



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
72nd Session**

WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 30 August - 1 September 2016

**APPLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN CODEx**

Background

1. During its Seventy-First Session, the Executive Committee (CCEXEC71) examined the document on the *Applications from International Non-Governmental Organizations for Observer Status in Codex* (Agenda Item 9.1).¹ CCEXEC71 recommended approval by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO of the applications from Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) and Food Industry Asia (FIA), but requested additional information from four NGOs, namely AGROCARE, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Studies (C4CCES), Global Harmonization Initiative (GHI) and Community Network for the Poor (RCP), and agreed to discuss their applications during its next meeting based on any new information provided.²

2. The Secretariat contacted AGROCARE, C4CCES, GHI and RCP asking for further information on the following issues:

- AGROCARE: whether having ALINA (now AGROCARE LATINOAMERICA) as one of its four member associations could result in double representation in Codex;
- C4CCES: whether it would meet the definition of an “international organization”;
- GHI: whether it would meet the requirements of internationality, adding value to Codex and links to the United Nations;
- RCP: whether it would meet the requirements of internationality.

3. The additional information provided for these applications is available in CRD1 (AGROCARE); CRD2 (C4CCES); CRD3 (GHI); and CRD4 (RCP-Network). The original applications, attached as Annexes to CX/EXEC 16/71/11, will be made available during the session.

4. The Representatives of the Offices of Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO will provide information at the session on any further research that might be necessary concerning some of the applicants and any conditions to be included in case of acceptance e.g. for reason of double representation.

Recommendation

5. In accordance with Rule IX.6 of the *Rules of Procedure and the Principles Concerning the Participation of International Non-Governmental Organizations in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission*, CCEXEC72 is invited to provide advice to the Directors-General of FAO and WHO on the applications for observer status by AGROCARE, C4CCES, GHI and RCP.

¹ [CX/EXEC 16/71/11](#); CRD1 (AGROCARE); CRD2 (C4CCES); CRD3 (GHI); CRD4 (RCP-Network)

² [REP16/EXEC](#), paras 109-110

Update post CCEXEC71 on NGOs maintaining observer status in Codex

6. Based on the review of NGOs in Observer Status in Codex,³ CCEXEC71 recommended termination of observer status for 21 NGOs (Table I and II of CX/EXEC 16/71/12).⁴ Two NGOs, namely European Wax Federation (EWF) and International Seed Federation (ISF), subsequently contacted the Secretariat in July 2016 stating that their lack of participation and response was due to internal changes in their respective structures.

7. The Executive Committee, in light of the interest expressed by the two NGOs and the explanations provided on their participation in Codex activities, is therefore invited to note that EWF and ISF will maintain observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

8. The Executive Committee is also invited to note that the 49th Parallel Biotechnology Consortium (49P) informed the Secretariat that it is no longer interested in maintaining observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The EXEC is therefore invited to consider recommending termination of observer status.

³ [CX/EXEC 16/71/12](#)

⁴ [REP16/EXEC](#), para. 112