

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 7

NASWP/14 CRD3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

14th Session

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 19 - 22 September 2016

MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN

(STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCNASWP 2014-2019)

Comments of Papua New Guinea

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the government of Papua New Guinea in this Regional forum as comments towards the Monitoring of the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan for CCNASWP 2014-2019), Status of Implementation.

The CCNASWP Strategic Plan 2014-2019 was developed and adopted by the Committee during the CCNASWP13 Session held in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea in 2014. This strategic plan needs to be reviewed and monitored to ensure its six (6) objectives and activities that were outlined have been achieved or yet to be achieved. The committee ensures that the CCNASWP Strategic Plan 2014-2019 was well aligned with the Global Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

Specific comments of Papua New Guinea

The comments of the Papua New Guinea is by monitoring and evaluating of every individual objectives and activities to made necessary comments where possible.

Objective 1: To strengthen the communication amongst CCNASWP members and the coordination of the region's activities in Codex. It is important to consult and coordinate with CCNASWP members and stakeholders in the country.

Activity 1.1 In most instances the CCNASWP members have been holding the pre-session meetings before the actual Codex meeting were held including CCEXEC and CAC sessions to strategize the regional positions.

Activity 1.2 Usually the QUAD countries are sharing written comments with PIC countries. Therefore, PICs need to step up and increase in the development of written comments and circulate it to other Member countries in the region to understand the national positions.

Activity 1.3 The sharing of information with use of electronic information system has been improved.

Activity 1.5 The former Coordinator (PNG) has been ensuring that there is a seamless transition of CCNASWP work to the new coordinator with checklist.

Objective 2: To promote maximum participation of all CCNASWP member countries of the region in the activities of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the CCNASWP region. It is important for developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex Committees and task forces significant to us.

Activity 2.1 All PICs should apply for new CTF2, FAO, WHO, UNDF, STDF and other national or international organizations to effectively participate in Codex activities.

Activity 2.2 PICs should coordinate applications and look elsewhere to attend other relevant Codex meetings, since CTF2 is geared for in country capacity building activities.

Activity 2.3 It is very important for CCNASWP members to participate both in electronic and physical working groups to submit national or regional comments. All comments submitted should also be shared in the region including PICs comments.

Activity 2.4 It is important to ensure that the comments sent by the CCNASWP Committee members should be considered and re-enforced at the meeting even in their absence.

Activity 2.5 CCNASWP members must continue to identify issues of importance to the region to enhance development of common position and advancement of regional interest in Codex and for the purpose of regional standards setting.

****Objective 3: To promote the development and enhancement of the capacities of the national codex contact points, national codex committees, delegates and stakeholders especially for the PIC members to carry out their core functions.**

**Activity 3.1 It is important to have functional Codex Contact Point (CCP) and effective structure to support stakeholder consultations and delegations development of national positions. This is a challenge for many PICs and if possible regional networking would assist us to effectively participate in codex to support CCPs and supporting structures of all members;

Activity 3.2 It is important to plan and implement regional workshops and conduct appropriate side events at every Codex meeting by FAO, WHO and all members.

Activity 3.3 There must be adequate networking of CCPs in the region especially PICs needs to be improved to share information and skills.

Activity 3.4 It is important for PICs CCPs to have on the job training and learn from experience CCPs by secondment and/or work attachments.

Activity 3.5 Members have to mobilize the available natural resources to increase participation in Codex.

Objective 4: To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise and information amongst member countries of the region. To involve scientific experts to participate in the development of codex standards.

**Activity 4.1 There is still exists a need to identify and prioritise regional issues to conduct scientific research / analysis / evidence. The region especially the PICs requires technical expertise /information and evidence on critical areas of interest in data generation, collection, analysis and storage for contribution to scientific advice;

**Activities 4.2 and 4.3 By conducting workshops on scientific areas of interest including risk assessment processes, the CCPs should provide or facilitate access to technical expertise / information.

Objective 5: To promote use of Codex standards, codex and guidelines as the basis for national standards development.

Activity 5.1 The NASWP region especially the PICs need workshops to support practical training on the importance of international harmonization in the development of national standards and regulations based on Codex;

**Activity 5.2 Through conducting National workshops, especially the PICs need to increase awareness on Codex to country stakeholders to ensure to increase in the development of country comments on relevant issues.

****Objective 6: To promote the development of Codex standards for specific food products produced in the PICs and other related issues.**

To identify and prioritise specific food products and other issues of interest to the region especially the PICs and ensure their needs are taken into account in the development of worldwide or regional texts.

**Activity 6.1 The PICs are yet to fully establish national mechanisms to identify prioritise and develop standards for food products in the South West Pacific region.

Activity 6.2 PICs must continue to establish electronic and physical working groups on fermented noni juice, kava and other food products and other related issues of interest to develop standards.

Activity 6.3 Continue to identify and submit all proposals for new standards for products and other related issues of interest to the PICs to the CCNASWP for consideration prior to submission to the Commission or other Committees, Task Forces and working groups for further attention. New proposal accepted as new work as to go through the CCNASWP forum before it is submitted to CAC and other committees.

Chairman, Papua New Guinea noted that whilst some objectives and activities are addressed and/or partially addressed, others seem to be ongoing. However, it is the responsibility of the region to take appropriate actions to address the activities that are not addressed.

General Comments of Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea believes that the PICs should share the six (6) objectives to ensure that each country has been allocated one objective to monitor and ensure its activities are implemented while QUAD countries can monitor all six (6) objectives.