

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 2

**CX/LAC 19/21/2
September 2019**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Twenty-first Session
Santiago, Chile, 21-25 October 2019

KEY NOTE ADDRESS:
THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT

(Prepared by the Regional Coordinator)

OVERVIEW

1. Science plays a fundamental role in Codex. When making decisions, Codex Committees and the Commission must take into consideration the results provided by the FAO/WHO scientific advice expert bodies and respect and reflect the science-based principles of decision-making in Codex.
2. In a world in which information is accessible to everyone, and where there is an abundance of irrelevant, misleading or incorrect information, sound science is struggling to make its way to regular people and decision-making authorities. This presents a real challenge also to multilateral organizations that work on the establishment of reference standards, such as Codex.
3. The presentation given by the Chilean Minister of Science will focus on 3 major aspects: (i) science as a tool for the decision-making process, (ii) the need to generate data and support science at the national level, and (iii) providing access to evidence and the role of science communication.
4. Using the keynote address as a basis for further discussion, CCLAC members are encouraged to share their experiences to address the use of science as a basis for their food safety management decisions regarding national food control systems.