



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

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FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TO CODEX: BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL MATTERS¹

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

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 17/40/14](#). This paper provides a summary of the resources made available for the provision of scientific advice to Codex in 2016-17 by FAO and WHO and the available resources, as of May 2017, 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 extra-budgetary contributions from Member States and other donors rather than through the Regular Programme budget (i.e. assessed contributions). The scientific advice programme is implemented by the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses and the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development.
3. For the biennium 2016-17, the planned activity costs for scientific advice are estimated at USD 2,199,807 in food safety and USD 1 003 200 in nutrition, based on actual expenditures in the previous biennium. Estimated staff costs are USD 2 657 602 in food safety and USD 2 282 264 USD in nutrition (including relevant and related scientific advice and guideline development work in nutrition).
4. By May 2017, Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, 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 368 561 in food safety and USD 319 889 in nutrition for the current biennium. Currently the salaries of staff both in food safety and nutrition are partly covered through 2017.
5. The scientific advice activity of WHO heavily depends on extra-budgetary contribution received from a small number of Member States, which is gratefully acknowledged.

FAO budget

6. 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 mainly under one Output, which helps to ensure for continuity and quality of scientific advice. In 2016-17, 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 and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division. Scientific advice on nutrition, when requested, is provided by the Nutrition and Food Systems Division.
7. For the biennium 2016-17, USD 3 919 000 is budgeted for activity and staff costs related to scientific advice to Codex, including USD 3 538 000 in food safety and USD 381 000 in nutrition. All staff costs and approximately 70% of the costs of activities, amounting to USD 3 415 000, are supported by FAO's Regular Programme budget. The remaining USD 504 000 is funded from extrabudgetary contributions which were, thus far, received from Canada and the France.

¹ This document has also been included in the agenda of EXEC73 as document CX/EXEC 17/73/10. CAC40 will consider this matter based on any recommendations of CCEXEC73.

8. FAO gratefully acknowledges Canada's commitment to second a food safety officer for 2 years to FAO headquarters and the extrabudgetary contributions for JMPR, JEMRA and JEMNU received from Canada and France to strengthen FAO's scientific advice programme.
9. The recognition of key meetings and consultations for scientific advice 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 staff costs and non-staff activities in the current biennium and is gratefully acknowledged.

Conclusion

10. 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).
11. FAO and WHO would like to recall for the Commission that the available funds for scientific advice have remained constant over the past years, while the number and complexity of the scientific advice requested have noticeably increased. As previously², this has led and continues to lead to an increasing backlog of requests for scientific advice, and delay in implementation of other measures, such as improvements of databases and of methods update.
12. Overall, the combined 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.

² http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-39%252FWD%252Fcac39_17e.pdf