

codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 1

CX/LAC 06/15/1
October 2006

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

15th Session, Mar del Plata, Argentina

To be held at the Hermitage Hotel, Mar del Plata, Argentina,
from Monday 13 at 10:00 hours to Friday 17 November 2006

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT MATTER	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
1.	Adoption of the Provisional Agenda	CX/LAC 06/15/1
2.	Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies	CX/LAC 06/15/2 CX/LAC 06/15/2-Add.1
3.	Activities of FAO and WHO complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including Capacity Building	CX/LAC 06/15/3-Part A CX/LAC 06/15/3-Part B
4.	Conclusions and Recommendations of the FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety for the Americas and the Caribbean - Follow-up Actions	CX/LAC 06/15/4 CX/LAC 06/15/4-Add.1
5.	Information on National Food Control System and Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting (CL 2006/33-LAC, Part A)	CX/LAC 06/15/5 CX/LAC 06/15/5-Add.1
6.	Information on Use of Codex Standards at national and Regional Level (CL 2006/33-LAC, Part B)	CX/LAC 06/15/6 CX/LAC 06/15/6-Add.1
7.	Strategic Plan for CCLAC	CX/LAC 06/15/7
8.	Guidelines for Food Safety in Tourist Zones (CL 2005/19-LAC)	CX/LAC 06/15/8
9.	<u>Issues of Significance to the Region:</u>	
(a)	Compliance with Codex MRLs and the MRL-Setting Needs of the Region	CX/LAC 06/15/9 CX/LAC 06/15/9-Add.1
(b)	Work in Codex on Food Additive Stevia Rebaudiana	CX/LAC 06/15/10
(c)	Other Issues of Significance to the Region	CX/LAC 06/15/11
10.	Nomination of the Coordinator	CX/LAC 06/15/12
11.	Other Business and Future Work	
12.	Date and Place of Next Session	
13.	Adoption of the Report	

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda (CX/LAC 06/15/1):** In accordance with Rule VII.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the first item on the Provisional Agenda shall be the adoption of the Agenda. The Committee will be invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda as its Agenda for the Session.
- Item 2 Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies (CX/LAC 06/15/2):** This item includes matters related to the Region arising from recent sessions of the Commission and other Codex Committees and Task Forces.
- Item 3 Activities of FAO and WHO complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including capacity building (CX/LAC 06/15/3):** The Representatives of FAO and WHO will provide a report on the activities of FAO and WHO complementary to the work of Codex Alimentarius Commission, including capacity building programmes for developing countries of the Region.
- Item 4 Conclusions and Recommendations of the FAO/WHO Regional Conference on Food Safety for the Americas and the Caribbean - Follow-up Actions (CX/LAC 06/15/4):** The document summarizes the objectives, conclusions and recommendations of the Conference convened in response to requests from Member countries for policy advice and capacity building in food safety management including follow-up actions to strengthen food safety in the Region vis-à-vis the Recommendations of the Conference. The Committee will be invited to consider this document towards the implementation of the activities identified by Members of the Region and/or additional activities in this regard as indicated in paragraph 3 of the working paper.
- Item 5 Information on National Food Control System and Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting (CX/LAC 06/15/5):** The 57th Session of the Executive Committee agreed to combine all issues related to food legislation, food control, national Codex structures and consumer participation, which had been discussed under two different agenda items, into one single item in order to facilitate reporting by Member countries and to rationalize discussion in the coordinating committees, taking into account possible duplication and confusion in the consideration of these items. The working paper contains information submitted in response to CL 2006/33-LAC, Part A.
- Item 6 Information on Use of Codex Standards at National and Regional Level (CX/LAC 06/15/6):** The 57th Session of the Executive Committee agreed to add a new agenda item to regional coordinating committees regarding the use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional levels. In pursuit to this decision, it has recommended that Members of the coordinating committees submit information on the use of Codex standards. The working paper contains information submitted in response to CL 2006/33-LAC, Part B.
- Item 7 Strategic Plan for CCLAC (CX/LAC 06/15/7):** The 14th Session of the Committee endorsed the Regional Strategic Plan and formulated a number of observations and conclusions in regard to the various Objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. The Committee agreed that evaluation of the Plan should follow its adoption for consideration at its next session. To this end, it agreed to set up a working group led by Mexico to monitor achievement of the objectives set out in the Regional Strategic Plan and to report back to the 15th Session of the Committee. The working paper contains an updating on the CCLAC Strategic Plan for consideration and action, if necessary, by the Committee.
- Item 8 Guidelines for Food Safety in Tourist Zones (CX/LAC 06/15/8):** The 14th Session of the Committee agreed that a questionnaire be distributed through a separate Circular Letter to request comments and information from Members of the Region in order to evaluate the advisability of proceeding with the elaboration of the Guidelines. The working paper contains the revised Guidelines based on the comments submitted in response to CL 2005/19-LAC and the discussion held in this regard at the last Committee's session.
- Item 9 Issues of significance to the Region:** When reviewing the role of regional coordinating committees, the 14th Session of CCLAC noted that the agenda of these committees should include more issues of direct interest to Members of the Region and that under the current practice these were all considered under "Other Business and Future Work". The Committee further noted that specific matters of relevance to the Region could be considered under a separate Agenda Item as in other coordinating committees and agreed to use this approach for its future sessions. The following items are therefore proposed for consideration under this Agenda Item:

- (a) **Compliance with Codex MRLs and the MRL-Setting Needs of the Region** (CX/LAC 06/15/9): The 14th Session of the Committee, when considering Objective 7 - Identification and Priorization of Regional Standard-related needs of the CCLAC Strategic Plan, expressed its concern about the lack of Codex MRLs for substances such as agrochemicals used in major export commodities of countries of the Region and over the tendency of certain WTO/Codex Members to unilaterally establish MRLs at the detection limit of the analytical method without sufficient scientific evidence to justify limits that were more restrictive than those of Codex, when these existed. The Committee agreed to set up a working group chaired by Brazil that would seek to address this issue for consideration by the next session of the Committee as contained in the Discussion Paper.
- (b) **Work in Codex on Food Additive Stevia Rebaudiana** (CX/LAC 06/15/10): The 14th Session of the Committee, considered the status of work on the food additive sweetener stevioside (stevia) in Codex and invited Members of the Region to provide scientific data on stevioside, so that the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) could complete the evaluation of this substance and assign a full Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) for the Committee on Food Additives to be in a position to consider its inclusion in the General Standard for Food Additives. The Discussion Paper summarizes the status of work on this matter and proposes follow-up actions for consideration by the Committee.
- (c) **Other Issues of Significance to the Region** (CX/LAC 06/15/11): In addition to the matters identified at the last session of the Committee, this working paper identifies other issues of direct interest to the Region with a view to facilitating exchange of information and/or formulating a regional position.

Item 10 Nomination of the Coordinator (CX/LAC 06/15/12): In accordance with Rule IV.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Committee will be invited to nominate a Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean for appointment by the 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Item 11 Other Business, Future Work: In accordance Rule VII.5 of the Rules of Procedure, any Member of the Commission may propose the inclusion of specific items of an urgent matter.

The Committee may propose items for future work taking into account the *Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard* (Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, Part 2 Critical Review). The new work undertaken shall be approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission taking into account the outcome of the Critical Review conducted by the Executive Committee.

However, it is strongly recommended to submit the item, if any, in a written form well in advance of the session.

Item 12 Date and Place of the Next Session: The Committee will be advised of the tentative dates of the next session.

Item 13 Adoption of the Report: In accordance with Rule X.1 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the Committee shall adopt the report of its 15th Session, based on a draft provided by the Secretariat.

Note: Working documents as prepared will be uploaded onto the Codex website. They can be downloaded and printed by accessing the following URL:
www.codexalimentarius.org

Delegates are kindly requested to bring with them to the meeting all documents which have been distributed, as the number of additional copies which can be made available at the meeting is limited.