



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



**World Health
Organization**

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
35th Session
Rome, Italy, 2-7 July 2012**

**REPORT OF THE SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 26 – 29 June 2012

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held its Sixty-seventh Session at FAO Headquarters, Rome, from 26 to 29 June 2012. The Session was chaired by Mr Sanjay Dave, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with the assistance of the three Vice-chairpersons, Dr Samuel Godefroy (Canada), Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland), and Professor Samuel Sefa-Dedeh (Ghana). A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.
2. The Session was opened by Dr Modibo Traoré, Assistant-Director-General, FAO who welcomed the members of the Committee on behalf of FAO and WHO. He recalled the responsibility of the Executive Committee to give management advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission on standards development and strategic issues. He stressed the importance of the Codex strategic planning process for 2014-2019 and related it to the strategic thinking process launched by the new FAO Director General in 2012 to determine the future strategic direction of FAO. He mentioned the importance of the Codex Trust Fund and FAO/WHO capacity building programmes in ensuring participation of developing countries and the need to look into the future to determine the mechanism that would follow after completion of the Codex Trust Fund project. Mr Traoré acknowledged the open processes followed by the Commission in its cooperation with NGOs and the contact made to private standard setting organizations. He assured the Committee that FAO was committed to maintain its budgetary support to Codex and would seek together with WHO to find a solution for the budget gaps related to FAO/WHO scientific advice to Codex. He concluded by wishing delegates success for the deliberations.
3. The Chairperson also welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and stressed the need to make progress with the Strategic Plan, which needed to be finalised by the Commission in 2013 and to initiate discussions to find a successor to the Codex Trust Fund that would finalise its work in 2015.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)¹

4. The Executive Committee added under Agenda Item 7 (Other business and future work) the discussion of the Draft Agenda for the 36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CRD 6) and with this change adopted the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda for the session.

CRITICAL REVIEW FOR THE ELABORATION OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 2)

DRAFT STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION FOR ADOPTION (Agenda Item 2a)²

Part I – Proposed Draft and Draft Standards and Related Texts at Steps 8, 5/8 or 5 Accelerated Committee on Food Hygiene

Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Control of Viruses in Food

5. One member recalled that in the Committee on Food Hygiene the delegation of Norway had proposed to forward Annex I of the Code to the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products to align it with existing provisions in the texts developed by that Committee. The delegation had also raised the general issue of relations between commodity and general committees in the Committee on General Principles (CCGP), which had agreed to consider this question at its next session.
6. The Chair recalled that, as the CCFH had advanced the Code to Steps 5/8, it could not forward it for advice to the CCFFP due to the timing of sessions, as this would have delayed the progress of work on an important food safety issue; however, after adoption it would be forwarded to CCFFP, which would have the possibility to make comments or propose to the CCFH any amendment, as required.
7. The Committee agreed that there was a need to ensure better coordination between committees, while taking into account that referral from one committee to another should not delay progress of work.

¹ CX/EXEC 12/67/1

² CX/EXEC 12/67/2, CX/EXEC 12/67/2-Add.1

8. The Executive Committee recommended adoption of the above Code and of all other items forwarded for adoption by the Committee on Food Hygiene.

Committee on Food Additives

Amendments to the International Numbering System (INS)

9. The Committee noted that the INS number for sodium potassium hexametaphosphate should be corrected to read 452(vi).

10. The Committee noted that, following the preparation of a specifications monograph for “potassium aluminum silicate, based pearlescent pigments” by the 74th JECFA, the CCFA agreed to assign a new INS no (i.e. INS 561) to the substance and also deleted the reference to “based pearlescent pigments” to the name of the substance, without noticing that the INS already listed potassium aluminium silicate, under INS 555..

11. In order to correct this error, CCEXEC did not recommend the adoption of this new INS number and recommended that the CCFA reconsider a new INS number for “potassium aluminum silicate, based pearlescent pigments” on the basis of the description of the specifications monograph prepared by the 74th JECFA.

12. The Committee recommended adoption of all other texts submitted by the CCFA.

Other questions

13. One Member expressed the view that in the comments concerning the work of the CCFA, the explanations concerning the discussion on the use of Note 161 did not reflect the positions expressed in the Committee. The Member for Asia, speaking as Chair of the CCFA, pointed out that the comments were intended to give an overview of the work of the Committee and should not be considered as the position of the 44th CCFA, but only to reflect that there had been no consensus in the Committee on Note 161. The Member clarified that the Committee was ready to consider this issue if further proposals were put forward, but that this was not relevant in the framework of the critical review.

Other standards and related texts

14. The Committee, recognising that the criteria for the critical review were met, supported the adoption of all other texts submitted by the following subsidiary bodies:

- Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Committee on Contaminants in Foods
- Committee on Pesticide Residues
- Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
- Committee on Food Labelling

Part II – Proposed Draft Standards and Related Texts at Step 5

Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

15. The Executive Committee recalled that the target year for completion was 2012, and noted that the Committee had convened a physical working group that was expected to consider all remaining issues in order to facilitate finalisation of this work at its next session for adoption by the Commission in 2013.

Other standards and related texts

16. The Committee recommended the adoption at Step 5 of all other Proposed Draft Standards and related texts submitted by the following subsidiary bodies:

- Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
- *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding
- Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Committee on Pesticide Residues

- Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
- Committee on Food Labelling

PROPOSALS FOR THE ELABORATION OF NEW STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS (Agenda Item 2b)³

17. The Committee recalled the criteria established in the Procedural Manual for the critical review, considered the proposals for new work and made the following comments.

Committee on Contaminants in Foods

18. The Committee noted that the CCCF had put forward seven proposals for new work and discussed whether there was a need for specific recommendations related to the overall workload and the possibility to manage it, taking into account that some items of work in that Committee had not been completed according to the target date in addition to several discussion papers on other matters already scheduled for consideration at the next session. It was also noted that some new items would require extensive work such as the review of several maximum levels for lead.

19. Some members expressed the view that it was the responsibility of each committee to manage its work and that the CCCF had demonstrated its efficiency in addressing important food safety issues. The Chair recalled that it was the role of the Executive Committee to consider the monitoring of work progress and the workload of committees in the overall perspective of the critical review.

20. After some discussion, the Executive Committee noted the importance of the work carried out by the CCCF and recommended approval of all work items proposed, encouraging the Committee to continue managing its heavy workload in an efficient manner.

Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

21. The Committee noted different views expressed by some members on the proposal for inclusion of zilpaterol in the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Re-evaluation by JECFA. The Chairperson recalled that the mandate of the Executive Committee was to consider proposals for new work forwarded by the Committee as included in Part A of the Priority List. He further recalled that in the Committee there had been no consensus on the inclusion of zilpaterol in the Priority List and that this matter had been referred to the Commission by the CCRVDF.

22. One Member expressed the view that, as there had been no consensus in the CCRVDF to change current criteria for inclusion of substances in the priority list, the Committee should have included zilpaterol in the Priority List in conformity with the established process, and therefore the question put forward to the Commission was not appropriate.

23. In reply to some requests for clarification, the Secretariat recalled that the CCRVDF had requested guidance from the Commission as there was no consensus on the inclusion of zilpaterol in the Priority List and that Appendix IX referred to zilpaterol with a note clarifying its status “retention of this veterinary drug in the list will depend on the outcome of the discussion at the 35th Commission (see REP12/RVDF, para. 118)”. The Chairperson noted that this question would be considered in the Commission as requested by the CCRVDF.

24. The Executive Committee supported new work on all substances presented in Part A of Appendix IX of REP12/RVDF.

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA)

Regional Standard for Date Paste

25. The Secretariat introduced the project document contained in CRD 7 which had been submitted by the Member from the Near East on behalf of the Coordinating Committee.

³ CX/EXEC 12/67/3, CX/EXEC 12/67/3-Add.1

26. The Committee noted that the project document indicated that there was worldwide trade in this commodity and agreed to recommend to the Commission the following: to approve new work on a standard for date paste and to request the Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) to consider this task at its 26th session (15-19 October 2012). However, if the CCPFV considered that the development of a worldwide standard for date paste was not possible, work could be carried out as a regional standard in the CCNEA at its 7th Session (21-25 January 2013).

Other Proposals for New Work

27. The Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission approve all other items proposed as new work as proposed in document CX/EXEC 12/67/3.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION: PROCESSED CHEESE (Agenda Item 2c)⁴

28. The Committee recalled that the 33rd Commission had agreed to defer the decision on the discontinuation of work on a standard for processed cheese and to request the interested Coordinating Committees to discuss the necessity and the scope of regional standards for processed cheese to take a decision on the basis of their recommendations at its 34th Session.⁵

29. The 34th Commission had noted that views of coordinating committees were split between those in favour and those against discontinuation of work on processed cheese. The Commission did not support a proposal of the 65th CCEXEC to suspend work on this matter for three years allowing countries to collect information on problems encountered in international trade for these products. The Commission agreed as a way forward to request the Codex Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP), a Circular Letter to explore the possibility of further work.⁶

30. CL 2011/20-CAC/MMP was issued in October 2011 requesting information on: (i) trade problems associated with trade of processed cheese (Q. 2-4); and (ii) potential scope, content and technical specifications of processed cheese (Q. 5-8). The CCMMP and Codex Secretariats prepared an analysis of the replies submitted by twenty two Members and one Observer, as presented in CX/CAC 12/35/10.

31. The Adviser of the South West Pacific, speaking as the host country of the CCMMP, recalled that the CCMMP had tried for more than fourteen years to develop a standard for processed cheese. He introduced the analysis of the information submitted: thirteen Members and one Observer indicated that there were no significant trade problems because of diversity of legislation or absence of standards; nine Members cited the following problems: inadequate or incorrect labelling; different standards importing countries; lack of standards; few or no standards to ensure quality and safety and protect consumers different requirements; different composition; and lack of reference documentation.

32. It was noted however that the volume of processed cheese traded internationally had continued to grow over the years notwithstanding the diversification of national legislation.

33. With regard to the scope, content of technical specifications of processed cheese, the responses of the Members supporting continuation of work, ranged from general suggestions for development of standards for processed cheese to detailed proposals, three of which were based on the three standards on processed cheese that had been revoked at the 33rd Session of the Commission (i.e. CODEX STAN 285-1978, CODEX STAN 286-1978 and CODEX STAN 287-1978)⁷.

34. The Adviser further noted that the products currently developed and sold in markets around the world had been driven by a combination of traditional practices, consumer tastes and preferences, technological developments and functional characteristics and that the wide range of processed cheese illustrated the influence of product innovation and market driven growth. The responses did not indicate any pragmatic solution for some of the core components of processed cheese, where there was no consensus, such as the amount of cheese, use of various ingredients such as gelatine and starch, labelling and product description.

⁴ ALINORM 11/34/REP paras 154159; CL 2011/20-CAC/MMP; CX/CAC 12/35/10

⁵ ALINORM 10/33/REP para. 93

⁶ REP11/CAC para. 159

⁷ ALINORM 10/33/REP para. 76

35. The Adviser noted that Codex had already developed general guidance on essential health and safety aspects of these products and labelling for consumers information, including the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products* (CAC/RCP 57-2004) and the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CAC/RCP 1-1969) for safety; the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CODEX STAN 192-1995) for the use of food additives and the *General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms* (CODEX STAN 206-1999) and the *General Standard for Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CODEX STAN 1-1985) for labelling.

36. The Adviser drew the attention of the Committee to the recommendations, included in para. 24 of CX/CAC 12/35/10, which highlighted, among other things, that countries have the option of specifying, in national regulations, compositional requirements, as minimum protein levels to address specific nutritional objectives; and that the responses and specific proposals did not provide any new or pragmatic basis for continuing work on the development of standards for processed cheese.

37. Members, which intervened in support of the conclusion and recommendations of the document, highlighted the efforts and resources spent by the CCMMP and Members in the attempts to develop a standard for processed cheese; and that the development of regional standards for these widely traded products would create trade barriers and would not comply with the Codex criteria for the regional standards.

38. Other Members expressed their frustrations at the incapacity of Codex to develop a standard for these products and recalled that many countries had no legislation for these products. They were of the view that the absence of a standard for these products would give rise to private standards and that the revocation of the earlier standards for processed cheese had created a legal vacuum in the national legislation of those countries which rely on Codex as the basis for their regulations.

39. In response to these concerns, it was noted that some of the trade problems identified were intra-regional, concerned a limited number of countries and could be more appropriately addressed by national provisions.

Conclusion

40. In view of the absence of identified trade impediments and given the difficulties in defining the scope of any new standard for processed cheese and questions about the amenability of the product to standardisation, the Committee agreed with the recommendation presented in CX/CAC 12/35/10 and recommended to the 35th Session of the Commission to discontinue work on this Standard. The Committee further recalled that standards related to these commodities would continue to be managed based on national legislation, while any gaps that might be identified by Members for either quality or safety aspects of these products could be brought to the attention of relevant Committees for new work.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 3)

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Agenda Item 3a)⁸

41. The Committee noted the implementation status presented in CX/CAC 12/35/11 concerning Goals 1 to 4.

Goal 5: Promoting maximum and effective participation of members

42. The Secretariat introduced a survey related to Activity 5.2 “Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process”. A questionnaire had been sent to Codex Chairpersons and host country secretariats according to the indicator “Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings”. The following questions had been asked: (i) How frequently are comments sent to your committee by delegations that then do not participate physically in the meeting? (ii) Do these comments usually arrive on time to be included in official working documents or in CRDs? (iii) How are these comments brought to the attention of the other delegations during the session?

⁸ CX/CAC 12/35/11

43. The analysis of the replies from nine committees showed that the amount of written comments received from Members that then did not attend the sessions was low and that such comments sometimes arrive timely and sometimes late. Chairpersons and the Secretariats usually brought the comments to the attention of committees. The survey showed that effective use was made of written comments, but that not many countries, which could not attend the session, made use of this possibility.

44. The Committee noted that the promotion of the submission of written comments was part of the regional Strategic Plan for the NASWP region. One Member suggested using outcome oriented-based indicators to better monitor the implementation of this activity.

45. The Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean was of the opinion that not as much progress as hoped had been made on Goal 5. Fewer and fewer countries of the region had the possibility to benefit from the Trust Fund and new mechanisms should be found to enhance participation of these countries. An important concern of the region was that documents, especially those in languages other than English, arrived late, making it difficult to prepare comments at the national level. The Coordinator recommended finding new ways to improve the situation, such as offering tools to facilitate participation through virtual meetings. The Coordinator also noted the importance of training to enhance the participation in Codex.

46. The Representative of FAO noted that in the context of their capacity development programmes, FAO and WHO encouraged the preparation of country comments and supported the organizational and technical capacities to do this in an effective and inclusive way. She further noted that the new Codex Trust Fund monitoring and evaluation framework would include an indicator on the quality and quantity of written comments.

47. The Committee noted the information from the Secretariat on progress made on Activity 5.6 “Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels” by making the new Codex website (www.codexalimentarius.org) an interactive tool, which would also allow exchange of comments in the near future.

Conclusion

48. The Committee noted that there were no specific concerns and that the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan was progressing satisfactorily.

DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 (Agenda Item 3b)⁹

49. The Committee recalled that the 66th CCEXEC had an extensive discussion on the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019, prepared by the Member from North America on the basis of the comments from the CCEXEC members. The 66th CCEXEC had agreed that the introduction, strategic vision, core values, strategic goals and objectives (some remaining in square brackets) had been discussed and should be circulated for comments to all Commission members and observers. The 66th CCEXEC had further agreed that the Member from North America would complete the objectives and activities, as well as the text of the introduction to the Strategic Goals, and circulate it to the CCEXEC Members and that the 67th CCEXEC would discuss comments received to prepare the discussion at the 35th Commission. Following the Commission, the draft would be sent to all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees for comments and would be then discussed at the 68th CCEXEC and considered by the 36th CAC for adoption.¹⁰

50. At the present Session, the Committee had a general discussion on the process for preparing the discussion of the Commission.

51. One Member noted that the preparation of a new draft at the present Session could create confusion, as Members of the Commission had prepared themselves on the basis of document CX/CAC 12/35/12. Two Members noted that some of the comments that they had provided, while the Committee was working electronically to the member from North America, seemed not to have been considered.

⁹ REP12/EXEC1 Appendix II; CX/CAC 12/35/12; CX/CAC 12/35/12 Add.1 (Comments of Comments of Argentina, Costa Rica, Japan, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and United States of America); CRD 5 (Comments of European Union and Kenya)

¹⁰ REP12/EXEC1 paras 62-65

52. In order to facilitate the discussion at the Commission, the Committee agreed to establish an in-session Working Group, led by the Chairperson, to: (i) consider all written comments by Members of the Commission, provide an overview of these and attempt to address them through proposed changes to the current draft; and (ii) recommend a detailed process for finalizing the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 up to its adoption by the 36th Commission.

Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019

53. The Chairperson explained that the in-session Working Group's discussion and the proposed amendments to the current draft focused on:

- Ensuring that the scope of the Strategic Plan captures the entire mandate of Codex;
- The drivers of changes influencing emerging issues of food safety, nutrition and consumer protection;
- Promoting collaboration with other food standard-setting bodies;
- Promoting aspects of partnership and collaboration in areas related to enhanced effective participation of Members in the elaboration of Codex standards.

54. The Chairperson pointed out some areas that would require further discussion and elaboration by the Commission's Members, in particular:

- Objective 1.2: the examples in activity 1.2.3;
- Objective 1.3: the selection of the preferred option for the text of activity for 1.3.1;
- Objective 2.1: the need for retaining Objective 2.1 in the Strategic Plan;
- Strategic Goal 4: the discussion on the Goal and activities could not be completed.

Proposed process for finalising the Strategic Plan 2014-2019

55. The Chairperson explained that the in-session Working Group had recommended that a sub-committee of the CCEXEC be created and be tasked to :

- By the end of July 2012: Complete the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019, taking into account the discussion at the 35th Commission and including proposed performance indicators and the workplan;
- Through the Codex Secretariat send this draft to all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees for discussion and input;
- By mid March 2013: Finalise the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 based on the inputs of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees.

56. The resulting document would be considered by the 36th Commission, through the 68th CCEXEC.

Conclusion

57. The Committee agreed with the conclusions and recommendations of the in-session Working Group, presented by the Chairperson, including the proposed process to complete and finalise the Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

58. The Committee noted that the in-session Working Group had put in square brackets those parts of the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 that needed further discussion. It was also noted that the draft Strategic Plan was still subject to changes to reflect the discussion of the 35th Commission and of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees. Therefore and in view of the time constraints, the Committee agreed not to continue the discussion on the draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 at the present Session and to attach it, as revised by the in-session Working Group, to its report (*see* Appendix II).

59. The Committee agreed to establish the sub-committee, as proposed by the in-session Working Group, to be chaired by Dr Samuel Godefroy, CAC Vice-Chairperson, and open to all CCEXEC Members. The sub-committee would work electronically and meet physically, if required.

60. The Committee authorized the sub-committee to send the Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019, through the Codex Secretariat, to all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees for their comments and input.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (Agenda Item 4)¹¹**Codex Budget**

61. The Secretariat presented the budget and detailed expenditures for 2010-2011, noting that USD 400,000 had been transferred to WHO at the end of the biennium in the framework of the donor agreement with WHO to support the participation of developing country members of the CCEXEC for 2012-2013. The travel expenditures included funding for the participation of several JECFA experts to the 75th JECFA in November 2011. The substantial contribution made by the host countries to support the Codex programme was also highlighted.

62. The Committee was informed that the 2012-2013 budget was approximately similar to 2010-2011, including 10% efficiency savings applied to all programmes in FAO, and that specific FAO funds had been allocated for the use of the Russian language.

63. In reply to a question, the Secretariat indicated that funding for certain activities related to the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commission would be allocated according to the relevant activities in the budget structure, such as publications and communication.

64. The Committee expressed its appreciation to FAO, WHO and host countries for their continuous support to the Codex programme.

FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex

65. The Representative of WHO indicated that in WHO approximately 80% of the budget for the provision of scientific advice, staff and activity, was provided by voluntary contributions from member countries rather than the regular programme, and outlined the proposed budget for scientific advice for 2012-2013, including the contribution from some countries, and highlighted the considerable funding gaps that have been identified.

66. The Representative of FAO provided an overview of the FAO budget for the provision of scientific advice in 2012-2013 noting the substantial support currently provided by the FAO Regular Programme. However, in light of the increasing demand for scientific advice the Representative recalled that FAO continues its efforts to identify extra-budgetary resources, through the Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA) and other mechanisms and noted the contributions that had been made by member countries, although they were limited at this stage.

67. One Member expressed the view that scientific advice should be a high priority of the organisations as it was essential to develop Codex standards and that risk management decisions should fully take into account such advice.

68. The Committee recalled that its last session had agreed that the Member for Europe, in cooperation with the Member for North America, and the contribution of interested members, would prepare a discussion paper on the funding for scientific advice.

69. The Member for Europe, while introducing document CX/CAC 12/35/15-Add.1, recalled that the critical funding situation was a serious concern for members, as the lack of scientific advice would negatively affect the elaboration of standards. The Member presented the recommendations, inviting members to discuss whether it would be appropriate to accept financial support from other sources than governments, taking into account legal constraints and the need to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the risk assessment.

70. Several members supported the proposals in the document and made the following comments: as it was difficult for governments to provide additional support, alternative sources of funding should be sought, such as non-governmental organisations or foundations, with due caution in order to avoid conflicts of interest; it was necessary to develop awareness of the need for scientific advice among policy makers at the national level; and FAO and WHO could actively encourage governments to reconsider their funding policy in this area.

¹¹ CX/CAC 12/35/15, CX/CAC 12/35/15-Add.1

71. The Representative of FAO, JMPR Secretary, indicated that due to substantial cuts in the FAO regular budget, from 2012 onwards there was more than 40% funding gap for JMPR. At the same time, there was a significant increase in demands from members in the Committee on Pesticide Residues for evaluation and re-evaluation of pesticides, including addressing minor and specialty crops, and the work plan for the JMPR review was overloaded for the next two years. Great progress was made in the efficiency of the process in CCPR and JMPR, with the result that many MRLs were forwarded to Step 5/8. Codex MRLs had been widely accepted by governments and the demands for Codex MRLs continually increased. The Representative stressed the importance of a long term solution for the shortage of financial resources to ensure sustainable scientific evaluation in JMPR, thus to protect consumer's health as well as to facilitate international trade

72. The Committee also noted that the funding for scientific advice in nutrition in FAO was limited by insufficient resources and that discussions were ongoing between FAO and WHO on the establishment of a joint expert body to provide scientific advice in nutrition to the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and to member countries. It was also noted that support and advice to countries was likely to be required for nutrition labelling, in view of the provisions for mandatory nutrition labelling forwarded to the Commission by the Committee on Food Labelling.

73. The WHO Representative appreciated the initiative of Members to address this important problem and noted that a multi-pronged approach was required, recalling that scientific advice activities in WHO were financed entirely through extrabudgetary resources. GIFSA was a funding mechanism created in 2005 to facilitate the provision of extrabudgetary resources for scientific advice activities in the areas of food safety and nutrition. Contributions were accepted from governments, organizations and foundations in accordance with WHO Guidelines. According to these Guidelines funds should not be sought or accepted from enterprises that have a direct commercial interest in the outcome of the project towards which they would be contributing.

74. The Representative of the FAO Legal Counsel indicated that the rules of FAO were similar to those of WHO, and stressed the need to protect the integrity of the process and to prevent any undue influence. FAO also had established policies concerning funding from entities such as foundations, and was currently reviewing its policies regarding donor funding and its relationship with the private sector.

Conclusion

75. The Committee took note of the current challenges in meeting the funding gap especially for scientific advice and, therefore, endorsed the proposal to request members to reconsider their funding priorities and provide financial support to FAO and WHO expert bodies.

76. The Committee further recommended that the discussion take place at the 35th Commission to explore ways to make members more aware of the essential role of expert bodies in the development of Codex standards

77. After some discussion on the process to follow to consider funding options, the Committee agreed to propose the setting up of a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, chaired by Vice-Chair Professor Sefa-Dedeh, and open to all CCEXEC members with the following terms of reference:

Consistent with the FAO and WHO funding policies to support scientific advice and in particular the imperative of maintaining the independence and integrity of the standard setting process of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), the sub-committee will:

1. Identify the various funding options and strategies that are and might be available for sustainable support for scientific advice by FAO/WHO for Codex activities.
2. Propose approaches that could be taken by FAO and WHO to secure the funds in a sustainable manner, through their own allocations.
3. Examine approaches that Codex, FAO and WHO could take to sustain and increase funding for scientific advice, from Codex members and other government sources.
4. Make recommendations for possible mechanisms through which FAO and WHO could receive funding from non-governmental sources to support scientific advice.

78. One Member expressed the view that referring to “sustainable” support might not be realistic and would limit the possibilities for identifying funding sources. The Committee however retained this term as sustainable support was a general objective.

79. The Committee agreed that the sub-committee would prepare a document which should be ready by March 2013, for consideration by the 68th CCEXEC and 36th Session of the Commission.

APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEX (Agenda Item 5)¹²

80. The Executive Committee was invited, in accordance with Rule IX.6 of the Rules of Procedure and taking into account the Principles concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as contained in the Procedural Manual, to provide advice regarding the applications for observer status of international non-governmental organizations having neither status with FAO, nor official relations with WHO.

ASN – American Society for Nutrition

81. The Secretariat introduced the application and said that the Codex Secretariat and the Legal Advisors of FAO and WHO had checked it and found it complete. The applicant had a particular structure as it was composed of individuals rather than national organizations. The applicant is a member of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS), which is an existing Codex Observer so that the issue of double representation could arise.

82. Following previous practice to avoid double representation at specific meetings, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant observer status to ANS on the understanding that: (i) ANS will only participate as such in Codex meetings when IUNS is not represented; (ii) At meetings where IUNS is represented, ANS can only participate as part of the IUNS delegation and not speak as ANS; and (iii) ANS can submit written comments only on those issues for which IUNS does not submit any comments.

CCTA - Collagen Casings Trade Association

83. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant observer status to CCTA.

YLFA - Association of Yoghurts & Live fermented milks

84. The Secretariat recalled that at the 66th Session (*see* REP12/EXEC1, paras 82-83) there had been concern that the documentation provided by the organization showed that it had been established in Brussels in December 2009 and thus it did not fulfil one of the criteria of the Principles: having been established for at least three years at the time of application. The organization had stated that it had been established in 2005 but in 2008 moved to Brussels where its incorporation process had been delayed for reasons beyond its control however no documentation on this issue was available at the 66th CCEXEC.

85. The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that since the 66th CCEXEC the organization had provided information showing that it was now essentially the same organization that had been established in 2005 thus fulfilling the minimum criteria. The Secretariat also said that the remainder of the application had been checked and found complete.

86. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to grant observer status to YLFA.

¹² CX/EXEC 12/67/4; CRD 1 (ASN); CRD 2 (CCTA), CRD 3 (YLFA)

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (Agenda Item 6)**FAO/WHO PROJECT AND TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX (Agenda Item 6a)¹³**

87. The Representative of WHO presented the Annual Report for 2011 of the Codex Trust Fund and the 16th Progress Report (CX/CAC 12/35/13) and highlighted actions undertaken to follow up recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the Codex Trust Fund, including: the creation of a new Group 4 to bring Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States back into the Codex Trust Fund for an additional two years of support for participation in the country's top two priority Codex meetings; a shift of resources to Objective 2 to support FAO/WHO Codex capacity-building; the establishment of a pilot "mentoring" project to assist developing countries in the development of examples in the use of microbiological criteria in the context of CCFH; the initiation of support to four countries to gather data on mycotoxins in sorghum as input to the ongoing process in CCCF.

88. The Representative gave an update on developments in 2012 including: the good response from countries eligible for support under the new Group 4; the joint planning exercise undertaken by FAO/WHO to strengthen Codex capacity-building activities; the positive outcome of the pilot mentoring initiative on the use of microbiological criteria (*see* CAC/35 INF/10).

89. The Representative also called attention to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that had been developed for the Codex Trust Fund in response to the recommendations of the Codex Trust Fund Mid-term Review and appeared in Annex C of CX/CAC 12/35/13. The first results of using the Framework, using data already being gathered, were presented in the First Transitional Monitoring Report of the Codex Trust Fund (CX/CAC 12/35/13-Add.1). This allowed to assess where further efforts could be required from the Codex Trust Fund, the parent bodies and/or other partners in Codex to ensure effective participation in Codex.

90. The Representative concluded by welcoming India as the newest donor to the Codex Trust Fund.

91. One Coordinator expressed the view that the criteria for admission to the Codex Trust Fund should be reviewed and stressed the need for ensuring sustainable participation.

92. One Member highlighted the positive outcomes from the "mentoring" initiative that had showed how countries could work in a collaborative fashion to advance specific aspects of Codex work. It was suggested that the term "mentoring" might be replaced by another term to capture the collaborative relationship that had developed during the work.

93. One Member welcomed the increased participation from developing countries but mentioned that members also may limit their participation in accordance with national needs. The Member highlighted that the contribution of countries in the European Region constituted 69% of all contributions to the Codex Trust Fund, and called on other members to contribute so that resources could be increased.

94. One Member highlighted the difficulties faced by the Near East region in participating in Codex in 2011 and asked consideration of this situation by the Trust Fund.

95. The Representative of WHO reminded members that the criteria for the Codex Trust Fund had been extensively reviewed in 2011, taking into consideration discussions at the 33rd Commission and all FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and that this had resulted in the creation of the new Group 4. Sustainability of participation in Codex was constantly under review by the Codex Trust Fund with the parent bodies. The Codex Trust Fund tried to be as flexible as possible to accommodate countries that had not been able to take advantage of the support provided by the Codex Trust Fund, but carryover of participation from one year to the next was limited by administrative and budgetary constraints.

¹³ CX/CAC 12/35/13, CX/CAC 12/35/13-Add.1, CAC/35 INF/10

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO: CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (Agenda Item 6b)¹⁴

96. The Representative of WHO summarized the FAO and WHO activities on the provision of scientific advice with regard to recent FAO/WHO expert meetings held. The majority of the output of these expert meetings has already been considered by relevant subsidiary bodies, leading to recommendations for consideration at the upcoming session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Representative noted that the public availability and accessibility of scientific assessments has been improved, and the status of requests for FAO/WHO scientific advice was briefly summarized. The Representative noted that the estimated costs for the organization of these activities did not include staff costs (Table of Annex I).

97. The Executive Committee took note of the scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO through their scientific advisory bodies namely JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA and ad hoc expert consultations / meetings and appreciated the high priority given by the parent organizations to the provision of scientific advice as a very important element for the establishment of Codex food safety standards. The Committee acknowledged the severe financial problems both organizations are facing with respect to the provision of scientific advice as evidenced in its previous discussion on budgetary matters (*see* Agenda Item 4) whereby the current financial situation no longer allowed response to all requests for scientific advice put forward by subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and encouraged Codex members to provide support to FAO and WHO to ensure long term sustainability of the provision of scientific advice to Codex.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 7)

PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF A CODEX “LOGO” (Agenda Item 7a)¹⁵

Background

98. The Chairperson of the Commission presented his proposal as amended CRD 4 and said that the idea for a logo came from the fact that two of the “three sisters” mentioned explicitly in the WTO SPS Agreement as international standard setting bodies, OIE and IPPC, have recognizable logos providing considerable awareness while Codex does not. He said that Codex had developed important texts for small businesses especially in the food hygiene area, which could help facilitating trade if they were better known. However, while Codex was a transparent and inclusive organization with 185 members, its standards were not well known while in some cases private standards, developed by organizations with very limited membership were known and applied. In his opinion, after almost 50 years of existence, it was timely to think about a logo for Codex accompanied by a comprehensive communication strategy. The Chairperson said he was aware of concerns in FAO and WHO about proliferation of logos and that any work on this would have to be agreed by FAO and WHO in accordance with their legal and administrative requirements. He said further that it was proposed in the document that the logo could be used nationally to promote use of Codex standards and other national Codex activities but that it should neither be used on national standards nor for any commercial purposes. He concluded by saying that the 50th Anniversary celebration of Codex in 2013 could be a good occasion to unveil a new logo.

Discussion

99. The Committee generally welcomed the proposal for a Codex logo as a tool of a comprehensive communication strategy to increase visibility of Codex. If possible the 50th Anniversary celebration in 2013 could be used to launch a Codex logo. However, the Committee noted that relevant legal and administrative steps should be followed for registration and use of the logo.

100. The complexity of developing a communications strategy was highlighted which would require time and specialist input. A simple, internal use of a logo, e.g. on documents, letterheads and promotional material, could contribute to shaping the identity of an organization. Use of a logo for more complex tasks e.g. branding or by external actors would require further legal considerations and would be more difficult to manage.

101. The need to maintain a visible link to the parent organizations in any visual identity of Codex was highlighted.

¹⁴ CX/CAC 12/35/14

¹⁵ CX/EXEC 12/67/5 and CRD 4

102. The Representative of WHO acknowledged the need for an effective communication strategy to raise awareness about the work of Codex. A visual identity in the form of a logo could be one of the tools to achieve this, however in itself it would not be sufficient.

103. The Representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO said that a logo could increase the visibility of Codex but cautioned that the logo of a UN agency bestows great legitimacy on those who use it. He said that it was important to register a logo for Codex to seek maximum legal protection of any logo, as the risk of abuse of such a Codex logo would be high because it is closely linked to commercial food products. For example, food products could bear the logo illegally suggesting that the product fulfills the standards. The cooperation of members could be required to ensure the integrity of the logo, e.g. through follow-up of any cease and desist letters against illegal use of a logo.

104. The Representative explained that the logos of FAO and WHO were registered in WIPO under the Paris Convention Article 6 ter. This might not be possible for Codex as it might not meet the requirement of the Convention for an independent budget. He warned that the process of registration could be lengthy and not achievable for the 50th Anniversary celebration. An alternative could be to protect the logo through copyright.

105. The Codex logo would be owned either by FAO or jointly by FAO and WHO and thus should follow the same strict rules as applied to FAO and WHO logos, e.g. it should not be used on the same page as the logo of a commercial entity.

106. The Committee noted that Activity 5.6 “Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels” of the current Strategic Plan had served to increase visibility of Codex e.g. through updating the website, publications, brochures, videos and newsletters and a similar activity might be appropriate for the new Strategic Plan.

Conclusion

107. The Chairperson concluded that there was broad support for improving the visibility of Codex and that the Committee welcomed the development of a comprehensive communication strategy including a logo as a tool. The Committee requested the Secretariat to study the possibilities for developing a communication strategy for Codex in close collaboration with FAO and WHO legal services and communications departments.

108. The Chairperson said further that in the immediate the logo could be designed and unveiled during the 50th Anniversary celebrations and an initial proposal for a communication strategy could be presented to the next session of the CCEXEC and the Commission.

PROPOSALS TO CELEBRATE THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹⁶ (Agenda Item 7b)

109. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, introduced the discussion paper and recalled that fifty years since its first Session, the CAC had remained fully committed to protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. The CAC has established itself as the internationally recognized food standards-setting body and its membership has increased steadily over the past 50 years. She then presented the list of proposed activities associated with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commission listed under section 3.3 that could be undertaken to mark this important anniversary, stressing the need to undertake them in an inclusive, transparent and coordinated manner in order to include contribution from all the regions. In addition, the Vice-Chair also mentioned the possibility of organizing an FAO/WHO Conference in the framework of Goal 1 – *Establish international food standards that protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade* of the proposed Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

110. Members generally supported the organization of activities for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commission. They further noted that it would be an occasion to enhance the visibility of Codex globally and that this was complementary to the overall communication strategy to promote Codex work in food quality and safety.

¹⁶ CX/EXEC 12/67/6-Rev.1

111. There was general agreement that, in addition to the activities listed in section 3.3, relevant activities at national and regional level in cooperation with FAO and WHO should be taken into consideration to raise awareness on the importance of Codex work for consumers' health protection and fair practices in the food trade. There was also general agreement that all activities should be carried out in the most cost efficient and effective way. They should not be limited to the celebration of the 50th Anniversary but should be sustainable by having a long term impact, therefore the target audience should be carefully considered when selecting such activities. It was also noted that scientific publications to get broader understanding on Codex work could be explored to enlarge the Codex audience to other relevant stakeholders.

112. The Representative of WHO acknowledged that this was an important opportunity to raise awareness about the global importance of Codex work, through cost-effective and efficient measures. WHO supported the establishment of a small group to identify the goals and potential targets first and then decide on appropriate means. Focus should be on reaching out through regional and national activities, that also go beyond the usual Codex circles.

Conclusion

113. The Committee supported the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Commission. Activities should be carried out at regional and national levels in addition to FAO Headquarters. The Chairperson noted that activities listed in section 3.3 and any other additional proposals should be carefully selected as to their practicability for implementation within a year as opposed to longer term activities at national / regional level.

114. Based on the above considerations, the Committee agreed to establish an organizing committee on an informal basis, led by the Vice-Chair, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, and including Representatives of FAO and WHO and the Codex Secretariat to identify priorities and time-lines and to steer activities to be carried out in consultation with regional coordinators.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 36th SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 7c)¹⁷

115. The Committee recalled that the Draft Provisional Agenda for the 36th Session of the Commission was presented in accordance with Rule VII.1 of the Rules of Procedure.

116. The Committee noted that the only change to the Provisional Agenda, as presented in CRD 6, was that the 36th Session would be held in Rome (Italy), to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Commission.

117. The Committee was informed that the Draft Provisional Agenda comprised the usual agenda items, including the reports of the upcoming session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, and that any other items arising from the 35th Commission would also be included.

Conclusion

118. The Committee agreed the Draft Provisional Agenda, with the change of venue noted above. The Committee was also informed that its 68th Session would also be held in Rome, the week before the Commission.

¹⁷ CRD 6

APPENDIX I

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APPENDIX II

DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

Introduction

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The CAC's main work is the development of international food standards,¹⁸ guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The CAC also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

For food safety and nutrition matters, the Commission establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the FAO and WHO expert committees. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the CAC are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements.

The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the CAC and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.
- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the CAC will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.
- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the CAC intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019.

Strategic Vision Statement

To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Codex Core Values

In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include, ~~but are not limited to:~~

- *collaboration*
- *inclusiveness*
- *consensus building*
- *transparency*

Strategic Goals

Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.

Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex ~~food~~ standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

- Activities:
 - 1.1.1 Apply consistent 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.
 - 1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.

¹⁸ The term “standards” is used to cover standards and all related texts.

- 1.1.3 ~~Incorporate~~ Ensure the concepts of public health, sound regulatory frameworks, and fair ~~trade~~ practices in the food trade into Codex standards development.
- 1.1.4 Promote the use of Codex standards in international trade and as a basis for domestic regulations.

Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

- Activities:

- 1.2.1 Develop a process for ~~the proactively identifying~~ early identification of the need for new standards. ~~guidelines, and recommendations, particularly with respect to emerging food safety risks and new technologies.~~
- ~~1.2.2~~ ~~Assess standard setting procedures and mechanisms to ensure they take into account the latest scientific and technological developments.~~
- 1.2.2~~3~~ Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, taking into account the latest scientific and technological developments, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety and fair practices in the foods trade; [for example, emerging risks, food security, effects of shifting population patterns and climate change, and consumers concerns.]

Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

- Activities:

- [1.3.1 ~~Seek to enhance~~ Promote a culture of collaboration standards development with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) that ensures all potential food safety risks and other consumer concerns are addressed from farm to fork, utilizing consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.

Or

- 1.3.1~~2~~ Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ~~the OIE and IPPC~~ on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations, through utilization of consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.]
- 1.3.2~~3~~ Promote cooperative programs with other international governmental and non-governmental ~~non-governmental~~ standards-setting organizations to identify needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards.

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

[Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of scientific advice and risk analysis principles.]

- Activities:

- 2.1.1 Use the scientific advice of FAO/WHO ~~independent~~ 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*.
- 2.1.2 Encourage sufficient ~~substantive~~ engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.
- 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management measures in the context of Codex standard development.
- 2.1.4 Communicate the risk management decisions to all interested parties.

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

- Activities:
 - 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert bodies, in particular JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
 - 2.2.3 Explore other all funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice expert bodies, ~~recognizing the imperative to respect FAO/WHO research priorities in addition to the core funding provided by FAO and WHO.~~

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.

- Activities:
 - 2.3.1 Encourage scientific food safety and nutrition data development capabilities in developing countries to support the provision of data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies.
 - 2.3.2 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.
 - 2.3.3 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at collection and use of data from developing countries.

Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

- Activities:
 - 3.1.1 Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund.
 - 3.1.2 Plan, with the involvement of ~~interested~~ Codex Members, a successor initiative for the next steps for the Codex Trust Fund. which is due to end in 2015, or a successor initiative, to mitigate resource constraints for full Codex participation by Members.
 - 3.1.3. Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries such as co-hosting of committees and working groups.
 - ~~3.1.3 Develop a formal mentorship initiative, building on lessons learned from existing informal programs.~~
 - 3.1.4 Assist and support member countries develop innovative institutional arrangements to ensure effective participation.

Objective 3.2: Promote capacity building programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

- Activities:
 - 3.2.1 Encourage support for Codex activities by FAO and WHO and member governments through the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.
 - 3.2.2 Promote capacity building programs that assist developing countries in prioritizing their participation in Codex committees and task forces.
 - 3.2.3. Develop guidance for partnership initiatives, building on lessons learnt and encourage their use.
 - ~~3.2.3 Encourage the use of mentoring and cooperative programs.~~
 - 3.2.4 Promote Leverage, where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees as a forum to host effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.

- 3.2.5 Expand co-hosting of Committee meetings and working groups to enhance skills of developing country Members.

~~Objective 3.3: Assist in addressing the needs of developing countries by leveraging the work of existing international food safety and food related economic development programs.~~

~~• Activities:~~

- ~~3.3.1 Establish strategic partnerships with organizations with relevant economic development programs to identify opportunities to support the respective mandates of each.~~

[Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

Objective 4.1: Strive ~~Ensure~~ for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based ~~flexible~~ standard setting process for the timely adoption of standards.

• Activities:

- 4.1.1 Review ~~Codex~~ implementation of Codex standards-setting processes and implement improvements to ensure efficient, ~~and~~ effective ~~inclusive~~ operations and timely adoption of standards.
- 4.1.2 Explore development of flexible processes to address roadblocks in Codex standards-setting procedures.
Explore updates to Codex processes and procedures to address roadblocks in Codex standard setting where required (instead of 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 combined).
- 4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve ~~member participation in committees and work groups~~, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.
- 4.1.4 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve member participation in committees and working groups.
- 4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of compiled country comments to Members.
- 4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting.

• Activities:

- 4.2.1 Improve the knowledge and skills of Codex delegates to ensure that the standards-setting process operates effectively and efficiently and is well managed.
- 4.2.2 Improve the skills of Committee and Working Group Chairs.]