CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

FAO/WHO/Codex Side Event at the 30th Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO)

The new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund
What it is? What it does? How to benefit from it?

Monday, 3 October 2016, 9h00-12h00
The Ballroom
Hotel Rixos, President
Astana, Kazakhstan

Context of the side event

The new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) was officially launched on 27 June 2016 at the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In the first round of applications for support from the new Codex Trust Fund in 2016, demand from eligible countries was very high with 38 applications making it through to the review stage by the Technical Review Group. Many of these applications were strong, but not robust enough to be considered for support by the Codex Trust Fund. Only four countries, including one country from the European region, were successful in this first round as a result of having submitted very strong applications.

Many eligible countries need more information on the scope and focus of CTF2 and additional guidance on how to prepare and submit robust applications. Many other countries are interested in learning more about the new Codex Trust Fund and tools for assessing the status of Codex capacity in countries. Side events are being organized at all FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees in 2016 and 2017 to respond to this interest..

Objectives of the side event

- Provide information on the scope, focus and activities of CTF2
- Assist countries in understanding and using the "Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes" (the Codex Diagnostic Tool)
- Provide guidance to countries on preparing and submitting robust applications.

Expected outcomes

As a result of the side event, it is expected that countries in the Codex European region will:
- Understand the differences in scope and focus between CTF1 and CTF2;
- Know where to find information and guidance on CTF2;
- Be familiar with the Codex Diagnostic Tool and know how to use it at country level;
- Understand the criteria used to assess applications
- Have increased knowledge on how to prepare and submit robust applications

The first session provided information on the new Codex Trust Fund, including the differences with CTF1, and the focus, scope, eligibility and support available from the new Codex Trust Fund.

The second session gave guidance to participants on how to use the Codex Diagnostic Tool to assess Codex capacity at national level. Armenia shared their experience with using the tool including; the national consultative process they had used to involve all relevant stakeholders and work with the tool; the main findings they obtained from working with the tool and; how the results from the Codex Diagnostic Tool were used to prepare the application from Armenia in the first application round in 2016.

A third session focused on the process of preparing applications for the Codex Trust Fund. The presentation emphasized the need to develop a strong results-based approach based on the results of the Codex diagnosis. Participants were given tips on terminology in the results-based framework and how to identify the overall project goal, project outcomes and outputs and activities to achieve these. The criteria used by the Technical Review Group to assess applications was presented in order to give countries a clear view of the importance of preparing very complete applications. Guidance was also given to countries on deciding between applying through a group application, or through an individual application.

In the fourth session the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat shared information on elements of strong applications and common weaknesses that had been seen in the applications submitted in Round 1. As an illustration of what constitutes a robust application, Kyrgyzstan shared their experience on developing an application that had been accepted for support in Round 1. They outlined their project objectives, expected results, priority areas of activity to achieve these results, risks identified and risk mitigation strategies, and difficulties they faced in developing their project proposal for the application.

Session five completed the preparation of the application by walking countries through the completion of the action plan and budget templates in the annexes of the application form. The final sessions sought feedback from countries on the challenges in preparing applications and reasons for not applying in the first round. Some of the challenges faced by countries in preparing applications included:
- Ensuring a national consultative process;
- Coordination between key stakeholders;
- The need for getting hierarchical and/or high level commitment to undertake the preparatory work;
- High turnover of personnel in some countries;
- Short timelines for submission in Round 1.

Countries also highlighted the commitment to advancing Codex work in countries and the role played by Codex Trust Fund support in this. A number of countries indicated that they had already started the process at national level to prepare the application and were hoping to submit in the second round in 2017. It was hoped that the side event had allowed eligible countries to become more familiar with what is needed to prepare and submit applications and to have a better understanding of the expectations with regard to the quality and robustness of applications. FAO/WHO offered to continue to provide support, and to answer questions of individual countries or groups of countries throughout the entire week of the CCEURO session.

The entire slide deck that was used the side event in both English and Russian is available on the CCEURO30 website at http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/detail/en/?meeting=CCEURO&session=30.