



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### Twentieth Session

Viña del Mar, Chile, 21-25 November 2016

### PRIORITIZATION OF THE NEEDS OF THE REGION AND POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THEM

#### Introduction and background

1. This paper follows from the summary and analysis of critical and emerging food safety and quality issues in agenda item 3a, CX/LAC 16/20/3, and aims to promote discussion by the Committee in order to explore the priority issues highlighted in the responses to the questionnaire on critical and emerging food safety and quality issues and; consider and recommend appropriate follow up action, which may occur at national, regional or international levels.
2. The CCLAC provides a platform for collaboration between Members to address priority issues in the region.
3. The outcome of the discussion and recommendations will be reflected in the Committee report.

#### Priority critical and emerging food safety and quality issues

4. The two critical issues that arise from the results presented in agenda item 3a are regulatory landscape and capacity development. The emerging issues that arise from the same paper are regulatory landscape, climate change, consumption trends and new technologies. When both issues are combined (Figure 3) regulatory landscape and AMR rank first and second, respectively. Due to the fact that one third of the countries responded, it may be necessary to have further discussion on the priorities for the LAC region.
5. It is important to highlight the necessity to update the regulations: The food safety system in the region should have a regulatory framework which identifies the responsibilities of the stakeholders in the food continuum; with a clear definition of the obligations of the public authorities; acknowledging its international obligations; defining control and enforcement mechanisms; protecting the rights of consumers; consistent with the advances in science and technology, and in harmony with international standards; it also should integrate in its structure the effective and coordinated work of the Codex Alimentarius national committee, and its related technical committees.
6. Besides, food control management in LAC region needs to be strengthened. There is an absence of a food safety policy. The countries must establish the development of this policy as a priority by taking into account its impact on the population's health and in food trade. Having an adequate policy will promote the development of efficient and well equipped food monitoring programs, surveillance and laboratory services, as well as structured and coordinated risk based inspection services with capacity to respond in case of food emergencies or violations to the laws in force, as well as management actions integrated and coordinated with the private sector.
7. **To support the discussion at the CCLAC, the Committee is asked to reflect on the relevance of the issues to the region, and any relevant follow up action that might be needed (within or outside of Codex). In doing so, please consider:**
  - Sharing views during the RCC on relevance of the issue to your country, and any ongoing activity in your country or region relevant to the topic
  - Could one or more issues(s) merit any follow up action within the Codex system
    - Whether a direct activity could be carried out by your government (with industry or consumers if relevant)

- Could one or more issue(s) be supported through ongoing or future capacity development support from FAO, WHO or other bilaterals

**Conclusions**

8. These two papers (3a and 3b) exemplify an exercise for prospective thinking in food safety and quality at the regional level. The recommendations received will allow FAO and WHO, the Codex Secretariat and the RCC to address relevant issues in food safety and quality.

9. The discussion to address priority critical and emerging issues will be a standing item on the agenda for CCLAC.