

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 10

CX/LAC 12/18/11
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

18th Session

San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012

ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE REGION

Comments received in reply to CL 2010/54-LAC from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic

BRAZIL

Brazil suggests the following topics for the 18th meeting of the CCLAC:

1. Review of the risk analysis principles applied in the CCPR;
2. Defence of the scientific principles in the Codex;
3. Note 161;
4. Availability of documents and reports in time for analysis;
5. Discouragement of the creation of physical working groups as this makes the participation of countries more difficult. Prioritization of e-meetings and physical groups prior to Committee meetings in order to facilitate participation.

CHILE

Chile suggests the following topics, which were forwarded in due time to the Coordination of the CCLAC:

1. Monitoring of the adoption of the Codex regulations in countries within the region as well as in the export destinations. Development of mechanisms that can ensure information continuity. This subject was entrusted to the regional Committees by the Secretariat further to a decision by the Commission but has not been fully followed through;
2. Monitoring of private standards that cause problems for the region's exports. Develop an information mechanism to quantify the problem;
3. CCLAC strategic plan. Current situation and perspective.

COLOMBIA

Colombia is pleased to forward its response on the topics relevant to the region.

In the first place, Colombia is in agreement with the topics put forward by the CCLAC coordination:

1. Regional positions. (It is recommended that the topic be worked on within the framework of the electronic working group formed at the beginning of 2012);
2. Processed cheeses. (It is recommended that the results of the CAC's 35th meeting are awaited);
3. Panela;

4. Mechanisms to evaluate the economic repercussions of a specific proposed standard;
5. Translation system formalized by the Codex Alimentarius;
6. Definition of the CCLAS' position so that developing countries can enjoy virtual participation in the Codex meetings.

In addition, Colombia proposes that the CCLAC develop the following topics:

1. Harmonization of nutrient reference values for the purposes of nutritional labelling and nutrient reference values associated with the risk of noncommunicable diseases;
2. A debate document on the weight of responsibility faced by the exporting countries due to the multiple questionnaires;
3. Discussion on a proposal for the inclusion of minor crops in the lists for the purposes of extrapolation of pesticide MRLs;
4. Development of a database of regional scientific experts on the different topics of the Codex;
5. Identification of reference laboratories in the LAC region with the purpose of gaining access to test and trial services to support the studies put forward by the countries of the CCLAC;
6. Strengthening of the national capacity to generate data to support investigation or the establishment of international standards or national regulations. (Funding through the Standards and Trade Development Facility - STDF);
7. Provision of information to the JECFA concerning the levels of cadmium in cocoa and cocoa products.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica considers that the following topics are issues relevant to the region to be considered in the next meeting of the CCLAC Committee:

1. Note 161;
2. Defence of the scientific principles of the Codex;
3. Timely availability of documents for analysis;
4. Regional positions;
5. Processed cheeses;
6. Panela;
7. Development of the 'feed' topic in the Codex;
8. Mechanisms to evaluate the economic repercussions of a specific proposed standard;
9. Translation system formalized by the Codex Alimentarius;
10. Definition of the CCLAS' position so that developing countries can enjoy virtual participation in the Codex meetings;
11. Promotion of the use of e-meetings and discouragement of the creation of physical working groups;
12. Regional working plan.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic proposes that the following topics are considered during the next CCLAC meeting:

1. The possible establishment of a regional electronic working group for each of the Codex Committees composed of members proposed by the countries concerned in the region, the principal role of which would be to evaluate the documents relevant to the region and, based on this, to develop documents containing comments and positions to be proposed and sent to the respective Committees for the countries that share said comments as conference room papers or support for a specific regional position;

2. The possible elaboration of an information document on the activities carried out by the Coordinator and Regional Representative for the period elapsed since his/her election to the CCLAC for the topics of the 18th CCLAC;
3. Strengthening of the participation of the region's countries in the Codex Committee meetings through the implementation of variable degrees of integration, for instance by way of a tool provided to those countries unable to attend physically, enabling them to follow the meetings of interest to them via audio-visual resources, either in the form of video conferences or live transmissions of the Codex meetings via satellite;
4. Proposal that a position be maintained of adherence to the document distribution procedure for a Committee meeting or an auxiliary group, in all the official languages, a minimum of 60 days (two months) in advance.