to accommodate Codex PNG to function effectively with other relevant organizations, particularly in the funding assistance programs.

SAMOA

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is also at its initial stage of negotiating a potential joint meat microbiology assessment project with the Research Development Institute of Samoa to evaluate existing meat contamination status of locally produced meat.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

More dialogue or participation with the relevant stakeholders.

VANUATU

Vanuatu needs a major re-structural arrangement to explore a set up for a food authority.

2. NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT POINT AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR CODEX MATTERS**(i) Activities of the Codex Contact Point (update information since the 9th CCNASWP) and any information about change of contact details (if not yet notified)****AUSTRALIA**

The contact details for the Codex Australia Contact Point remain unchanged since the 9th Session of CCNASWP.

Codex Australia has undertaken the following key activities from 2006 – 2008.

Codex Australia Stakeholder Forums

Codex Australia has held two Stakeholder Forums since the 9th Session of CCNASWP (August 2007 and August 2008). These Forums focus on the role and importance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) for Australia's agriculture-food industry.

The objective of the Forum is to enhance the ability of food producing industries, academia, and consumer and public interest groups, to contribute to Australia's input to the work of Codex and to identify measures that will assist government in representing the interests of stakeholders across the work of Codex committees.

Stakeholders receive a report on the year in review and are provided with advice on what Government sees as priority/key issues for the next 12 months. The Forum also provides an opportunity for stakeholders to raise their awareness of the importance of the work of Codex for Australia's agriculture-food producing industries, ensuring that they are fully engaged in the Codex consultation process for the committees/issues that are relevant to their interests; and to put forward their views on Codex issues in addition to the Advisory Panel Process.

Codex Australia also holds an Introduction to Codex session during the program to provide an overview of Codex processes and why Codex is important. This session is designed for people new to Codex Australia's consultative process, or those who wish to refresh their understanding of how Codex operates.

Participation in the Stakeholder Forum is aimed at Chief Executive Officers; Food Regulators; Food Safety Officers; and Food Policy Officers from the processed and non-processed food industry. Government representation engages those agencies with a primary interest in the work of Codex i.e. the Australian Government Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Health and Ageing (DoHA); and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

The outcomes and recommendations of the Codex Australia Stakeholder Forum are:

- reported to the Australian Government Codex Policy Committee, and to relevant government agencies;
- incorporated into Codex Australia's work program;
- referred, where relevant, to agriculture-food industry councils, and representative bodies; and
- posted on the Codex Australia website.

Pacific Island Workshop on Codex and Food Regulation

Australia (DAFF) co-sponsored the Pacific Island Workshop on Codex and Food Regulation, which was held in conjunction with the annual NZFSA Food Safety Conference, in Wellington, New Zealand, 24 – 28 September 2007.

Australia provided funding through the International Agricultural Cooperation (IAC) programme for the attendance of participants from the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu at the Pacific Island workshop on Codex and Food Regulation and the NZFSA Food Safety Conference.

The objective of the workshop was to provide practical advice and guidance to Pacific Island countries to enhance their ability to participate in international food standards setting through Codex and to assist them in building their own capacity to develop food regulation and look at opportunities for enhanced market access.

The two day workshop involved a full and varied program and its focus was to build on previous training initiatives in the areas of food regulation and standards development.

Australia was invited to deliver two sessions at the workshop: Preparing for and Participating in Codex meetings and Aligning with International Standards using examples of Codex texts developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS). Ann Backhouse and Suzanne Blake of Codex Australia attended the workshop.

The first session delivered by Australia was based on the FAO/WHO training package "Enhancing participation in Codex activities" and illustrated the need to determine priorities to effectively participate in Codex of importance based on an individual countries circumstances i.e. what are the significant food safety/health issues for that country; what are the primary agrifood export industries contributing to the countries economy; what are the major agrifood imports; which Codex committees develop standards related to these areas and finally the consideration of resources available to the countries Codex programme. Other key areas of the session dealt with the preparation of national positions, including consultation and the development of written comments on Codex texts.

The second presentation illustrated how Australia's imported food system is aligned with the Codex principles and guidelines covering food import and export inspection and certification. The presentation highlighted the general characteristics that are the essential components of an effective food import control system and illustrated the comparison between these essential requirements and Australia's Imported Food System. These components include:

- Requirements for imported food that are consistent with those for domestic foods

- Clearly defined responsibilities for the competent authorities (in Australia's case FZANZ and AQIS)
- Transparent legislation and operating procedures
- Precedence for protection of consumers
- Provision of the importing country for recognition of the food control system applied by an exporting country's competent authority
- Uniform nationwide implementation
- Implementation that ensures the levels of protection achieved are consistent with those for domestic food.

The workshop was seen as a success by both organisers and participants in that it included a mix of theoretical and practical aspects of domestic and international food regulation, the range of topics across both biosecurity and food safety, and the intimate nature of the workshop facilitated interaction and discussion between the presenters and the participants.

Seminars for First Time Delegates to the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

To ensure the effective participation of all Members at CCFICS, the Australian Secretariat invites all first time participants to attend an information seminar prior to the commencement of the plenary session.

This seminar outlines the processes and procedures that are essential for the smooth operation of the Committee during its deliberations, including:

- registration of participants;
- seating arrangements;
- operation of microphones & headsets;
- how to make an intervention; and
- papers for the meeting.

The Chair of the Committee addresses the seminar to discuss the issues on the agenda and advises on the outcomes he is hoping that the current session will achieve.

Delegates also have the opportunity to ask questions of the Australian Secretariat on any other issues concerning the operation of the Committee.

CANADA

Canada has recently published its *Strategic Framework for Canada's Participation in the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program 2008 – 2012*. This *Framework* identifies Canada's strategic objectives, grouped around four related themes, for its involvement in Codex for the period 2008 – 2012.

NEW ZEALAND

The Office of the Codex Contact Point is located within the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and continues to carry out the roles and functions of the of the Codex Contact Point in New Zealand.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Codex Contact Point (CCP) acts as the link between the Codex Secretariat in Rome and PNG. CCP receives invitations to attend Codex meetings, which he then informs the NCC that does selection of the names of participants or delegation to attend various codex meetings. CCP receives codex texts and working documents and circulate to NCC members for the views and comments. The CCP is now appointed as the Director of Science and Technology Branch and no longer the Program Manager otherwise his other contact details remain unchanged.

SAMOA

The Codex Contact Point for Samoa remains the same and the distribution of Codex information to all relevant stakeholders continues.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Contact details still remains the same except for a few updates, the Codex Contact has been nominated as Solomon Islands representative on the Pacific Food Safety and Quality Legislation Expert Group. The Codex Contact Point was also appointed a member of the Integrated Framework National Steering Committee.

TONGA

After the ninth session, the codex contact point (CCP) reported back the issues of concern to Tonga. At that point in time, the National Codex Committee (NCC) was still awaiting the National Food Bill 2006 to be progressed from the Ministry of Law. The CCP at that time, who was also the Secretary of the Codex Committee was suspended in January 2007 and dismissed in August 2007. The current CCP was appointed to the role. Until then the activities of the Codex committee was very low key. In addition was the change of Minister of Agriculture three times since 2007. However, with it's new role as the Coordinator of the CCNASWP, the National Codex Committee was brought back to action quickly.

VANUATU

Provide information on Codex to all stakeholders, Call National Codex Committee monthly meetings, Set up a library of codex Documents, developing a Ministerial paper and advocate for Codex Issues at a national level. Trying to assist set up a consumer organization and ensuring that there is a fair representation of the various stakeholders in the National committee.

(ii) Structure, composition and operation of a National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure) or plans for its establishment (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)

AUSTRALIA

Australia's National Codex Committee (NCC) is currently adjourned.

The Australian Government Codex Policy Committee meets twice each year, generally in April and September, or members may request meetings out of session as required. The terms of reference and modus operandi of this committee are as follows:

1. Establish a common government policy approach and provide the mechanism for resolution of differences on issues arising in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in particular, having regard for:
 - current and emerging issues; or
 - immediate issues that may be contentious or divisive.
2. Be responsible for endorsing Australia's input to the CAC medium-term plan; and distil and establish Australia's positions on issues of new international standards which agencies consider need to be raised in the international context.
3. Having regard to international treaty obligations:
 - ensure Australia's work in Codex takes into account our international obligations; and
 - provide guidance for the development of Australia's positions on the interpretation of such treaties or international obligations.
4. Consider and make recommendations to the respective agencies on issues that impact on Australia's ability to work on Codex and related expert advisory committees/consultations.
5. Direct, where necessary, and provide guidance on, the work of the National Codex Committee.
6. Identify Codex Committees in which Australia should participate and the lead agencies for the management of policy and technical input to these committees.
7. Select delegation leaders to CAC, Executive, and General Principles and endorse delegation leaders to other Codex Committees nominated by their respective agencies.

8. Identify the regional representative for the South West Pacific Region, the Regional Coordinator for the Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific and Chairs of Codex Committees (e.g. CCFICS).
9. Oversight Australia's role as a host government for Codex Committees.
10. Encourage liaison between Government agencies working with Codex and those working with bodies including: Food Safety Quadrilateral Group, Cairns Group, WTO, OECD and APEC Group countries in relation to international food standards setting and related issues.

In addition, Codex Australia holds an annual Stakeholder Forum that focuses on the role and importance of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) for Australia's agriculture-food industry. This forum engages a wide range of stakeholders from industry, state and territory governments and public interest groups in an effort to enhance the ability of food producing industries to contribute to Australia's input to the work of Codex and to identify measures that will assist government in representing the interests of industry across the work of Codex committees.

CANADA

Canada does not have a "National Codex Committee". We have established an Interdepartmental Committee for Codex (IDC/Codex) which has responsibility for providing strategic direction to Canada's program and also endorses all Canadian positions on Codex matters. The IDC/Codex is comprised of government officials from Health Canada (including the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Canada), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Industry Canada (IC). Ensuring effective communication with non-governmental stakeholders is the responsibility of the Office of the Codex Contact Point for Canada. (See Part C (ii)).

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand does not have a National Codex Committee but has equivalent systems for consultation and policy development to ensure that our input into Codex work is transparent and involves all interested parties.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The NCC of PNG was formed during the formation of NCC Workshop at Loloata in 2001, which involved FAO/WHO Consultants together with all stakeholders in PNG. DAL was unanimously appointed to retain the CCP function at the workshop. At this stage the composition of NCC incorporates all necessary inter-agencies in the food control and safety standard issues. The NCC appointed DAL to be the chairman of NCC while DoH was nominated as the co-Chairperson. Agriculture Ministry deals with Food Security, Export and Import Food Standard Development while Health Ministry is responsible for Food Sanitation and National Nutrition. The NCC members who are from other line agencies contribute to food control system. The NCC meets four (4) times a year to deliberate on pressing Codex issues (Refer attached).

SAMOA

The Chairmanship of the Samoa National Codex Committee is still with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour as well as its Contact Point and acts as Secretariat to the Committee and its sub-committees. Members include all relevant stakeholders such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as well as the Samoa Water Authority, the Private Sector who are represented by their Presidents – Samoan Association of Manufacturers and Exporters, Samoa Chamber of Commerce, and Samoa Consumers Association including Samoa Women in Business Incorporated.

As stated before, the SNCC directs the development of Food Safety Standards, there are two sub-committees now appointed; one is now finalizing the Egg Standard, the other sub-committee is now drafting the Hygiene Standard. Other proposed sub-committees to be appointed to develop a Food Labelling and Packaging Standard and a Standard on the safety of Water before the end of this financial year 2008/2009.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Everything is still the same since the 9th CCNASWP.

TONGA

Chairman : Minister of Agriculture, Food, Forestry & Fisheries

Vice Chairman: Minister of Health

Secretary: Head of Food Division assisted by the Codex Contact Point

Members: CEO MAFFF, CEO Health, CEO Labour, Commerce & Industries, President of National Consumer Councils, President of National Food Industries

Co-opted members: Any candidate on advisory basis to the committee

VANUATU

The Vanuatu National Codex Committee consists of members from Agriculture, Health, Trade, food Centre, Quarantine, Municipality, Customs, Academia and Foreign Affairs at present. We are organizing a stakeholders workshop to endorse the committee and have more members from other institutions such as State law, NGO, Consumers, etc.

(iii) Participation in Codex committees (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)**AUSTRALIA**

Australia participates in and sends delegations to all of the active Codex committee and task force meetings.

CANADA

Canada continues to actively participate in Codex Committees. We are the host government for the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (currently adjourned *sine die*). Canadian delegations have participated in sessions of the various general subject and commodity committees, task forces, the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, as well as the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Canada is the Member of the Codex Executive Committee as the member elected on a geographical basis for North America.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand participates in those Codex committees that are of greatest importance to us. Since the last meeting of CCNASWP, New Zealand has participated in some 30 Codex committees.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Codex PNG have participated in CCFH, CCFFP, CCFICS, CCNASWP, CCFL including Codex Australia stakeholder conference and NZ stakeholder conference and recently the CCP funded by the Government of PNG accompanied DAL top official (Deputy Secretary, Policy) participated in CAC in Geneva, Switzerland in 2008. These trips are funded by the Codex trust fund but the CCFICS meetings in Australia was funded by PNG government while the CCNASWP regional meeting in Apia, Samoa in 2004 was assisted by Codex Australia and AusAID (PNG).

SAMOA

Since the 9th CCNASWP meeting, Samoa took part in several Codex Alimentarius Committee meetings. These meetings include the 16th CCFICS in Australia, the CCFL in Canada, other meetings organized by international forums such as the Food Safety and Fair Trade held in the Philippines and the CCNASWP Physical Working Group for developing the Kava and Nonu produce held in Fiji.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The National Codex Committee have participated in the CCFH, last year in India and the CCFICS in Gold Coast last year. The two trips were funded for by the Codex Trust fund, one participant was sent to CCFH and two went to the CCFICS. Before the CCFICS, a National Codex Training was organized by the CCP and FAO for one week. The committee was then able to present a country presentation to this meeting.

TONGA

At the last meeting of the National Codex Committee, the members were inform of the 16th session of the CCFICS. The main issues were the responsibilities of Tonga in it's Coordinator role and the hosting of the 10th session of CCNASWP. However, electronic information are communicated regularly from the CCP to the members.

VANUATU

Codex Vanuatu has been able to participate in CCFICS in 2006 to 2007, CCFL in 2007 and 2008 and CAC in 2007.

3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN STANDARDS SETTING**(i) Consumer participation in Codex related activities at national and international level (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)****AUSTRALIA**

The Codex Australia Stakeholder Forum engages a wide range of stakeholders from industry, state and territory governments and public interest groups in an effort to enhance the ability of food producing industries to contribute to Australia's input to the work of Codex and to identify measures that will assist government in representing the interests of industry across the work of Codex committees. We continue to encourage greater participation by consumer and public interest groups. Consumer groups note that lack of resources is their greatest barrier to participation.

CANADA

The Office of the Codex Contact Point for Canada maintains a list of all NGOs, including consumer organizations, that have expressed an interest in Codex activities. These organizations receive all the Codex background papers and are encouraged to submit comments. These comments are taken into consideration by the Head Delegate who has responsibility for drafting the Canadian position. Representatives from consumer organizations are also invited, at their own expense, to be part of Canadian delegations. Canadian consumer groups are often represented on Canadian delegations to the Codex Committee on Food Labelling and to sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. We have developed and posted on the Codex Canada website Guidelines for the Participation of Non-governmental Observers on Canadian Delegations to Sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Committees. http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/intactivit/codex/delegation/ngo_guide-eng.php .

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has taken a structured and proactive approach to promoting consultation with consumer and other interest groups on Codex matters. Consumer groups are invited to participate in the consultation process and they have the opportunity to attend, at their expense, Codex meetings as observer members of national delegations. The Consumer Forum that was established in 2002 as a consultative forum has also proved to be a valuable mechanism to engage consumers and public interest groups on Codex and broader domestic and international food safety and standards issues.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The consumer organization is the ICCC (Independent Consumer Competition Commission) is a member to the NCC. In the current arrangement CCP is a member to the Consumer Product Consultative Committee (CPCC), which that allow effective consumer participation in Codex related activities at national level. The ICCC has the mandate to collaborate and link to International Organizations to discuss consumer related issues. Funding from government sector should allow good linkages with relevant stake holders and NGO to carry out codex activities with good governance.

SAMOA

Consumers are being represented through its Association.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- A workshop held last year to have the final review of the Draft Food Hygiene Regulation involved the participation of all relevant stakeholders. This review involved the insertion of the Codex Standards.
- Codex participation in the Integrated Framework Approach under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade.
- Also now Codex Contact Point will be part of the Pacific Food Safety and Quality Legislation Group, towards the end of this year.
- National Codex Training arranged for the Committee last year.

TONGA

The consumer participation in Codex related activities is currently very much confine to their representative at the Codex committee. However, the delay of the process of the National Food Bill since 2006 has hampered the commitment and the execution of the National Food Control system as stipulated in the Bill. Therefore, public awareness and participation to the codex related matters is still done at a low key levels. However, various public consultation meetings were done during the constructions of the National Food Bill.

VANUATU

There has been consumer participation during various activities such as the Food Regulation Press Release, Awareness to Community groups ie. Church, womens etc. There is also participation through media especially in the newspaper. There is still no Cosumer organization setup but we hope to establish that soon.

(ii) Activities aimed at increasing consumer participation in food standards setting (update information since the 9th CCNASWP)

AUSTRALIA

As outlined above, Codex Australia holds an annual Stakeholder Forum. This forum provides stakeholders with:

- an outline of committee processes and the Codex consultation processes that exist within Australia and on an international level; including how Codex standards are developed, debated and endorsed and when and how industry and others can contribute to them.
- how Codex standards may affect industry, as well as other stakeholders and how they can play a part in influencing the direction of Codex standards;
- a review of outcomes from the last Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting; and
- discussion on priority / key issues for Codex in the coming year with a view to these discussions forming the basis for Australia's direction in the year to come.

Codex Australia also holds an advisory panel meeting in the lead-up to each Codex Committee meeting. While these meetings are not public consultations per se there is no restriction on who may attend these meetings.

The development of domestic food standards by FSANZ is a collaborative exercise involving the food industry, various arms of government, health professionals and the general community.

Any individual or organisation can apply to amend a food standard. Applicants must be able to identify a regulatory problem and provide FSANZ with evidence supporting the inadequacy of existing standards or the need to create a new standard.

A risk assessment of the scientific evidence provided by the applicant is conducted to confirm that a regulatory problem exists and to estimate the risk to human health of making the requested changes to the Code.

Public consultation is also undertaken in the development of a food standard because stakeholder comments can sometimes provide new evidence and indications of how stakeholders perceive the risk associated with a project.

CANADA

As indicated above, Canada has recently developed its *Strategic Framework for Canada's Participation in the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program 2008 – 2012*. Objective 3.2 of this *Framework* reads as “Promote the effective engagement of Canadian stakeholders, including consumers, industry, health professionals and Provincial and Territorial Governments”. The objective also identifies a number of suggested activities to be implemented to achieve the objective.

NEW ZEALAND

See 3.1.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Codex PNG is to be fully funded by the national government, linkages would be put in place to create awareness and promotions to the consumers to participate in food standard setting activities. These include forming of Kava and Noni Expert association at the informal sector.

It is to be noted that Codex PNG is a member to the CPCC of ICC, which participates and discusses important issues of Codex.

SAMOA

Consumer representation is actively encouraged at all levels in the development of food standards and through participation in the SNCC.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Refer to same activities mentioned above.

TONGA

As stated above of the uncertainty of the National Food Bill has hampered the full scale efforts of regular consultation with the consumers as well as the public in food standard setting. Representatives are being selected to the NCC and various technical sub committees to voice concern and interest of consumers

VANUATU

Consultation for the food regulation; Stakeholders participation in inspection procedures development; More media awareness to encourage talk back shows in specific areas. Again a formal consumer organization to be setup hopefully at our upcoming stakeholders workshop of which we will report at the 10th session of CCNASWP.