

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda 2a

FFP/34 CRD/7

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

34th Session
Ålesund, Norway, 19 - 24 October 2015

DRAFT REPLIES OF CCFFP34 TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Prepared by the Norwegian and Codex Secretariats

Draft Replies of CCFFP34 is shown in **and Underlined** font.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues.	1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC	1.1.1: Consistently apply decision-making and priority-setting criteria across Committees to ensure that the standards and work areas of highest priority are progressed in a timely manner.	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner	- Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied. - # of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES Does the Committee use any specific criteria for standards development? The Committee uses the "Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities" in the Procedural Manual, as criteria for standards development. Does the Committee intend to develop such criteria? No as for now. The Committee could develop specific criteria in future, if the need arises.</p>				
	1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.	1.2.1: Develop a systematic approach to promote identification of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition, and fair practices in the food trade.	Timely Codex response to emerging issues and to the needs of Members.	- Committees implement systematic approaches for identification of emerging issues. - Regular reports on systematic approach and emerging issues made to the CCEXEC through the Codex Secretariat.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES How does the Committee identify emerging issues and members needs? Emerging issues identified by Members, other committees or FAO/WHO are brought to the attention of the Committee. Is there a systematic approach? Is it necessary to develop such an approach? Currently, there is no systematic approach; however, there may be a need to develop one should the current process found to be insufficient.</p>				
		1.2.2: Develop and revise international and	Improved ability of Codex to develop	- Input from committees identifying

		regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	and prioritizing needs of Members. - Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address the needs of the Members as part of critical review process.
Included in question to 1.2.				
2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice.	2.1.1: Use the scientific advice of the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies to the fullest extent possible in food safety and nutrition standards development based on the "Working Principles of Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius".	Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	- # of times the need for scientific advice is: - identified, - requested and, - utilized in a timely manner.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES Does the committee request scientific advice in course of its work, how often does it request such advice? Does the committee always use the scientific advice, if not, why not?</p> <p>The Committee had requested scientific advice from FAO/WHO. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the "Public health risks of histamine and other biogenic amines in fish and fishery products" held in July 23-27, 2012; and</u> • <u>The Expert Group on Salmonella in bivalves, physical meeting held in October 21-21 2011.</u> <p><u>The Committee uses the scientific advice it has requested, but not all the subjects handled by the Committee need scientific advice.</u></p>				
		2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	- # of scientists and technical experts as part of Member delegations. - # of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES How do members make sure that the necessary scientific input is given into country positions and that the composition of the national delegation allows to adequately present and discuss this position? What guidance could be given by the Committee or FAO and WHO?</p> <p><u>Prior to developing and advancing a country's position, Members engage national scientific and technical expertise from within and outside government. Delegations include experts who have technical knowledge and expertise to participate in the discussions. CCFFP believes that there is no need for specific guidance from FAO/WHO at this point.</u></p>				
		2.1.3: Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex	Enhanced identification, and documentation of all relevant factors considered by committees during	- # of committee documents identifying all relevant factors guiding risk management recommendations.

		standard development.	the development of Codex standards.	- # of committee documents clearly reflecting how those relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES How does the Committee ensure that all relevant factors have been taken into account when developing a standard and how are these documented? <u>The Committee considers all relevant factors provided in the Procedural Manual and also ensures that “Working Principles for Risk Analysis” is consistently applied when exploring risk management options. The relevant discussion is captured in reports of the Committee or its working groups.</u></p>				
		2.1.4: Communicate the risk management recommendations to all interested parties.	Risk management recommendations are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	- # of web publication/communications relaying Codex standards. - # of media releases disseminating Codex standards.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES When taking a risk management decision, does the committee give guidance to members how to communicate this decision? Would more consideration of this be helpful to members? <u>Communication of the risk management recommendations are done through standards, guidelines, and other related texts, which are posted on the Codex website. The Committee does not give specific guidance to Members on how to communicate this decision.</u></p>				
3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.5: To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.	Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.	- Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES Is the use of official languages in working groups of the committee sufficient? What are the factors determining the choice of languages? <u>The use of official languages in working groups of the Committee is sufficient. The Committee tries to use as many official languages to the extent possible. The Committee determines the choice of language based primarily on the availability of resources. The Committee uses English for electronic working groups. All physical working groups held immediately prior to a session are held in English, French and Spanish.</u> How could the situation be improved? <u>Promoting the co-chairing arrangements might facilitate the use of other official language than English.</u></p>				
	3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.3: Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and Members.	- . # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings.
<p>Question to the Committee: Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? YES Does the Committee organize technical capacity activities or other activities in the margins of Committee</p>				

sessions? If yes – how many and with which topics have been organized in the past. If no – could this be useful and what topics could be addressed?

Seminar for the first -time delegates are conducted in the margins of the plenary meeting.

CCFFP have also held side events of topics of relevance, i.e. FAO sampling tool.

4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process.	4.1.4: Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents in the working languages of the Committee/ Commission.	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baseline Ratio (%) established for documents distributed at least 2 months prior to versus less than 2 months prior to a scheduled meeting. - Factors that potentially delay the circulation of documents identified and addressed. - An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.
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Question to the Committee:

Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? **YES**

Does the Committee have a mechanism in place to ensure timely distribution of documents? What could be done to further improve the situation?

Clear and workable timelines are agreed in advanced between the Codex secretariat, host secretariat and leads of working groups or members responsible for the development of working documents.

Norway as host is committed to providing translation of working documents in a timely manner.

All members are encouraged to respect deadlines.

		4.1.5: Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and Members	- # of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
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Question to the Committee:

Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? **YES**

Does the Committee hold physical working groups independent of Committee sessions? If yes – why is this necessary?

Physical Working Groups are mainly scheduled to be held in conjunction with sessions of the Committee.

	4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1: Improve the understanding of Codex Members and delegates of the importance of and approach to consensus building of Codex work.	Members and delegates awareness of the importance of consensus in the Codex standard setting process improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training material on guidance to achieve consensus developed and made available in the languages of the Commission to delegates. - Regular dissemination of existing material to Members through Codex Contact Points. - Delegate training programs held in association with Codex meetings. - Impediments to
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				consensus being achieved in Codex identified and analyzed and additional guidance developed to address such impediments, if necessary.
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Question to the Committee:

Is this activity relevant to the work of the Committee? **YES**

Are there problems with finding consensus in the Committee? If yes – what are the impediments to consensus? What has been attempted and what more could be done?

CCFFP has experienced some difficulties in the past in finding consensus when developing standards and also discussing the need for new work proposals. The Committee tries to address these issues by making the best use of eWG, pWG and/or in-session working groups, and especially for the new work proposal by respecting the relevant provisions of the Procedural Manual. Every effort is also made to ensure the provision of information in advance of meetings to allow sufficient time for discussion.