



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR EAST**

Tenth Session,

Rome, Italy, 11 – 15 November 2019

CODEx STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 – ROAD MAP TO IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. An In-session Working Group (WG) was established by CCNE10 to consider CX/NE 19/10/10 and written comments and to prepare a report for consideration by the Plenary on the activities to be carried out in the region in the next two years to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix III of CX/NE 19/10/10).

1.2. The WG was chaired by Egypt. The Chairperson recalled that CAC42 had adopted the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 with the objective of advancing the Codex mandate and highlighting the mission and vision of Codex. He reminded participants of the importance of learning from the past noting that the lessons learned from the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 were important to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and avoid potential pitfalls. He reminded the WG that many parties had responsibilities towards achieving the strategic plan and Codex Members were among those with the highest responsibilities.

1.3. The Chairperson noted the need for a realistic work plan that could be implemented in the next two years, that was based on the priorities and needs for the region, and had a clear rational and approach to monitoring progress by 2021.

1.4. The Chairperson of the CCEXEC Sub-committee on strategic planning provided an overview of the work of the sub-committee and the expectations of CCNE vis-à-vis implementation of the strategic plan recalling the importance of inclusivity and collaboration. He highlighted the importance of identifying priority areas of work for the region and the need for clarity on time scale and ambition.

2. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The discussions were facilitated and undertaken in several phases.

Phase 1: Identification of the priority goals for CCNE

2.2. Members were asked to review goals 1- 4 and identify their highest priority goal based on their experience and needs. Using this approach Goals 2, 3 and 4 were considered as the highest priority and the WG therefore focussed their next round of discussions on Goals 1, 2 and 3.

Phase 2: Identification of activities

2.3. Members worked in three sub-groups, each dealing with a different Strategic Goal and proposed the following practical and feasible activities to be implemented over the next two years.

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
Goal 2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles	2.1.1 Promote scientific research and studies on areas of common interest	The project documents and standards should be based on scientific evidence and data from the Member countries	Member countries		
	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.1.2 Exchange information and outcomes of studies through CCPs in the regional and electronic forums	Take advantage of expertise and the databases available in Member countries	Member countries		
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.	2.3.1 Work with the league of Arab States and other regional organizations to provide funding to support the elaboration of scientific advice	Provide sustainable and needed funds for the scientific advice	Regional coordinator with FAO/WHO		
Goal 3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	3.1.1. Organizing awareness raising programmes on the importance of Codex on a periodic basis targeting different levels from decision-makers to all stakeholders	Weak level of commitment and lack of knowledge among decision makers and stakeholders Lack of knowledge of national Codex teams on the working mechanisms of the Codex Alimentarius	Coodex Contact Points (CCPs) National Codex Committees FAO WHO regional and country offices	Increase in level of participation and contribution in different Codex committees Achieve a national commitment to Codex Alimentarius as a reference for food safety and quality standards Harmonization between national standards and regulations against Codex texts	Biannual survey reported to CCNE

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
Goal 4: Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.1. Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries	Increase the number of and access to training sessions on the working procedures of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies, based on available guidelines and tools in Arabic	To ensure members know the working mechanisms in countries and have a strong Codex infrastructure in countries (i.e. to prepare national positions, develop national policies regarding Codex, have a strong and well functioning CCP etc.)	FAO and WHO with the Regional Coordinator and Member countries	10% increase in participation in Codex work by Members from the region by 2021	Reports on participation by the Codex Secretariat
	4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.	Establish a list of countries that have difficulties to participate in Codex work and try to identify some parties/organizations to support their participation (virtually and physically), and assist in related aspects such facilitating the visa process.	Improve participation of developing countries, especially those facing particular challenges	Host country secretariats, Codex Secretariat, Other Members in the region, Regional Coordinator,	List of countries requiring support, processes to assist in visa (e.g. requesting invitation letters). Workshop on virtual participation and possible funding sources to support physical participation identified	Statistics on EWG, OCS and Committee meeting participation

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The WG considered that the above represented an important step towards the identification of the regional contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

3.2. The WG noted the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who was nominated as the next Coordinator in the region to provide resources to support implementation of the identified activities.

3.3. CCNE10 is invited to

- i) consider and agree with the priority goals and objectives identified by the working group;
- ii) consider the activities identified by the working group and provide feedback on their refinement and revision such as to ensure their implementation within the next two years; and
- iii) further consider the mechanism by which the implementation on activities will be reported as this is critical to the monitoring of the progress made on the implementation of the strategic plan; and
- iv) finalise the table above for inclusion in the report of this session.