



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

AU-IBAR's WORK ON FOOD SAFETY AND CODEX IN THE AFRICAN REGION

**22nd Session of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA)
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Outline

- ❑ **AU-IBARs mandate**
- ❑ **Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standard Setting Organizations (PAN-SPSO)**
- ❑ **Focus areas of AU-IBARs activities in Food Safety and Codex**
- ❑ **AU-Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism and Rapid Alert System Mechanism for Food and Feed**



African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

- ❑ AU-IBAR is a specialised technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC).**
- ❑ AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources to enhance nutrition and food security and contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of the people in the MSs of the AU.**
- ❑ AU-IBAR strategic plan 2014-2017 (Programme area I): Promote the development of (and compliance to) standards and regulations, with the objective of strengthening Africa's ability to set and comply with essential production and trade standards**



The PAN-SPSO Project

The PAN-SPSO Project: Participation of African Nations in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary standard setting organizations (PAN-SPSO Project).

Global objective

Reduce poverty and enhance food security in Africa by promoting greater access for African agricultural products to international markets, including livestock and fisheries

Specific objective

To strengthen **and to sustain** the effective participation of African countries in the activities of the OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius Commission during the formulation of international standards on animal (terrestrial and aquatic) and plant health, and food safety



The PAN-SPSO Program

- PAN-SPSO I & II Funded by the EU (Ended in 2015)**
- PAN-SPSO III Funded by the USDA (Commenced in 2016)**
- African Union**



Focus Areas of AU-IBAR's activities in Food Safety and Codex

- Supporting the establishment/strengthening of national Codex structures in countries of the Region (NCCs, CCPs)**
- Formulating and coordinating common positions during Codex standard setting**
- Supporting participation of Member States (MSs) in Codex Committees of interest to Africa**
- Providing the forum to discuss and address priority food safety issues of concern to the Region**
- Supporting MS to conduct National trainings on Codex**
- Supporting participation of MS in WTO SPS Committee (national SPS Committees, Regional SPS Fora)**



Regional Positions on draft Codex standards and related texts

Which Codex Committees are supported?

1. **Codex committee on food hygiene**
2. **Codex Committee on pesticide residues**
3. **Codex committee on contaminants in foods**
4. **Codex committee on food additives**
5. **Codex committee on food labelling**
6. **Codex committee on nutrition and foods for special dietary uses**
7. **Codex committee on residues of veterinary drugs in food**
8. **Codex committee on fish and fishery products (now adjourned sine die by CAC)**
9. **Codex committee on fresh fruits and vegetables**
10. **Codex committee on general principles**
11. **Annual PAN-African National Codex Contact Point Officers meeting to prepare for sessions of CAC since 2011**



Standards and Trade Secretariat at AU-IBAR

ROLE

- ❑ **To coordinate formulation of African common position on standards setting in Codex and OIE**
 - ❑ Plant health issues handled by Interafrican Phytosanitary Council (AU-IAPSC)
- ❑ **To assist countries to establish effective national Codex structures and improve participation of stakeholders at national level in standards setting through advocacy**
- ❑ **To promote intraregional trade**



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**AU-FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT
COORDINATION MECHANISM (AU-
FSMCM)
AND RAPID ALERT SYSTEM
FOR FOOD AND FEED**



Background

- **Taking cognizance of these challenges, the AU and EU Heads of State and Governments decided, in their Summit in to create within African Union Commission (AUC) a Food Safety Authority and Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed.**
- **To implement this resolution, the African Union Commission (AUC) through the AU-IBAR established a task force comprising the AUC, major development partners and UN agencies to guide the development of the AU Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism (AU-FSMCM), including the preparation of concrete proposals for formal submission to the AUC.**



Composition and activities of the Task Force

- ❑ **Food Safety Experts from AU Member States, RECs**
- ❑ **UN Agencies (FAO - WHO – UNIDO) Technical assistance programmes/projects , Tools and resources for support to AUC Food safety**
- ❑ **Partners: EU – AUSTRALIA – USA - Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP) – World Bank, STDF/WTO, etc.**

- ❑ **The Task Force met:**
 - **in October 2012 in Rwanda**
 - **in November 2013 in Addis Ababa,**
 - **in March 2015 in Brussels: a priority table was produced**
 - **in June 2015 in Ouagadougou: priorities setting for AU member states, functions of AU and of RECs. An implementation plan was proposed and endorsed by MS.**
 - **on 14 October 2015 in Geneva: discussion and adoption of result areas and of priority activities to implement**



Conclusions from the Continental Meeting of Food Safety Experts

Mission

- ❑ **AU-FSMCM would provide technical support, scientific advice and policy direction to assist Member States and regional economic communities (REC) to develop modern, science-based food safety regulations based on international recommendations from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius**



Conclusions from the Continental Meeting of Food Safety Experts

AU-FSMCM: objectives

- Protect public health by reducing the risk of foodborne illness, taking into account relevant animal and plant health issues, and the environment;**
- Provide a sound scientific and regulatory foundation for trade in food**
- Protect consumers from unsanitary, unwholesome, mislabelled or adulterated food;**
- Promote and facilitate inter-African food trade and exchange between the Member States;**
- Increase market access and competitiveness in food trade, including raising production levels;**
- Contribute to economic development by maintaining consumer confidence in the food system, and;**



AU-FSMCM: Status of implementation

- ❑ Following approval in principle of the mission, function and operational structure of the AU FSMCM, recommendations have been submitted to the African Union Commission.**
- ❑ AUC and Member States to decide on recommendations including the location, status and form of organisation, in accordance with the AU Constitutive Act.**



Setting the stage for a functional continental food safety authority

- ❑ **Adoption, integration of Codex standards into national food laws**
- ❑ **Implementation of standards**
- ❑ **Establishing functional national food control structures**
- ❑ **Model food law for the Region will provide a common basis for food control at the continental level**
- ❑ **CCAFRICA22 must take advantage of the current momentum and advocate for a model food law for the Region**



Conclusion

- ❑ **African Union remains committed to the ongoing effort of ensuring global food safety, animal health and plant health through partnerships and cooperation with all African countries and development partners.**
- ❑ **African Union is here to support all African countries and the coordination efforts being made by the CCAFRICA Coordinator as we work towards achieving safe and quality global food supply.**



DOCUMENTS ON CODEX AND ON FSMCM

- ❑ **HANDBOOK ON CODEX: Guidance for participation of African countries in the standard setting process of the Codex Alimentarius Commission**
- ❑ **MANUAL FOR AFRICA'S CODEX CONTACT POINTS**
- ❑ **AFRICAN UNION – FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM (AU-FSMCM)**

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Abbreviations used

- ❑ **REC:** regional economic communities
- ❑ **OIE:** world animal health organization
- ❑ **SPS:** sanitary and phytosanitary
- ❑ **IPPC:** international plant protection convention
- ❑ **CAC:** Codex Alimentarius Commission
- ❑ **WTO:** world trade organization
- ❑ **NCCPs:** national codex contacts points



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

