

# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 3

RVDF/22 CRD/03

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEx COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

Twenty-second Session

San José, Costa Rica, 27 April – 1 May 2015

### DRAFT RESPONSES OF CCRVDF22 TO THE 2014-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

(prepared by Secretariat of the United State of America and Codex Secretariats)

Responses of CCRVDF22 are shown in **bold and underlined font**.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC	1.1.1: Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner	- Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied. - # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> Does the Committee use any specific criteria for standards development? <b><u>CCRVDF has developed specific criteria for including veterinary drugs in the Priority List for the establishment of MRLs, Section 3.2 Establishment of Priority List of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Veterinary Drugs in Foods.</u></b> Does the Committee intend to develop such criteria? <b>No.</b></p>				
	1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1: Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members.	- Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. - Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> How does the Committee identify emerging issues and members needs? <b><u>Emerging issues identified by Members, other committees, FAO/WHO and other international organizations with Observer status and are brought to the attention of the Committee.</u></b> Is there a systematic approach? Is it necessary to develop such an approach? <b><u>Currently there is no systematic approach, however, there might be a need to develop one should the current process is found to be insufficient.</u></b></p>				
		1.2.2: Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	- Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of Members. - Report to CCEXEC from committees on

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		affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.		how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.
<b>Included in question to 1.2.</b>				
2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1: Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the "Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius".	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	- # of times the need for scientific advice is: - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> Does the committee request scientific advice in course of its work, how often does it request such advice? Does the committee always use the scientific advice, if not, why not? <b>The work of CCRVDF is based on the scientific advice provided by JECFA. The Committee requests scientific advice from JECFA through the establishment of a Priority List. The use by Members of the "Concern Form" is an additional tool, developed by CCRVDF, to bring scientific concerns to the attention of JECFA.</b></p>				
		2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	- # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. - # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> How do members make sure that the necessary scientific input is given into country positions and that the composition of the national delegation allows to adequately present and discuss this position? What guidance could be given by the Committee or FAO and WHO? <b>Members involve their scientific and technical experts (from within and outside government) to provide inputs and comments to the work of CCRVDF. Delegations include experts who have technical knowledge and expertise to participate in the discussion.</b> <b>Training and ad hoc workshops can contribute to strengthen technical participation of countries in the work of CCRVDF.</b></p>				
		2.1.3: Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development.	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	- # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations. - # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> How does the Committee ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account when developing a standard and how are these documented? <b>In conducting its work in developing Codex standards risk management principles and guidelines, CCRVDF is bound by the Procedural Manual and the Codex mandate. The Committee follows the Working Principles for</b></p>				

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<b><u>Risk Analysis and the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and ensures that only legitimate factors, as described in these Principles, are taken into account.</u></b>				
		2.1.4: Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	- # of web publication/ communications relaying Codex standards. - # of media releases disseminating Codex standards.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> When taking a risk management decision, does the committee give guidance to members how to communicate this decision? Would more consideration of this be helpful to members? <b><u>Communication of the risk management recommendations are done through standards, guidelines, and other related texts, which are posted on the Codex website. The development of an overarching Codex communication strategy that is fine tuned to for the specific audience in each committee would be helpful to members.</u></b></p>				
3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.5: To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	- Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> Is the use of official languages in working groups of the committee sufficient? <b><u>The Committee uses English, French and Spanish for its Working Groups (WGs) as much as possible.</u></b> What are the factors determining the choice of languages? How could the situation be improved? <b><u>The Committee determines the choice of language based primarily on the availability of resources and on the host of the WG.</u></b></p>				
	3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.3: Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	- # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b> Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b> Does the Committee organize technical capacity activities or other activities in the margins of Committee sessions? If yes – how many and with which topics have been organized in the past. If no – could this be useful and what topics could be addressed? <b><u>Workshop for first time delegates have been organised in conjunction with CCRVDF.</u></b> <b><u>The following are possible topics for technical workshops to be organised in conjunction with CCRVDF sessions:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Procedure for risk assessments of veterinary medicines (training by JECFA), including exposure and intake assessment</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Use of veterinary drugs and their impact on public health</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Procedure for the preparation of specific scientific and technical studies.</u></b></li> </ul>				
4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.	4.1.4: Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/Commission.	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	- Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting. - Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed.

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				- An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>            Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b>            Does the Committee have a mechanism in place to ensure timely distribution of documents? What could be done to further improve the situation?  <u><b>The requirement for timely distribution of documents is stated in the Procedural Manual. Close monitoring of the activities of EWGs and adherence to deadlines (e.g. request for comments) would help ensuring more timely preparation and distribution of documents in all languages.</b></u></p>				
		4.1.5: Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members	- # of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>            Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b>            Does the Committee hold physical working groups independent of Committee sessions? If yes – why is this necessary?  <u><b>No, PWGs are usually held in conjunction with the CCRVDF sessions either as pre-session or in-session WGs.</b></u></p>				
	4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1: Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates.</li> <li>- Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points.</li> <li>- Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings.</li> <li>- Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question to the Committee:</b>            Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? <b>YES</b>            Are there problems with finding consensus in the Committee? If yes – what are the impediments to consensus? What has been attempted and what more could be done?  <u><b>The importance of animal derived food in trade, society and public health has caused problems on certain topics; however CCRVDF is making all efforts to ensure that its decisions are taken on the basis of consensus; WGs are used to facilitate consensus building as well as discussions on issues and concerns that impact the work of CCRVDF.</b></u></p>				