

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 7.2

CX/EURO 19/31/CRD8

Original Language Only

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE**

Thirty-first Session

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 30 September – 4 October 2019

**REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC
PLAN 2020-2025**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. An in-session working group was established by CCEURO31 to consider paper CX/EURO 19/21/10 and any other relevant information (Agenda item 3.2 and CRD4) and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Plenary on the activities to be implemented in the region in the next two years to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix III of document CX/EURO 19/21/10).

1.2. The working group was chaired by the United Kingdom. The Chair recalled the importance of inclusivity and collaboration and that all Members had a responsibility for implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The Chair further 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 two phases.

Phase 1: Identification of the priority goals for CCEURO

2.2. Members were asked to review Strategic Goals 1-4 and identify their highest priority goal based on their experience and needs. Using this approach, Goals 1 and 2 were considered as the highest priority. Goal 5 was not considered as CCEURO is not identified as one of the responsible parties for this goal.

2.3. The WG agreed to therefore focus their next round of discussions on Goals 1 and 2.

Phase 2: Identification of activities

2.4. Members were split into two sub-groups, one addressing Strategic Goal 1 and the other Strategic Goal 2. Each group considered practical and feasible activities to be implemented over the next two years and made the following proposals:

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The WG considered that Table 1 represented an achievable and impactful regional contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

3.2. CCEURO31 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 any refinement and revision needed; and
- iii) finalise Table 1 for inclusion in the report of CCEURO31.

TABLE 1: ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE CCEURO REGION IN 2020-2021 UNDER THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

PRIORITY GOAL	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2021	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE OR LEAD PARTY	EXPECTED OUTPUT BY 2021	REPORTING MECHANISM
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	1.1.1 Collect information on country's current, emerging and critical issues using and refining existing mechanisms.	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country	Regional Coordinator / FAO / WHO	Compiled list of issues and needs of Member countries	Survey questionnaires
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues	1.2.1 Use current prioritization information available from Codex committees	Current procedures for evaluating and prioritizing emerging issues could be used (and enhanced by the RC as appropriate) to assess and prioritize needs of the region	Member countries / Regional coordinator	Prioritized needs will be established	Report of the coordinator (e.g. under the Agenda Item on Codex work relevant to the region)
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.2.1 To select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies' calls for data a topic for a pilot of a co-ordinated approach by Europe region	This will maximise the provision and use of data by the region of the selected topic. It will also allow the identification of problems and barriers to data submission that may exist in different countries of the region	Member countries, with co-ordination by the Regional Co-ordinator and facilitation by FAO and WHO	Shared learning on how to optimise future data submission	Report on the pilot to CCEURO32 with lessons learned
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice	2.3.1 To contribute to the drafting of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety, as proposed in the letter from Member States of the EU and others to DG WHO ¹ 2.3.2 To communicate within countries and to Geneva-based missions to ensure adoption of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety	To incorporate within the World Health Assembly resolution a mechanism to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for science from WHO	Member countries	A WHO commitment to sufficient and sustainable funding from its core budget	As part of the WHO report to CAC43 in July 2020

¹ CX/EURO 19/31/CRD4