# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION ${f E}$





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REP13/EURO

# JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

#### **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

Thirty-sixth Session
Rome, Italy, 1-5 July 2013

# REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Batumi, Georgia 25-28 September 2012

Note: This document incorporates Circular Letter CL 2012/32-EURO

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CX 3.1 CL 2012/32-EURO October 2012

**TO:** Codex Contact Points

**Interested International Organizations** 

**FROM:** Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme,

FAO, 00153 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Distribution of the Report of the 28th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee

for Europe (REP13/EŪRO)

# MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE $36^{\mathrm{TH}}$ SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

# Draft Standard at Step 5/8 of the Procedure

Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles (para. 48, Appendix II)

Governments wishing to propose amendments or comments on the above document should do so in writing in conformity with the Guide to the Consideration of Standards at Step 8 and Step 5/8 (see Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) to the above address **before 27 February 2013**.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The summary and conclusions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe are as follows:

# **Matters for consideration by the Commission**:

The Committee:

- advanced the Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles to Step 5/8 for adoption (para. 48, Appendix II); and
- agreed to nominate the Netherlands for appointment as Regional Coordinator (para. 86).

# **Other matters of interest to the Commission:**

The Committee:

- agreed to return the Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Ayran for redrafting, comments at Step 3 and consideration at the next session (para. 60);
- considered the Draft Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and made several comments and proposals (paras. 17-36 and Appendix III);
- considered the following matters referred by the Commission: processed cheese (paras. 10-11); and the establishment of a Committee on spices, aromatic herbs and their formulations (paras. 12-16); and
- exchanged updated information on national food control systems, food legislation, participation in Codex work and FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice, national structures for Codex matters, the use of Codex standards (paras. 62-70) and nutrition issues in the region (paras. 71-82).

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opening of the	Session	1-8
Adoption of the	e Agenda	9
	g from the Codex Alimentarius Commission ex Committees	10-16
Draft Codex Str	rategic Plan 2014-2019	17-36
	AO and WHO complementary to the work limentarius Commission	37-43
Proposed Draft	Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles	44-48
Proposed Draft	Regional Standard for Ayran	49-61
for Codex matt use of Codex st	control systems, Codex Contact Points and other national structures ers including consumer participation in food standards setting; tandards and related texts at national level; on in Codex work and in FAO/WHO activities on scientific advice	62-70
	s within the Region	
	the Coordinator	
Other Business	and Future Work	
- MRL for	Ractopamnine	90-93
Date and Place	of the Next Session	94
	APPENDICES	
		Pages
Appendix I	List of Participants	12
Appendix II	Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles (at Step 5/8)	22
Annendiy III	Draft Codey Strategic Plan 2014-2019: Amendments proposed by CCEURO	27

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe held its 28<sup>th</sup> Session in Batumi, Georgia, from 25 to 28 September 2012 at the kind invitation of the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Poland. The Session was chaired by Professor Krzysztof Kwiatek, Head of Department of Hygiene of Animal Feedingstuffs, National Veterinary Research Institute, and attended by 86 delegates representing 40 member countries, one member organisation, two observer countries and two international organizations. A complete list of participants is presented in Appendix I to this report.

#### OPENING OF THE SESSION

- 2. Mrs Donari Surmanidze, Minister of Agriculture of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara, welcomed participants and wished them all success in their work. She highlighted the importance of the work of the Committee for Georgia, as the country intended to participate actively in regional and international cooperation, and to ensure that its national standards were consistent with European Union and international standards.
- 3. Mr Tornike Mgaloblishvili, Deputy Head, National Food Agency, indicated that Georgia was currently reforming its food control system, in the perspective of the development of a trade agreement with the European Union: a national food safety strategy had been developed and approximation to EU regulations was underway. He recalled that food production and trade are very important in Georgia, which is home to a wide variety of climatic zones and agricultural products.
- 4. Mr, Marek Chrzanowski, Representative of the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Georgia, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, stressed the importance of Codex as a basis for national legislation, and the need to reflect on the decisions of the last session of the Commission in which the principle of consensus had not been followed. Noting that the session would discuss important general issues and regional standards, he recalled the role of the Committee to increase awareness of Codex standards and the need to strengthen food safety systems. He thanked the Government of Georgia as co-host of the session and FAO, WHO and the Trust Fund for their support.
- 5. The Representative of WHO thanked the Government of Georgia for their hospitality and organisation of the session and Poland for chairing and co-hosting the Committee, and highlighted the importance of food safety for public health, the vulnerability of the food chain and the international dimension of foodborne diseases. She noted that food safety requires constant alertness and preparedness, inter-sectorial cooperation, timely and efficient surveillance and monitoring, information sharing, risk communication and international collaboration. She stressed the importance of Codex in view of the risks associated with increased trade and the utmost importance of ensuring food safety in international trade.
- 6. The Representative of FAO thanked the Governments of Georgia and Poland for co-organizing and hosting the event and noted the presence at this session of governmental and non-governmental representatives of key sectors with responsibilities and common interest to ensure food safety and quality along the entire food chain and to maintain consumer confidence in the food supply all joined this forum to define priorities for the region in strengthening food safety systems, improving nutrition and contributing to further regional and international food standards development process. The Representative wished delegates a fruitful and successful session.
- 7. The Chairperson recalled that, as Codex would celebrate fifty years of existence and was in the process of developing its new Strategic Plan 2014-2019, this was an opportunity to reflect on its achievements, opportunities and challenges. He recalled that the Committee had an important role to develop awareness of food safety issues, and noted with satisfaction that the large participation in the session reflected the importance of Codex work in the region.

# **Division of competence**

8. The Committee noted the division of competence between the European Union and its Member States, as presented in CRD 1, according to Rule II.5 of the Rules of Procedure.

# ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)1

9. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda as its agenda for the Session and agreed to discuss under Agenda Item 10 - Other Business and Future Work the decision making process that led to the adoption of the MRL for ractopamine at the 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission, as proposed by the Delegation of the European Union in CRD 2.

# MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 2)<sup>2</sup>

# **Proposed Draft Standard for Processed Cheese**

- 10. The Committee recalled that the Commission had agreed to discontinue work on the development of a standard for processed cheese and following further discussion, had agreed to request Coordinating Committees to discuss the need for such a standard.
- 11. The Committee recalled that despite considerable efforts, the Committee on Milk and Milk Products could not finalise the revision of the standards due to divergence of views, that it was unlikely that such difficult work could be completed, that there were no trade impediments due to the lack of a standard, and therefore concluded that Codex should not undertake any work to develop a standard for processed cheese.

# Establishment of a Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their Formulations.

- 12. The Committee recalled that the Commission had considered a proposal from India for the establishment of a Committee on spices, aromatic herbs and their formulations and had agreed to ask the Coordinating Committees for their views on this proposal.
- 13. The Delegation of India introduced the rationale for the proposal presented in CX/EURO 12/28/2-Add.1: a large range of widely different national standards existed for spices and related products; the lack of harmonized standards could result in barriers to trade; and the main producers of spices were in developing countries. As regards the scope, the standards should cover different forms (whole and processed) and include only quality provisions as food safety aspects were covered by general committees, and reference would be made to relevant Codex texts. ISO standards covered only a limited range of spices specifications and more comprehensive work could be accomplished in an intergovernmental organisation, while taking into account current ISO standards. Although spices were of plant origin, they could not be considered by the two existing committees responsible for fruit and vegetables. The Delegation indicated that the wide range of products covered would not make it possible for a time limited task force to complete the work, and also outlined the mechanism and time schedule of the proposed committee.
- 14. The Committee noted a proposal to change the title of the products covered to "culinary herbs" rather than "aromatic herbs" for clarification purposes and to ensure consistency with the relevant ISO standard.
- 15. Several delegations considered this proposal positively but could not take a position as they needed to consult with stakeholders at the national level, and some questions remained to be considered: the range of products and quality parameters covered, the need to identify existing standards in various regions and potential trade problems, the additional work for the Codex programme as a whole and the possibility to convene a task force.
- 16. The Committee thanked India for this presentation and agreed that there seemed to be justification for the establishment of a subsidiary body on spices and related products and suggested considering this issue further when the discussion paper prepared by India became available for consideration by the next session of the Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/2, CX/EURO 12/28/2-Add.1

# DRAFT CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 (Agenda Item 3)<sup>3</sup>

- 17. The Committee recalled the process followed in the development of the Draft Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 since its last session and the decisions of the 67<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee and 35<sup>th</sup> Commission concerning further steps. Coordinating Committees were invited to focus on the work plan and the activities presented in the revised draft prepared by the Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC).
- 18. The Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng-Pernet, highlighted the main aspects of the draft: the dual mandate reflected in the Strategic Vision; the core values, including consensus; the need to be proactive to address emerging issues (Goal 1); the critical role of risk analysis (Goal 2); the continued relevance of Goal 3 on effective participation; and the new activities and work plan.
- 19. The Committee noted with appreciation that the Strategic Plan had been significantly shortened, provided guidance to all responsible parties and would be useful to raise the awareness of policy makers regarding Codex work.
- 20. The Committee considered the text section by section and made the following comments and amendments.

#### Introduction

21. The Committee deleted the reference to "quality" in the second paragraph it was not relevant for risk analysis, and clarified that the Commission acts as risk manager. It was agreed to delete the note referring to the *Statements of Principle* because the provisions of the Procedural Manual on other factors are always applicable and should not be repeated in the Strategic Plan. A similar note in the section on "Drivers for Change" was also deleted for consistency.

#### Goal 1

#### Objective 1.2

- 22. The Committee agreed that Activity 1.2.1 should read "promote consideration of emerging issues" as developing "a process for proactively identifying issues" would result in focusing on the process, using up time and resources which would be better used to address actual emerging issues. It was noted that, when emerging food safety issues occurred, FAO and WHO or members should bring them to the attention of the relevant committees.
- 23. The Committee agreed to delete Activity 1.2.3 as the development of a mechanism measuring the implementation of Codex standards was not the responsibility of Codex, but rather of the WTO SPS or TBT Committees, and recalled that the (revoked) acceptance procedure had never been applied in practice.

#### Objective 1.3

- 24. In Activity 1.3.1, the Committee deleted the phrase "consistent methodologies and approaches" which could create confusion with the provisions on cooperation with IGOs specified in the Procedural Manual.
- 25. The Committee agreed that it was not the role of other standard-setting organisations to identify the needs for Codex standards, but rather that cooperation should "further the Codex mandate".

#### Objective 2.1

26. The title was amended to refer only to risk analysis principles as they include scientific advice.

# Objective 2.2

27. The Committee replaced the term "expert bodies" with "expert advice" to cover all cases and not only advice from the bodies mentioned in Activities 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

#### Goal 4

28. Objective 4.1 was amended to reflect that timely adoption of standards was not an objective *per se*, and it was more important to ensure the credibility and consistency of the process, so that standards could meet the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/3, CX/EURO 12/28/3-Add.1

expectations of all members. In Activity 4.1.1, the term "procedures" was deleted as procedures were established on a long term basis and only processes should be reviewed periodically.

# Appendix 2. Draft Work Plan

#### Goal 1

- 29. Under Activity 1.1.2, the Committee noted that while the CCEXEC could review its own working processes internally, any proposed amendment to the procedure should be forwarded to the Committee on General Principles (CCGP) and adopted by the Commission. The indicators were grouped in order to retain only two steps: to consider the critical review and to propose changes in a single report to the CCEXEC, following which the CCEXEC could make recommendations and, if required, forward them to the CCGP.
- 30. For Activity 1.2.1, a reference to fair practice in food trade was added in the last column to make it consistent with the Activity.
- 31. For Activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, the reference to CCEXEC was deleted as amendments to procedures for collaboration with International Governmental Organisations (IGOs) are the responsibility of CCGP.

#### Goal 2

- 32. In Activity 2.1.3 Expected Outcome, the Committee agreed to replace the term "non-science factors" with "all relevant factors" to make the text consistent with the Activity.
- 33. In Activity 2.1.4 it was clarified that communication of risk management decisions was the role of the Commission and the Codex Secretariat.

#### Goal 3

34. For Activity 3.1.1, it was agreed that encouraging member countries to strengthen national structures was addressed to all members and was the role of the Commission, not the CCEXEC. As regards 3.1.3 on planning the successive initiative to the Trust Fund, the responsible parties were amended to refer to the Commission and FAO and WHO. A similar amendment was made to Activity 3.2.1

#### Goal 4

35. The Committee deleted the reference to "procedures" in the "Indicators" to ensure consistency with the amendment made to Activity 4.1.1.

### Conclusion

36. The Committee concluded that the Draft Strategic Plan was well advanced and had a good structure, and will provide important guidance for Codex members as well as a very informative and concise source of information for high level decision makers in Codex member countries. However, taking into account that important issues still needed to be clarified, the Committee proposed a number of changes for consideration by the Sub-Committee of the CCEXEC, as detailed above and presented in Appendix III.

# FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Agenda Item 4)<sup>4</sup>

- 37. The Committee considered the activities carried out by FAO and WHO in the region since its 27<sup>th</sup> session, as presented in CX/EURO 12/28/4.
- 38. The WHO Representative pointed out that several capacity building capacities undertaken jointly by FAO and WHO are funded by Codex Trust Fund. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:
  - upgrading the capacity of developing and transition countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/4, CX/EURO 12/28/4-Add.1, CX/EURO 12/28/4-Add.2

- enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply;
- strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.
- 39. The WHO Representative gave an overview of the activities implemented in the European region with WHO as a lead organizer during the last two years. The focus has been on countries with economies in transition in the Russian speaking sub-region and Balkan sub-region. Activities include national and sub-regional workshops on antimicrobial resistance from a food safety perspective, a sub-regional training course on Codex work in the Balkans, a training course on foodborne infections surveillance and control for Russian speaking countries, and national workshops on food safety strategies and food safety risk communication.
- 40. The Representative also made reference to direct assistance to countries, including a project in Albania on seafood safety, and noted that the workshop held in Turkmenistan in June 2012 was very useful in the process to become a Codex member. Lastly, WHO is supporting all countries in times of food safety emergencies and outbreaks of foodborne diseases.
- 41. The FAO Representative indicated that FAO capacity development activities in the region on ensuring safety and quality of food at all stages of the food chain have been carried out in member countries with transition economies and addressed the following areas:
- Promotion of understanding and application of the risk analysis framework at country level;
- Application of good practices along the food chain, including HACCP;
- Promotion of knowledge on Codex structure, procedures, Codex Committees' mandates and current work, including the pre-CCEURO workshop held on 24 September 2012;
- Raising contributions of the food and agriculture sectors to improving nutrition, including the promotion of special quality food linked to geographical origin; and
- Translation into Russian of the FAO guide on the application of a risk analysis framework for national authorities.
- 42. Technical assistance has been provided directly to countries through field projects. Two project documents are formulated for two countries in the region one on food safety risk management for food processing enterprises and national authorities in Kyrgyzstan and other one for providing support to rural development through implementation of Geographical Indication schemes in Ukraine. A project on strengthening food safety in Moldova in line with EU and international requirements in selected areas is underway, including a component on strengthening the national Codex structures.

#### **Codex Trust Fund**

43. The Committee noted the updates presented in CX/EURO 12/28/4-Add 1 and the pilot initiative carried out in the Committee on Food Hygiene concerning practical examples on the establishment and application of microbiological criteria, as related to the revision of the "Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods" (CX/EURO 12/28/4-Add 2).

#### PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR CHANTERELLES

#### (Agenda Item 5)<sup>5</sup>

44. The Committee recalled that, following the proposal of its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, the Commission had approved as new work the revision of the Regional Standard for Chanterelles and that the delegations of Belgium, European Union, France and Poland had prepared a Proposed Draft Revised Standard for comments and consideration by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session. The Committee noted that document CX/EURO 12/28/5-Add.1 had not been prepared as no comments had been received.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/5

- 45. The Committee agreed to add the following species to section 1. Definition of Produce, under 1.2 Genus Craterellus: *Craterellus lutescens*; common name: Yellow Foot; and commercial type: Winter Chanterelle
- 46. The Committee supported the revised text as presented in the working document and noted that it was harmonised with the UNECE Standard for Chanterelles.
- 47. In reply to a question on the inclusion of specific provisions in the section on Contaminants, it was noted that current practice was to insert a reference to the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Foods, in which all existing maximum levels for contaminants are listed, including those which may apply to mushrooms, such as provisions for "all foods". If delegations wished to establish a specific maximum level for a contaminant in a commodity, they should put forward their proposal in the Committee on Contaminants in Foods with the relevant justification and data.

# Status of the Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles

48. The Committee agreed to forward the Proposed Draft Standard to the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 with the omission of Steps 6 and 7 (See Appendix II).

# PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR AYRAN (Agenda Item 6)<sup>6</sup>

- 49. The Committee recalled that, as proposed by its 27<sup>th</sup> Session, the 34<sup>th</sup> Commission had approved new work on a Regional Standard for Ayran, and that an electronic working group and a physical working group chaired by Turkey had prepared a Proposed Draft Standard for comments and consideration by the 28<sup>th</sup> Session.
- 50. The Delegation of Turkey recalled that the Proposed Draft had been developed through a participatory process involving two rounds of consultations in the electronic WG, followed by a physical meeting.
- 51. The Delegation indicated that a standard was necessary in view of the wide consumption and trade in this product, and expressed the following position: ayran was characterised by the presence of live bacteria and a protein content of 2%, and fermented milk was its main component; in the Standard for Fermented Milks (CODEX STAN 243-2003) a reference to heat treatment existed but it was not in the description of the products, which should focus on the essential characteristics; in addition there was no intention to prevent marketing of heat treated products but these should not be marketed as ayran as this would mislead consumers. The Delegation also noted that there had been agreement in the working group on the description of the product, which did not refer to heat treatment.
- 52. The Delegation of Germany, supported by other delegations, expressed the view that heat treated ayran existed on the market and should be covered by the standard, and proposed to include "heat treated ayran" in the Description.
- 53. The Committee had some discussion on a proposal to amend the Scope to delete the second sentence referring to the Standard for Fermented Milk, and to transfer it to the section on Description, but recognised that as long as the main issue of the use of heat treatment was not addressed, no progress could be made and the standard could not be considered in detail.
- 54. Some delegations pointed out that Codex standards should be developed in a generic manner in order to cover as widely as possible all products on the market, as in the case of fermented milks and other commodities.
- 55. The Observer from IDF expressed the view that the standard should not contradict the requirements of the Standard for Fermented Milks; the discussion should not be re-opened on issues concerning fermented milks; and the standard should encompass ayran as already produced and sold in the CCEURO region, as Codex standards should facilitate fair trade.
- 56. The Committee noted a comment that the composition and production process of ayran should ensure that it was halal since this product is widely marketed in many Muslim countries.
- 57. The Committee noted the information from the Delegation of the Russian Federation that legislation existed at the national level and it was proposed to ask information from countries on their national standards on

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/6, CX/EURO 12/28/6 (comments of Turkey, IDF)

ayran in order to inform further debate on the standard, especially as regards the definition. It was noted that some observer organisations may have relevant information available and that such information could also be provided by delegations in further discussion on the standard

- 58. The Chair noted that there were major issues requiring in-depth consideration and that there was also a strong will of delegations to cooperate to address the scope and use of heat treatment as well as other aspects, and he recalled the basic principles of standard-setting on the basis of consensus and the need to encompass all relevant products to ensure the relevance of the standard for all countries in the region.
- 59. The Committee recognised that it was not possible to proceed further at this session and agreed that the issue of heat treatment and other technical provisions should be further considered in a physical working group, as it would be difficult to address these complex questions by electronic means.

# Status of the Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Ayran

- 60. The Committee therefore agreed to establish a physical working group, co-chaired by Turkey and Germany, working in English, to further work on the redrafting of the Regional Standard for Ayran, for comments at Step 3 and consideration at the next session. The Co-chairs were encouraged to seek also to provide interpretation into Russian, in view of the high interest of this standard for Russian-speaking countries in Central Asia.
- 61. The Committee welcomed the information from the Representative of FAO that the Codex Trust Fund could support the participation of countries in working groups, in addition to Codex sessions. The Representative also recommended that member countries supported by the Trust Fund should ensure continuity in their participation in Codex meetings to optimise countries' contributions.

NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS, CODEX CONTACT POINTS AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS INCLUDING CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING; USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS AT NATIONAL LEVEL; AND PARTICIPATION IN CODEX WORK AND IN FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES ON SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (Agenda Item 7)<sup>7</sup>

- 62. The Committee noted with appreciation that many countries had provided detailed replies to CL 2012/17-EURO. In addition, several delegations provided updates on their national food control systems, as summarized below.
- 63. **Norway**: There have been no major changes in organisational structures. In addition to the National Food Safety authority, Norway has a Scientific Committee on Food Safety which conducts many risk assessments, without duplicating the work of EFSA. For example, Norway is currently conducting risk/benefit studies on organic foods and breastfeeding. A new national dietary survey has been published. Norway is now chairing the Bureau of the WHO/UNECE Protocol on Water and Health, and is now developing national goals for drinking water.
- 64. **Estonia**: there were no changes since 2010 and the country profile is available on the EU website.
- 65. **Belgium**: there were no changes since 2010. Legislation is under the responsibility of the Federal Public Service for Public Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, while food control is carried out by the Federal Agency for Food Chain Safety.
- 66. **Serbia**: food legislation and food safety are the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health.
- 67. **Armenia**: There has been significant progress in the strengthening of Codex structures with the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, and participation has increased with the support of the Trust Fund. The Delegation noted that the establishment of a national Codex committee may be further considered although it appears that many countries with no national committee participate actively in Codex.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/7 (information from Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden Spain, United Kingdom), CX/EURO 12/28/7-Add.1 (Bulgaria, Lithuania), CRD 3 (Italy), CRD 4 (Ukraine)

- 68. **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: the control system will be reorganised following adoption of the EU regulation on food control system, and a total diet study is under development.
- 69. In relation to scientific advice, the FAO Representative informed the Committee about the Joint FAO/WHO expert meeting on Foodborne parasites prioritization for risk management (FAO Headquarters, 3-7 September 2012) following the request of the Committee on Food Hygiene. The main objectives of this meeting were:
  - a) to provide an overview of the global problems associated with foodborne parasites for the purpose of risk ranking;
  - b) to apply a systematic risk ranking/prioritization approach to the available information to identify parasite/commodity groups of greatest concern; and
  - c) to provide an overview of the risk management options and approaches available for the control of prioritized foodborne parasites)
- 70. The Chairperson noted that the replies sent by many countries provided a good source of information for FAO, WHO and CCEURO members. The Committee expressed its appreciation to its members for providing extensive information on food control and food safety issues and sharing experience with other members, and noted that most European countries had Codex Contact Points and national Codex structures, while some countries needed further capacity building in this area.

# NUTRITION ISSUES WITHIN THE REGION (Agenda Item 8)8

- 71. In addition to the written comments in reply to CL 2012/17-EURO, several delegations provided updates on nutrition activities, as summarized below.
- 72. **Norway** is involved in the initiatives concerning marketing of food and beverages to children in cooperation with WHO, and has made a proposal for a Norwegian national regulation on marketing to children. In connection with this, several meetings have been held with different stakeholders, including industry. A five-year action plan for nutrition (2007-2011) is being evaluated by a WHO expert group, and their report is expected soon.
- 73. **Estonia**: several programmes are developed in three main areas: improving healthy dietary habits, such as reduction of salt consumption; preparation work for national dietary surveys; and promotion of physical activity.
- 74. **Poland:** a national programme to prevent overweight and obesity and increase physical activity was continued in 2011.
- 75. **Russian Federation:** programmes are implemented to reduce non-communicable diseases related to nutrition, to promote healthy diets, including salt and fat reduction, while health centres throughout the country provide nutrition advice to prevent obesity.
- 76. The Delegation of Switzerland drew the attention of the Committee to the OECD Food Chain Analysis Network and to the preparatory meeting of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN+21) for European countries mentioned in CX/EURO 12/28/4.
- 77. The WHO representative recalled that nutrition has high priority in WHO, which is reflected in strategic documents. Malnutrition and obesity play an important role in the etiology of non-communicable diseases, which is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the European region. There is also a vicious cycle between under-nutrition and foodborne diseases. It is important that work on nutrition and food safety should be addressed in conjunction.
- 78. WHO is involved in many activities concerning nutrition at the European level together with national and international partners, including obesity prevention, promotion of physical activity, promotion of good nutrition in the school system, and prevention of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. There is also direct

<sup>8</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/7 (information from Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, France, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden Spain, United Kingdom), CX/EURO 12/28/7-Add.1 (Bulgaria, Lithuania), CRD 3 (Italy)

support to countries on nutrition, including Albania, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. With the support of WHO a draft strategy on food safety and nutrition for Tajikistan was developed and is currently receiving comments from stakeholders.

- 79. WHO has also facilitated the establishment of European networks on nutrition issues, including on hospital nutrition, marketing of food to children, and salt reduction. FAO in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF have contributed to developing capacities of national authorities of Albania in improving food and nutrition security; a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by five ministries committing to address nutrition in their sectorial plans and actions, and a new Food and Nutrition Action Plan is being developed.
- 80. The FAO Representative indicated that FAO provided support to implement the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNU/SCN Network for Capacity Development in Nutrition in Central and Eastern Europe (NCDNCEE) and is preparing the regional meeting for the ICN+21 preparation (Israel, December 2012).
- 81. Within the FAO mandate and strategy there is a focus on increasing the capacity of agriculture to improve nutrition, and the activities include collecting baseline data on nutrition situation in countries, developing nutrition country profiles, promoting nutrition-sensitive agriculture, nutritional biodiversity, promoting sustainable and total diets to reduce the NCDs and ensuring nutritional security, providing tools for improving nutrition, such as electronic food composition for CIS countries in Russian. The FAO Regional Conference (Baku, April 2012) identified improving food and nutrition security as a regional priority to address in normative and field work.
- 82. The Chairperson thanked the delegations for submitting very informative replies on nutrition issues. The Committee noted that many countries in Europe have taken very useful initiatives and report good progress, while there is a need for more work throughout the region to improve nutrition. The support of FAO and WHO to countries in the region is very much welcome in this regard.

# NOMINATION OF COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 9)9

- 83. The Committee recalled that the Republic of Poland had been appointed as Coordinator for Europe by the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for its second term and was no longer eligible for nomination.
- 84. The Committee expressed its gratitude to Poland, to the Professor Kwiatek and the Codex Contact Point for the excellent organisation, chairing and achievements of the two last CCEURO sessions and their continuous support to countries in the region.
- 85. It also expressed its thanks to Georgia, for its kind hospitality in co-hosting the current session and its commitment to Codex work at the national and regional level.
- 86. The Committee unanimously supported the proposal of the Delegation of Poland to nominate the Netherlands as Coordinator for appointment by the  $36^{th}$  Session of the Commission.
- 87. The FAO and WHO Representatives expressed their thanks to Poland for its excellent cooperation and support to countries in the region, and welcomed the opportunity to pursue such cooperation with the Netherlands.
- 88. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, thanked the Coordinator and all delegates and noted that excellent interaction and cooperation on Codex, food safety and nutrition took place in the region through the Committee.
- 89. The Delegation of the Netherlands thanked the Committee for its support and expressed the commitment to continue the excellent work of Poland to promote regional cooperation as well as cooperation between Europe and other regions.

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<sup>9</sup> CX/EURO 12/28/9

# OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 10)10

#### **MRL** for Ractopamnine

- 90. The Delegation of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the Members of the European Union present at the session, expressed the view that the adoption of the MRLs for ractopamine despite widespread opposition was regrettable, that Codex should follow consensus-based decision making as a one of its fundamental principles, and that adopting a standard by a vote with a very narrow margin could undermine the role of Codex; and therefore the EU proposed to consider ways of avoiding such situations in the future.
- 91. Several delegations supported this position and mentioned the following issues: the credibility of Codex should be rebuilt and decision by voting should be avoided; it should be recognised that consensus building took time and some standards had been adopted after many years of discussion; and it was necessary to reflect and propose solutions to avoid such situations.
- 92. The Committee stated that despite strong opposition of almost all European countries and some of the world's most populated nations the MRLs for ractopamine were adopted by the Commission, and expressed disappointment about the way in which this decision had been taken, as consensus-based decision making should be respected while elaborating Codex standards. Codex should reflect on this issue and make an effort to avoid such situations in the future and strengthen its credibility.
- 93. The Committee noted that the facilitated session convened by the CCGP to work on standards held at Step 8 would be organised in conjunction with the Commission and that interpretation into Russian would be provided. The Chair encouraged all delegates to take the opportunity to join this meeting. Taking into account that the terms of reference of current work on standards held at Step 8 focused on the roots of the problem, the Committee would like to address a question for consideration by the CCGP on the possible further steps to avoid such situations.

# DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 11)

94. The Committee noted that its next session would be held in approximately two years' time, the exact date and venue to be determined by the host country and Codex secretariats.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> CRD 2 (comment of European Union)

# **SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK**

SUBJECT MATTER	STEP	ACTION BY	DOCUMENT REFERENCE (REP13/EURO)
Proposed Draft Revised Regional Standard for Chanterelles	5/8	Governments 36 <sup>th</sup> CAC	para. 48 Appendix II
Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Ayran	2/3	WG led by Turkey and Germany 29 <sup>th</sup> CCEURO	para. 60

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# PROPOSED DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR CHANTERELLES (At Step 5/8)

# 1. **DEFINITION OF PRODUCE**<sup>1</sup>

This standard applies to carpophores (fruiting bodies) of species of edible mushrooms of the genera *Cantharellus* and *Craterellus* to be supplied fresh to the consumer, chanterelles for industrial processing being excluded.

A non-exhaustive list of commercialized chanterelles is presented below.

#### 1.1 Genus Cantharellus

Species	Common name	Commercial type
Cantharellus amethysteus (Quél.) Sacc.	Amethyst Chanterelle	Chanterelle
Cantharellus cibarius Fr.	Chanterelle, Golden Chanterelle	Chanterelle
Cantharellus ferruginascens P.D.Orton	None	Chanterelle
Cantharellus formosus Corner	Pacific Golden Chanterelle	Chanterelle
Cantharellus lilacinopruinatus Hermitte, Eyssart. & Poumarat	None	Chanterelle
Cantharellus subpruinosus Eyssart. & Buyck	None	Chanterelle
Cantharellus cinereus (Pers.) Fr.	Ashen Chanterelle	Chanterelle

# 1.2 Genus Craterellus

Species	Common name	Commercial type	
Craterellus lutescens (Fr.) Fr.	Yellow Foot	Winter chanterelle	
Craterellus tubaeformis (Fr.) Quél.	Trumpet Chanterelle, Yellow Foot	Winter chanterelle	
Craterellus cornucopioides (L.) Pers.	Horn of Plenty, Trumpet of Death, Black Chanterelle	Chanterelle	

The Committee agreed to add the following variety to section 1. Definition of Produce, under 1.2 Genus Craterellus: *Craterellus lutescens;* common name: Yellow Foot; and commercial type: Winter Chanterelle

All information on Latin names is taken from Index Fungorum. See www.indexfungorum.org

# 2. PROVISIONS CONCERNING QUALITY

The purpose of the standard is to define the quality requirements for chanterelles at the export-control stage after preparation and packaging.

However, if applied at stages following export, products may show in relation to the requirements of the standard:

- a slight lack of freshness and turgidity
- for products graded in classes other than the "Extra" Class, a slight deterioration due to their development and their tendency to perish.

The holder/seller of products may not display such products or offer them for sale, or deliver or market them in any manner other than in conformity with this standard. The holder/seller shall be responsible for observing such conformity.

# 2.1 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

In all classes, subject to the special provisions for each class and the tolerances allowed, the chanterelles must be:

- intact; the stalk must be attached to the cap; the earth-soiled foot can be cut
- sound; produce affected by rotting or deterioration such as to make it unfit for consumption is excluded
- clean, practically free of any visible foreign matter
- positively identifiable
- firm
- fresh in appearance
- practically free from pests
- practically free from damage caused by pests
- free of abnormal external moisture
- free of any foreign smell and/or taste.

The development and condition of the chanterelles must be such as to enable them:

- to withstand transportation and handling
- to arrive in satisfactory condition at the place of destination.

#### 2.2 CLASSIFICATION

Chanterelles are classified in three classes, as defined below:

#### 2.2.1 "Extra" Class

Chanterelles in this class must be of superior quality. They must be characteristic of the species.

They must be free from defects, with the exception of very slight superficial defects, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package.

#### 2.2.2 **Class I**

Chanterelles in this class must be of good quality. They must be characteristic of the species.

The following slight defects, however, may be allowed, provided these do not affect the general appearance of the produce, the quality, the keeping quality and presentation in the package:

- slight superficial defects
- slight defects in colouring

slight pest damage.

#### 2.2.3 **Class II**

This class includes chanterelles that do not qualify for inclusion in the higher classes but satisfy the minimum requirements specified above.

The following defects may be allowed, provided the chanterelles retain their essential characteristics as regards the quality, the keeping quality and presentation:

- superficial defects
- defects in colouring
- pest damage
- damage, including the removal of blemished parts.

#### 3. PROVISIONS CONCERNING SIZING

Size is determined by the maximum diameter of the cap and the height.

The minimum size for chanterelles shall be 1 cm in height

Uniformity in size shall be optional. If sized, the range in size between caps in the same package shall not exceed 5 cm.

#### 4. PROVISIONS CONCERNING TOLERANCES

At all marketing stages, tolerances in respect of quality and size shall be allowed in each lot for produce not satisfying the requirements of the class indicated.

# 4.1 **QUALITY TOLERANCES**

#### 4.1.1 "Extra" Class

A total tolerance of 5 per cent, by weight, of chanterelles not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class I is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 0.5 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying the requirements of Class II quality.

#### 4.1.2 Class I

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by weight, of chanterelles not satisfying the requirements of the class but meeting those of Class II is allowed. Within this tolerance, not more than 1 per cent in total may consist of produce satisfying neither the requirements of Class II quality nor the minimum requirements, or of produce affected by decay.

In addition, a tolerance of 5 per cent by weight of trimmed chanterelles is allowed.

# 4.1.3 **Class II**

A total tolerance of 10 per cent, by weight, of chanterelles satisfying neither the requirements of the class nor the minimum requirements is allowed. Within this tolerance not more than 2 per cent in total may consist of produce affected by decay.

#### 4.2 **SIZE TOLERANCES**

For all classes (if sized): a tolerance of 10 per cent, by weight, of chanterelles not satisfying the requirements as regards sizing is allowed.

#### 5. PROVISIONS CONCERNING PRESENTATION

#### 5.1 UNIFORMITY

The contents of each package must be uniform and contain only chanterelles of the same origin, quality, species and size (if sized).

However, a mixture of distinctly different species of chanterelles may be packed together in a consumer package, provided they are separated (by means of compartments, for example) and are uniform in quality and, for each species concerned, in origin and size (if sized).

The visible part of the contents of the package must be representative of the entire contents.

#### 5.2 **PACKAGING**

Chanterelles must be packed in such a way as to protect the produce properly.

The materials used inside the package must be new<sup>2</sup>, clean, and of a quality such as to avoid causing any external or internal damage to the produce. The use of materials, particularly of paper or stamps bearing trade specifications is allowed, provided the printing or labelling has been done with non-toxic ink or glue.

Chanterelles shall be packed in each container in compliance with the Recommended International Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 44-1995).

# **5.2.1 Description of Containers**

The containers shall meet the quality, hygiene, ventilation and resistance characteristics to ensure suitable handling, shipping and preserving of the chanterelles. Packages must be free of all foreign matter and smell.

#### 6. CONTAMINANTS

- 6.1 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the Codex general Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995).
- 6.2 The produce covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum residue limits for pesticides established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for this commodity.

# 7. HYGIENE

7.1 It is recomi

- 7.1 It is recommended that the produce covered by the provisions of this Standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969), Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003) and other relevant Codex texts such as Codes of Hygienic Practice and Codes of Practice.
- 7.2 The produce should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods (CAC/GL 21-1997).

#### 8. MARKING OR LABELLING

#### 8.1 **CONSUMER PACKAGES**

In addition to the requirements of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1- 1985), the following specific provisions apply:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this Standard, this includes recycled material of food-grade quality.

#### 8.1.1 **Nature of Produce**

If the produce is not visible from the outside, each package shall be labelled as to the common name of the produce.

#### 8.1.2. Mixtures

In the case of a mixture of chanterelles of distinctly different species, common names of each species should be indicated. If the country of origin or size of each distinctly different species is different, they should be indicated near the name of the species concerned.

#### 8.2 NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Each package must bear the following particulars, in letters grouped on the same side, legibly and indelibly marked, and visible from the outside, or in the documents accompanying the shipment.

#### 8.2.1 **Identification**

Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher. Identification code (optional)<sup>3</sup>.

#### 8.2.2 Nature of Produce

Common name of the produce if the contents are not visible from the outside. Botanical name of species (optional).

#### 8.2.3. Mixtures

In the case of a mixture of chanterelles of distinctly different species, common names of each species should be indicated. If the country of origin or size of each distinctly different species is different, they should be indicated near the name of the species concerned.

## 8.2.4 **Origin of Produce**

Country of origin and, optionally, district where grown or national, regional or local place name of the species presented.

#### 8.2.5 Commercial Identification

- Size (if sized), expressed as minimum and maximum diameters of the cap in cm;
- Net weight (optional).

#### 8.2.6 Official Inspection Mark (optional)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The national legislation of a number of countries requires the explicit declaration of the name and address. However, in the case where a code mark is used, the reference "packer and/or dispatcher (or equivalent abbreviations)" has to be indicated in close connection with the code mark, and the code mark should be preceded by the ISO 3166 (alpha) country/area code of the recognizing country, if not the country of origin. The full or a commonly used name should be indicated.

**Draft Codex Strategic Plan: 2014-2019** 

# **Amendments proposed by CCEURO**

#### INTRODUCTION

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963. Today, it has more than 180 Members, and more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations are accredited as observers. The Commission's main work is the development of international food standards<sup>4</sup>, guidelines, and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes the coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

For food safety, quality and nutrition matters, the Commission, as a risk manager, establishes its standards using the principles of risk analysis and bases its work on the scientific advice provided by the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations. With increased globalization, the Commission must also be capable of responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety issues and factors that may impact on food safety and fair practices in the food trade such as the effects of shifting populations, climate change and diverse consumer concerns<sup>5</sup>. Food standards, guidelines and recommendations established by the Commission are recognized as reference points for food under the relevant WTO agreements.

#### The 2014-2019 Strategic Plan:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the Commission and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress toward accomplishment of the goals.
- Underpins the high priority placed on food safety and quality by FAO and WHO and ensures that the Commission will carry out the responsibilities given to it by FAO and WHO.
- Informs Members, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders of how the Commission intends to fulfil its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2014-2019.

#### **DRIVERS FOR CHANGE**

The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Commission have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all members, more specifically the developing countries which are more actively contributing in the international food standard-setting process. Additionally, the environment in which Codex operates has also evolved.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The term "standards" is used to cover standards and all related texts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The consideration of other factors in the Codex standard setting process is governed by the Statements of Principle Concerning the Role of Science in the Codex Decision Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken into Account.

Food and food ingredients continue to be increasingly amongst the most traded commodities internationally. Changes in the global feed and food supply chain system, resource optimization efforts, innovation in food science and technology, climate change and consumer concerns<sup>3</sup> represent some of the drivers of change that introduces new food safety and nutrition related challenges. The Commission must adapt to this evolving environment and be capable of proactively responding in a timely manner to emerging food safety, quality and nutrition issues with the aim to protect consumer's health and ensure fair practices in food trade.

#### STRATEGIC VISION STATEMENT

To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

#### **CODEX CORE VALUES**

In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include,

- collaboration
- inclusiveness
- · consensus building
- transparency

In conducting its work, the Commission strives at ensuring that the concepts of protecting the health of consumers and fair practise in the food trade are consistently followed in the Codex standard-setting process.

#### STRATEGIC GOALS

# Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues

Objective 1.1: Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC.

- Activities:
  - 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.
  - 1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring

Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues<sup>6</sup> and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards.

• Activities:

1.2.1 Develop a process for proactively identifying **Promote consideration of** emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations, emerging hazards resulting from ongoing investigations or related to extra-ordinary events (e.g. natural disasters, external threats, etc.).

- 1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that affect food safety and fair practices in the foods trade.
- 1.2.3 Develop a mechanism measuring the implementation of Codex standards by member governments.

<u>Objective 1.3</u>: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.

- Activities:
  - 1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations, through utilization of consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.
  - 1.3.2 Promote cooperative programs with other international governmental and non-governmental standards-setting organizations to <u>further the Codex mandate</u> identify needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards.

# Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of scientific advice and risk analysis principles.

- Activities:
  - 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".
  - 2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.
  - 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management measures in the context of Codex standard development.
  - 2.1.4 Communicate the risk management decisions to all interested parties.

Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.

- Activities:
  - 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert bodies advice, in particular **from** JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
  - 2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert bodies advice, in particular from JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.
  - 2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.

Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries.

- Activities:
  - 2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.

- 2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.
- 2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.
- 2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of networks of developing member countries to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.

# Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.

# • Activities:

- 3.1.1 Encourage member countries to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.
- 3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.
- 3.1.3 Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members, a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.
- 3.1.4 Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund.

<u>Objective 3.2</u>: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.

#### Activities:

- 3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.
- 3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.
- 3.2.4 <u>3</u> Where practical, the use of Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.

#### Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

Objective 4.1: Strive for an effective, efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process for the timely adoption of standards to ensure credibility and consistency in Codex decision making.

#### • Activities:

- 4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed.
- 4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.
- 4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve member participation in committees and working groups.

- 4.1.4 Ensure timely distribution of all Codex working documents.
- 4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.

Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.

- Activities:
  - 4.2.1 Improve the knowledge and skills of Codex delegates of Codex guidelines respecting consensus building.
  - 4.2.2 Improve the skills of Committee and Working Group Chairs.

# APPENDIX 27

# **DRAFT WORK PLAN:**

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party*	Time- Line	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
Strategic Goal 1: Establish international food standards that address current and emerging	Objective 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.	- All relevant Codex committees	On-going	New or updated standards are developed in a timely manner.	<ol> <li>Priority setting criteria are reviewed, revised as required and applied.</li> <li># of standards revised and # of new standards developed based on these criteria.</li> </ol>
food issues.		1.1.2 Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring.	- CCEXEC - CCGP	Jan 2014- July 2015	More effective work management oversight exercised by the CCEXEC.	1. Current critical review procedures reviewed, proposed changes, if required, identified, Secretariat report submitted to the CCEXEC on outcomes of the review by July 2015.  2. Recommendations considered or adopted by CCEXEC and put forward to the CCGP for consideration.
	Objective 1.2: Proactively identify emerging issues <sup>8</sup> and member country needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food	1.2.1 Develop a process for proactively identifying Promote consideration of emerging issues related to food safety, nutrition and fair practices in the food trade.	- CCEXEC/CAC - All relevant Codex committees	On-going	Enhanced ability of Codex to respond in a timely manner to emerging issues and to the needs of member governments.	1. Annual reports from Committees to CCEXEC/CAC identifying emerging food safety-and nutrition issues and fair practices in the food trade.      2. Report by CCEXEC on how those issues were addressed.
	standards.	1.2.2 Develop and revise international and regional standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members	- All relevant committees - CAC Regional committees	On-going (2014- 2019)	Improved ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to the needs of its Members.	1. Input from committees identifying and prioritizing needs of members.      2. Report to CCEXEC from committees on how standards developed address

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Appendix 2 of document CX/EURO 12/28/3
<sup>8</sup> For the purposes of this Strategic Plan, emerging food safety and nutrition issues are interpreted to include scientific and technological innovations, emerging hazards resulting from ongoing investigations or related to extra-ordinary events (e.g. natural disasters, external threats, etc.)

<sup>\*</sup> Responsible Party identifies the party that is responsible for actually undertaking the activity identified in the work plan.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party*	Time- Line	<b>Expected Outcome</b>	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
		and in response to factors that affect food safety and fair practices in the foods trade.				the needs of the members as part of critical review process.
		1.2.3 Develop a mechanism measuring the implementation of Codex standards by member governments.	-CCEXEC with input from CCGP, if required.	On going	Indication of the extent to which members use Codex standards as the basis for their national legislation.	1.A mechanism developed and implemented.  2.# of countries reporting on the use of Codex standards as the basis for their national legislation.  3. Annual report identifying the extent of the uptake of Codex standards by member governments.
	Objective 1.3: Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities.	1.3.1 Promote collaboration in standards development in Codex with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on standards that cover the farm to fork continuum and affect Codex and those organizations, through utilization of consistent methodologies and approaches in their development.	- CAC; <del>CCEXEC</del> ; CCGP	2019	Updated procedures to maximize collaboration with OIE and IPPC.	1. Review of the current mechanism for collaboration between intergovernmental organizations to determine if it promotes and facilitates collaboration between OIE, IPPC and Codex.      2. If required, procedures revised to ensure optimal collaboration and cooperation between Codex, OIE and IPPC is achieved.
		1.3.2 Promote cooperative programs with other international governmental and non-governmental standards-setting organizations to <u>further the</u> <u>Codex mandate</u> identify  needs for new Codex standards and to promote the use of existing Codex standards.	- CAC; <del>CCEXEC</del> ; CCGP	On-going	Updated procedures to maximize collaboration with international intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.	Review of the current procedures for collaboration with intergovernmental organization to determine if they can be expanded to include nongovernmental organizations.      Procedures revised as necessary.      Revised procedures adopted and implemented by all committees

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party*	Time- Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
Strategic Goal 2: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.	Objective 2.1: Ensure consistent use of scientific advice and risk analysis principles.	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.	- All relevant committees		Scientific advice consistently taken into account by all relevant committees during the standard setting process.	<ul><li>1. # of times the need for scientific advice is:</li><li>- identified,</li><li>- requested and,</li><li>- utilized in a timely manner.</li></ul>
		2.1.2 Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards.	- All relevant committees	On-going	Increase in scientific and technical experts at the national level contributing to the development of Codex standards.	<ol> <li>1.# of scientists and technical experts as part of member country delegations.</li> <li>2.# of scientists and technical experts providing appropriate input to country positions.</li> </ol>
		2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management measures in the context of Codex standard development.	- All relevant committees	On-going	Enhanced identification and documentation consideration of non- science all relevant factors considered by committees during the development of Codex standards.	1.# of committee documents identifying all non-science relevant factors guiding risk management decisions.  2.# of committee documents clearly reflecting how those non-science all relevant factors were considered in the context of standards development.
		2.1.4 Communicate the risk management decisions to all interested parties.	-All relevant committees  CAC and Codex Secretariat	On-going	Risk management decisions are effectively communicated and disseminated to all interested parties.	<ol> <li>1.# of web     publication/communications relaying     Codex standards.</li> <li>2.# of media releases disseminating     Codex standards.</li> </ol>
	Objective 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice.	2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert <b>advice</b>	- Codex member governments	On-going	FAO and WHO expert advice to Codex is supported in a more sustainable manner.	1. Increase in # of member countries making interventions at the FAO and WHO governing bodies in support of sustainable funding for scientific advice.

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		bodies, in particular from JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.				
		2.2.2 Encourage continued financial support from Members for the FAO/WHO expert advice bodies, in particular from JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU.	- Codex member governments	On-going	Flexible and reactive operational framework for the provision of scientific advice for Codex.	I. Increase in # of member countries who contribute to GIFSA.      Increase in # of member countries collaborating with FAO and WHO to support expert consultations.
		2.2.3 Explore other appropriate funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	- CCEXEC - Codex member governments	Dec 2015	Enhanced and more sustainable funding sources for FAO/WHO scientific advice.	1. Report from the CCEXEC sub- committee identifying potential options for financial support by Dec 2015.
						2.# of expert consultations conducted which were funded by alternate measures.
	Objective 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries	2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities.	- Codex member governments - CCEXEC	On-going	Codex standards are increasingly more representative of a global environment.	Increase in # of developing countries responding to calls for data.
		2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.	- Codex member governments	On-going	Risk assessments take into account increased data provided by developing countries.	1.# of new or on-going initiatives aimed to support data collection in developing countries.
		2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex.	- Codex member governments - All relevant committees	On-going	Developing countries playing an increasingly effective role in Codex standard setting process.	Increase in # of subject matter and food safety risk analysis experts from developing countries contributing to Codex standard setting process.
						Increase in # of developing countries providing scientific and technical experts to Codex committees.

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		2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of networks of developing member countries to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert committees.	- Codex member governments	On-going	Increased collaboration between developing countries.	<ol> <li>1.# of networks developed.</li> <li>2.# of developing countries joining a network.</li> <li>3.# of times input received by expert committees from a network.</li> </ol>
Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.	Objective 3.1: Increase the effective participation of developing countries in Codex.	3.1.1 Encourage member countries to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.	- CAC -CCEXEC - Codex member governments	On-going	Increased and strengthened sustainable national Codex structures.	1. Baseline # of member governments with permanent national Codex structures developed.      2. Annual reports on the # of members with permanent national Codex structures reporting an increase in such structures.
		3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as cohosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.  ***Note: This activity was considered to be to be duplicative of activity 3.2.3 and 3.2.5.  Therefore, activity 3.1.2 has been revised to encompass activities 3.2.3 and 3.2.5***	- Codex member governments -CCEXEC	On-going (2014-2019)	Increased number of co- hosting arrangements for committees and working groups.	<ol> <li>Baseline inventory of current cohosting arrangements developed.</li> <li># of developing countries identifying their willingness to co-host Codex meetings</li> <li># of co-hosted meetings from 2014 to 2019.</li> <li># of guidance documents developed.</li> <li># of initiatives implemented using the guidance document developed.</li> </ol>
		3.1.3 Plan, with the involvement of Codex Members, a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund.	-CCEXEC - CAC FAO and WHO	Dec. 2015	A successor to the Codex Trust Fund is established and functioning.	Transition management team established.     Options for a successor program identified.     Option selected and implemented.

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		3.1.4 Encourage financial contributions from Members to the Codex Trust Fund.	- Codex member governments - CAC	On-going	Codex Trust Fund (and its successor) have sufficient resources for sustainable assistance to developing countries.	I.Increase in # of countries contributing to Codex Trust Fund     Increase in # of countries benefiting from Codex Trust Fund.
	Objective 3.2: Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.	3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.	- CCEXEC CAC	On-going (2014- 2019)	- Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO and WHO to support the creation of sustainable national Codex structures.	1.# of capacity development programs conducted by FAO/WHO to strengthen national Codex structures.      2. Increase in the # of countries with functioning national Codex structures
		3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them.	- CAC -CCEXEC	On-going	Increased participation by developing countries in Codex committees of most relevance to them.	1.# of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees.
		3.2.3 Where practical, use Codex meetings as a forum to effectively conduct educational and technical capacity building activities.	- All relevant committees	On-going	Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to maximize use of the resources of Codex and member governments.	1.# of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings
Strategic Goal 4: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.	Objective 4.1: Strive for an effective efficient, transparent, and consensus based standard setting process for the timely adoption of standards. to ensure credibility and	4.1.1 Periodically review the work processes and procedures used by the CAC and its subsidiary bodies to ensure impediments to standard-setting work are identified and addressed.	- All codex committees - CCEXEC with input from CCGP, if required.	On-going	More efficient functioning of Codex standard-setting bodies.	Reports of reviews of work processes and procedures identifying:     - # of impediments to standard-setting work identified.     - # of processes updated to address the identified impediments, if necessary.

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	consistency in Codex decision making.	4.1.2 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve, Codex communication, work flow, and management of activities.	- CCGP - CCEXEC	2015	Improved functioning of Codex committees as a result of faster communication, and transparent work processes.	<ol> <li>Potential cost-effective technologies identified.</li> <li># of feasible options recommended.</li> <li># of options implemented.</li> </ol>
		4.1.3 Assess benefits and, where cost effective, implement new information technologies to improve member participation in committees and working groups.	- CCGP - CCEXEC	2018	Member governments more effectively able to participate in committees and working groups as a result of the implementation of new technologies.	1.# of new potential technologies identified and analyzed to determine their applicability to improving participation of members in Codex standard-setting process.
						2.# of new technologies piloted (e.g. new Codex document sharing system).
		4.1.4 Enhance timely distribution of all Codex working documents.	- All relevant committees	Dec. 2015	Codex documents distributed in a more timely manner consistent with timelines in the Procedural Manual.	1. 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.
						3. An increase in the ratio (%) of documents circulated 2 months or more prior to meetings.
		4.1.5 Increase the scheduling of Work Group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.	-All relevant committees	On-going	Improved efficiency in use of resources by Codex committees and member governments.	1.# of physical working group meetings in conjunction with committee meetings, where appropriate.
	Objective 4.2: Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process.	4.2.1 Improve the knowledge and skills of Codex delegates of Codex guidelines respecting consensus building.	- Codex Secretariat - CCEXEC	2016	Improved levels of consensus achieved at Codex sessions.	Impediments to consensus being achieved in Codex committees identified and analyzed.
						2. Guidance documents developed to

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						address impediments to reach consensus.  3. Guidance communicated and distributed to all delegates through the Codex website.
		4.2.2 Improve the skills of Committee and Working Group Chairs.	- Codex Secretariat - CCEXEC	2016	Improved consistency amongst Chairpersons on application of procedures and processes in the elaboration of Codex standards.	Training available to 100% of Chairs and work group chairs on how to lead and facilitate committee meetings.