



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**  
**71<sup>st</sup> Session**

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 20-23 June 2016**

**FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX**  
**(BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES)<sup>1</sup>**

### **FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex**

1. The budget requirements presented in this paper are based on the requests for scientific advice from a number of Codex subsidiary bodies. An overview of the response to requests and outstanding requests are presented in CX/CAC 15/38/16<sup>2</sup>. This paper provides a summary of the resources made available for the provision of scientific advice to Codex in 2014-15 by FAO and WHO and the available resources, as of May 2016, to implement the 2016-17 biennial work plan for scientific advice. The final information on 2016-17 expenditure will become available in early 2018.

### **WHO budget**

2. In WHO, the majority of the funds for the activity and staff costs related to the provision of scientific advice in food safety and nutrition is provided through voluntary extrabudgetary contributions from Member States and other donors rather than through the Regular Programme budget (i.e. assessed contributions).

3. For the biennium 2014-15, activity and staff cost for scientific advice to Codex amounted to USD 3,883,587 for food safety and USD 2,104,000 for nutrition (including relevant scientific advice and guideline development work in nutrition referred to and used by Codex for its on-going work).

4. In the biennium, extrabudgetary contributions were received from Japan, China, Canada, Republic of Korea and USA. For nutrition, some un-earmarked core voluntary contribution was received and approximately USD 330,000 was used to cover the staff cost for the work related to scientific advice on nutrition.

5. For the current biennium 2016-17, the planned activity costs for scientific advice are estimated at USD 1,990,000 in food safety and USD 1,206,000 in nutrition, based on actual expenditures in the previous biennium. Estimated staff costs are USD 2,612,930 in food safety and USD 1,186,000 in nutrition (including relevant and related scientific advice and guideline development work in nutrition).

6. By May 2016, Japan, USA and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have made voluntary contributions to food safety and nutrition. The funding gaps for scientific advice activities are currently estimated at USD 1,140,000 in food safety and USD 126,000 in nutrition for the current biennium. Currently the salaries of staff in food safety are partly covered through 2016, and in nutrition all staff are fully funded for the 2016-2017 biennium.

7. The scientific advice activity of WHO heavily depends on extrabudgetary contribution received from a small number of Member States, which is gratefully acknowledged.

### **FAO budget**

8. In FAO, funds to support the activities and staff costs related to the provision of scientific advice to Codex are budgeted in FAO's regular Programme of Work and Budget under one Organizational Output, which helps to ensure for continuity and quality of scientific advice. Food Safety scientific advice to Codex is supported by a number of units and divisions within FAO including the Office of Food Safety, the Plant Production and Protection Division, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division, and the Animal Production and Health Division. Scientific advice on nutrition, when requested, is provided by the Nutrition and Food Systems Division.

<sup>1</sup> This document has been also included in the agenda of CAC39 as document CX/CAC 16/39/16

<sup>2</sup> [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/cac/cac38/cac38\\_16e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/cac/cac38/cac38_16e.pdf)

9. For the biennium 2014-15, activity and staff costs for scientific advice to Codex amounted to USD 3,085,926 in food safety and USD 295,529 in nutrition.
10. In the 2014-2015 biennium, all staff costs and 90% of the costs of activities actually implemented, amounting to USD 2.9 million were supported by FAO's Regular Programme budget. In the biennium, extrabudgetary contributions were received from Sweden and the USA.
11. For 2016-2017, USD 2.9 million is required in order to fully implement all planned activities. The staff and activity costs required for scientific advice are estimated at USD 2,904,114 for food safety and USD 341,636 for nutrition.
12. For 2016-17, all staff costs and all of the activity costs for the work plan of the 2016-2017 biennium are provided through FAO's Regular Programme budget. FAO wants to gratefully acknowledge Canada's commitment to second a food safety officer for 2 years to FAO headquarters to help with important contributions to the ambitious goal of modernizing and updating FAO's process and methodologies for its scientific advice program.
13. The recognition of key scientific advice meetings and consultations to Codex (such as JECFA, JEMRA and JMPR) as Corporate Technical Activities in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget has ensured budgetary security for non-staff activities in the current biennium and is gratefully acknowledged.

### **Conclusion**

14. As indicated above, the way the provision of scientific advice is currently funded is different between WHO (heavily dependent on voluntary contributions) and FAO (mainly covered by assessed contributions).
15. Overall the contribution of FAO and WHO to the provision of scientific advice equals to approximately USD 10 million per biennium. To ensure the ability of the joint scientific advice program to be able to deliver even at the current rate, it will be of paramount importance ensure this level of stable and predictable funding from both organizations.