



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations**



**World Health
Organization**

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Agenda Item 5b

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

12th Session

Madang, Papua New Guinea, 19–22 September 2012

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CCNASWP

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2018 AND
NEW DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019**

Prepared by the CCNASWP Coordinator

Part A – STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CCNASWP REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013 (updates are presented in **bold underlined** font)

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/measurable indicators	Status
Objective 1: To improve the coordination and communication of the Region's activities in Codex				
1.1 Hold pre-session meetings with all NASWP Members at Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Group.	Quad countries in consultations with others members. All members to share plans for attendance at Codex meetings.	Immediate and ongoing	All CCNASWP countries at given meetings invited to participate. Information on planned attendance shared among all Member countries of the region.	Ongoing
1.2 Continue to promote the sharing of written comments on Circular letters (CLs) and other working documents, and subsequent discussions of issues of mutual interest, including coordinating of positions, where appropriate.	All members.	Ongoing	Comments shared on a routine basis among members.	Implemented
1.3 Prepare a check list of responsibilities / actions to support seamless transition between Regional Coordinators.	New and Previous Regional Coordinators with assistance from Secretariat.	Ongoing	Contact established and information / experience shared between current and previous coordinators.	Checklist prepared for <u>new</u> Regional Coordinator.
1.4 Encourage information exchange between member countries through the use of electronic information systems.	All members	Ongoing	Increased contact amongst members and establishment of regional website to disseminate information and promote communication within the region.	Regional website established.
1.5 Focus CCNASWP agenda on Codex issues of particular interest to the region.	Regional Coordinator in consultation with FAO/WHO and members	Ongoing	Agenda for CCNASWP meeting strengthened.	Ongoing
1.6 Develop a regional strategy on issues of mutual interest arising from regional discussions.	Regional Coordinator in consultation with FAO/WHO and members.	Ongoing	A regional strategy agreed (linked to 1.5).	To be implemented.

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/measurable indicators	Status
Objective 2: To promote maximum participation of all member countries in Codex activities				
2.1 PIC members to continue to avail of funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing Participation of Developing Countries in the work of Codex.	All eligible PIC members countries	Ongoing	PICs increased attendance at Codex meetings, Task Forces and Working Groups and develop capacities	Implemented
2.2 Promote coordinated approach for assistance from the Trust Fund to maximize coverage of subject areas of interest to the region. PIC members to coordinate applications to the Trust Fund to ensure, to the extent possible, that members benefit from participation in a wider range of committees.	All eligible members and the Regional Coordinator	Ongoing	Key subject areas covered	To be implemented
2.3 Encourage all members to submit written comments on subjects of national and regional interest irrespective of whether members can attend meetings.	All members	Immediate and ongoing	PICs submit written comments on issues of interest to them. (link to objective 3: mentoring link to next line 1.2	Quad countries sharing their written comments with all members of the region to inform and assist them to formulate national positions/views.
2.4 Ensure that the country comments from Members including those not present at meetings are considered by the committee.	All members	Ongoing	Comments submitted by Members considered at the meeting.	To be implemented
2.5 Identify items arising from other Codex Committees, and Task Forces and Working Groups that are of particular significance to the region to facilitate development of common position and advancement of regional interest in Codex.	Regional Coordinator in conjunction with members	Ongoing	Issues of interest to the region identified	To be implemented

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/measurable indicators	Status
Objective 3: To promote the development and enhancement of the capacities of national Codex Contact Points and their supporting infrastructures of the PIC members to carry out their core functions.				
3.1 Identify the capacity building needs of the Codex Contact Points to strengthen Codex structures at the national level and facilitate greater participation of the members in Codex work	FAO/WHO, Regional Coordinator and Members	Ongoing	Regional/national level training programmes implemented	Implemented
3.2 Conduct national and/or regional workshops on Codex for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members.	FAO/WHO and Quad member countries	Ongoing	Regional/national workshops conducted to strengthen national capacities.	Regional/national workshops implemented with further workshops planned around regional meetings
3.3 Promote regional networking among Codex Contact Points to improve communication and share experiences on Codex and related issues.	Members with lead from Regional Coordinator	Ongoing	Improved networking of CCPs in the region	Network initiated with exchange of emails but more sustained action needed.
3.4 On-the-job training for PIC CCPs through attachment to QUAD CCPs to observe the management of Codex work.	Quad members	Ongoing	On the job training provided to PIC members	To be implemented
3.5 Develop a mentoring programme between the developed and developing countries of the region to enhance the PIC knowledge and understanding of Codex issues, structure and processes and promote more effective participation in international standards development.	Quad members in cooperation with Regional Coordinator	Ongoing	Guidance provided on Codex related matters on an ongoing basis	Initiated

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/measurable indicators	Status
Objective 4:-To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst the developed and developing members <u>countries</u> of the region.				
4.1 Identify and prioritise regional issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis	Australia Quad countries , FAO/WHO and all members	Ongoing	Technical expertise and guidance provided by Quad countries to PIC members on critical areas of interest	Initiated in areas such as the revision of the Codex Standard for Cassava
4.2 Develop a list of specialists and institutions which can provide the required scientific/technical expertise in the region.	FAO/WHO and 11th 12th CCNASWP	Ongoing	i) FAO/WHO to undertake specific work for PIC members ii) 11th 12th CCNASWP to consider expanding the list to all members	To be implemented
4.3 Foster the establishment of communication links amongst the technical experts in the countries of the region and promote the sharing of data and other research materials as appropriate.	Codex Contact Points and Members	Ongoing	Codex Contact Points to provide or facilitate access to technical expertise	To be implemented
4.4 Conduct workshops/training courses as appropriate to facilitate the development of technical capacity of the members of the region to address the identified issues.	FAO/WHO and Quad members	Ongoing	Workshops conducted on specific areas of interest.	To be implemented Ongoing

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame	Output/measurable indicators	Status
Objective 5: To promote procedures to review Codex codes, standards, guidelines, and recommendations to facilitate their use as the basis for national standards				
5.1 Support practical training on the importance of international harmonization and the development of national standards and regulations based on Codex	FAO/WHO and Quad members	Ongoing	Workshops conducted	Regional workshop conducted in New Zealand in September 2007 and further workshop planned in conjunction with 10 th CCNASWP and CCASIA

Activities	Responsible parties	Time frame		Status
Objective 6: To promote the development of standards for food products produced in the Pacific Island countries				
6.1 Establish national mechanisms for standards development process in the PICS.	All PICs	By 2008 2014	National mechanisms established	To be completed implemented
6.2 Provide a mechanism for identifying standards development issues in Codex of interest to the PICs and establish sub-regional Working Group, as appropriate for PICs to address these issues.	Regional Coordinator	By 2008 2014	Electronic and physical working groups established for kava and noni juice	Continuing
6.3 Submit all proposals for new standards for products of interest to the PICs to CCNASWP for consideration prior to submission to the Commission or other committees, and Task Forces and Working Groups .	PICs	Ongoing	Recommendation to the Commission and Codex Committees on proposals for new work for development of regional standards.	Continuing
6.4 On the job training at appropriate institutions/ministries/departments in the developed member countries of CCNASWP	All Members	Ongoing	Appropriate training provided	To be implemented Ongoing

Part B

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CCNASWP
2008-2013 2014-2019¹

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the Strategic Plan for the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific for the period 2008–2013.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations in 1963. The main work of the CAC was to develop international food standards to protect health of consumers and facilitate trade. The CAC as four (4) Regional Coordinating Committees including the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP). In this Regional Forum the Codex Food Standards issues are discussed and registered prior to endorsement by CAC. The CCNASWP is made up of four (4) Quad countries and 10 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) who are members of the CAC. The Strategic Plan 2014-2019 for the CCNASWP Region below contains the Strategic Vision statement, Goal, Strategic objectives and detail work plans to measure indicators and milestones.

STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

To be the body to develop, review and implement Codex food standards to enhance facilitate trade and protect health of consumers in line with the overall CAC Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

GOAL

The goal of this Strategic Plan is to enhance the effectiveness of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific in achieving its responsibilities to its Member countries and the Region's contribution to ~~Codex Alimentarius Commission~~ **the CAC**.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This Strategic Plan identifies six **(6)** strategic objectives of the region for the period ~~2008-2013~~ **2014-2019**. The Strategic Plan should be reviewed at each Session of the Coordinating Committee to determine the status of the Plan and the continued appropriateness of the identified objectives.

Objective 1: To improve the coordination and communication of the Region's activities in Codex

Rationale:

Meaningful consultation and coordination among relevant stakeholders is important to ensure effective operation of the region's activities within Codex. Advancement of issues of interest to the members of the Region is enhanced by coordination and communication amongst the members.

Implementation:

- 1.1 Hold pre-session meetings with all NASWP Members at Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups.
- 1.2 Continue to promote the sharing of written comments on Circular Letters (CLs) and other working documents, and subsequent discussion of issues of mutual interest as may be appropriate, including coordinating of positions, where appropriate.
- 1.3 Prepare a checklist of responsibilities/actions to support seamless transition between regional Coordinators.

¹ The Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 is based on Strategic Plan 2008-2013; revisions are presented in **bold underlined** font (addition) and ~~strighrough~~ font (deletion).

- 1.4 Encourage information exchange among member countries through the use of electronic information systems.
- 1.5 Focus CCNASWP agenda on Codex issues of particular interest to the region.
- 1.6 Develop a regional strategy on issues of mutual interest arising from regional discussion.

Objective 2: To promote maximum participation of all member countries of the region in the activities of the regional coordinating committee and other Codex Committees more generally.

Rationale:

The participation of all member countries is critical to sound decision-making and ensuring issues identified as being significant to the region take account of the full range of interest and viewpoints.

Implementation:

- 2.1 PIC member countries to continue to avail of funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the work of Codex.
- 2.2 Promote coordinated approach for assistance from the Trust Fund to maximise coverage of subject areas of interest to the region. PIC members to coordinate applications to the Trust Fund to ensure, to the extent possible, that members benefit from participation from a wider range of committees.
- 2.3 Encourage all members to submit written comments on subjects of the national and regional interest irrespective of whether members can physically attend meetings.
- 2.4 Ensure that the country comments from members of the **CCNASWP** including those not present at meetings are considered by the Committee.
- 2.5 Identify items arising from other Codex Committees, ~~and~~ Task Forces **and Working Groups** that are of particular significance to the region to facilitate development of common position and advancement of regional interest in Codex.

Objective 3: To promote the development and enhancement of the capacities of national Codex Contact Points and their supporting infrastructures of the Pacific Island Country Members to carry out their core functions.

Rationale:

In order for a country to participate effectively in the Codex process, it requires a functional Codex Contact Point including an effective support structure. Regional networking could greatly benefit the newer members of the region to improve their understanding of Codex and help enhance their participation in Codex.

Implementation:

- 3.1 Identify the capacity building needs of the Codex Contact Points to strengthen Codex structures at the national level and facilitate greater participation of Members in Codex work.
- 3.2 Conduct national and/or regional workshops on Codex for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee members.
- 3.3 Promote regional networking among Codex Contact Points to improve communication and share experiences on Codex and related issues.
- 3.4 On-the-job training for PIC CCPs through attachment to QUAD CCPs to observe the management of Codex work.
- 3.5 Develop a mentoring programme between the developed and developing countries of the region to enhance the PIC knowledge and understanding of Codex issues, structure and processes and promote more effective participation in international standards development.

Objective 4: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst the developed and developing member countries in the region.

Rationale:

The Terms of Reference for CCNASWP specifies, amongst other things, that it “promotes within the committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information ... and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures”. As a fundamental element of food control systems is good science, the exchange of scientific and technical expertise will contribute to enhancing the scientific basis of the various food control infrastructures in the region.

Implementation:

- 4.1 Identify and prioritize regional issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis.
- 4.2 Develop a list of specialists and institutions which can provide the required scientific/technical expertise in the region.
- 4.3 Foster the establishment of communication links amongst the technical experts in the countries of the region and promote the sharing of data and other research materials as appropriate.
- 4.4 Conduct workshops/training courses as appropriate to facilitate the development of technical capacity of the members of the region to address the identified issues.

Objective 5: To promote procedures to review Codex codes, standards, guidelines and recommendations to facilitate their use as the basis for national standards

Rationale:

Increased harmonization of regulatory standards, policies and practices related to food would contribute to public health protection and subsequently contribute to the facilitation of trade in foods, not only amongst members of the region, but also more broadly. Many of the Pacific Island countries are unfamiliar with the full range of Codex standards and it would be helpful to their standards development/revision process to identify those standards and guidelines that might be of greatest to them.

Implementation:

- 5.1 Support practical training on the importance of international harmonization and the development of national standards and regulations based on Codex.
- 5.2 Compile a list of Codex standards of particular interest and relevance to members of the region.

Objective 6: To promote the development of standards for food products produced in the Pacific Island Countries.

Rationale:

To ensure PICs needs are taken into account in the development of worldwide and/or regional standards for products produced or traded in the region, input to the development of standards needs to be improved.

Implementation:

- 6.1 Establish national mechanisms for standard development process in the PICs.
- 6.2 Provide a mechanism for identifying standards development issues in Codex of interest to the PICs and establish sub-regional Working Group, as appropriate for PICs to address these issues.
- 6.3 Submit all proposals for new standards for products of interest to the PICs to CCNASWP for consideration prior to submission to the commission or other Committees, **and** Task Forces **and Working Groups**.
- 6.4 On-the-job training at appropriate institutions/ministries/departments in the developed member countries of CCNASWP.