

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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REP20/LAC

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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REPORT OF THE 21st SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Summary and Status of Work	page ii
List of Acronyms	page iv
Report of the 21st Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean	page 1

Paragraphs

Introduction	1 - 2
Opening.....	3 - 5
Adoption of the Agenda (Agenda Item 1)	6 - 7
Keynote Address: The Role of Science in Food Safety Risk Management (Agenda Item 2)	8
Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: current and emerging issues in the region (Agenda Item 3.1)	9 - 13
The future of food safety: outcome of the first FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade – What’s next? (Agenda Item 3.2)	14 - 19
Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: Use of the online platform for information sharing on food safety control systems; status of information and future plans/prospects (Agenda Item 3.3)	20 - 25
Use of Codex standards in the region (Agenda Item 4)	26 - 29
Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees (Agenda Item 5)	30 - 34
Codex work relevant to the region (Agenda Item 6)	35 - 48
Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (including Strategic plan for CCLAC 2014-2019) (Agenda Item 7.1)	49
Codex Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 – Roadmap to implementation (Agenda Item 7.2)	50 - 51
Codex communications work plan (Agenda Item 8)	52 - 56
Nomination of the Coordinator (Agenda Item 9)	57 - 59
Other business (Agenda Item 10)	60
Date and place of next session (Agenda Item 11)	61

Appendices

Appendix I - List of Participants	page 10
Appendix II – Food safety action areas for the next decade as proposed by Members for consideration by FAO and WHO	page 14
Appendix III – Regional communications work plan 2020-2025	page 19

SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Para.
FAO/WHO and Members, RC, CAC43	Action and information	<p><u>Food quality and safety situation in countries of the region: current and emerging issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted the emerging issues and agreed that the survey was a valuable tool to identify emerging issues, and requested the RC to identify and implement a mechanism to facilitate follow-up; - Agreed that reference to climate change in the context of Codex must clearly and exclusively refer to the challenges and impact that changes in climate can have on food safety so as to ensure any work in this area remains clearly within the mandate of Codex. 	14
Members, FAO/WHO	Action and information	<p><u>Future of food safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Took note of the summary of the First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade and committed to making these documents available to high level policy makers within their governments and; - Agreed to raise the profile of food safety at a high-level profile so that resources are made available by competent authorities and encouraged Members to communicate with their national delegations and their representatives in Geneva to make all possible efforts to include food safety on the agenda on the next session of the WHA; and - Invited FAO and WHO to consider the areas for action proposed by Members, and included in Appendix II of this report, in their ongoing efforts to support improvement of food safety in the region. 	20
FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat and Members	Action and information	<p><u>Food safety and quality situation in countries of the region – use of online platform</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted and appreciated the information provided and confirmed the utility and value of the platform, requesting FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to support countries in their efforts to provide information and to improve the visibility, accessibility and utility of the platform. 	26
Members and Codex Secretariat	Action and information	<p><u>Use of Codex standards in the region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noted the outcome of the survey, supported its continuation and improvement, identified areas to be covered in future surveys, highlighting the importance of allowing more time for countries to respond to it; - Highlighted the importance of harmonizing national legislation with Codex standards and requested the Codex Secretariat to work in coordination with other multilateral agencies that address food safety issues, such as the WTO, to develop a joint mechanism to further investigate the use of Codex standards by Members. 	30
CCMAS41	Information	<p><u>Review and update of CXS 234 and development of database of methods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Took note of the recent progress and ongoing work and the importance of Codex methods in having reliable results; and the value of CXS234-1999 for national food control management systems. 	31
Members and Codex Secretariat	Action and information	<p><u>Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested the Codex Secretariat to issue a CL with detailed information on the background and the potential options for alignment of the food additive provisions in order to facilitate decision-making at CCLAC22. 	35
CCPFV29	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported the ongoing work of <u>CCPFV</u> 	41

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Para.
CCFA52, Members	Information	<u>Provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in UHT milk</u> - Agreed on a regional position to support the adoption of the provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in UHT milk as proposed at CAC42 at the forthcoming CCFA.	47
Coordinator, Members and Codex Secretariat	Action	<u>Codex communications work plan</u> - Discussed and adopted the Regional Communications Work Plan and other related supportive mechanisms for its execution, e.g. a communications centre, supported by the RC in collaboration with the Members, highlighting the importance of collaboration between the current and the future RCs in order to ensure a smooth transition of initiatives led by the Coordinator.	75
CAC43	Appointment	- Recommended that Ecuador be appointed as Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean	57
Members, CAC43	Information	- Agenda Items 2, 7.1, 10, 11 were not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.	49, 60, 61
Members, CAC43	Information	- Discussions on Agenda items 6 and 7.2 could not be completed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons	35- 48, 51

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHIPIA	Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AU	African Union
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCCF	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFA	Codex Committee on Food Additives
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
CCNFSDU	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
CCLAC	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee For Latin America and the Caribbean
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CCMAS	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
CRD	Conference Room Document
CCPFV	Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
EWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
JECFA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues
ML	Maximum Levels
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
OCS	Codex Online Commenting System
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PM	Codex Procedural Manual
RC	Regional Coordinator
RCCs	Regional Coordinating Committees or FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TFAMR	Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
UHT	Ultra heat-treated
WG	In-session Working Group
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean scheduled its Twenty-first Session (CCLAC21) in Santiago, Chile, from 21 – 25 October 2019, at the kind invitation of the Government of Chile. The meeting opened one day later than scheduled to ensure the security and safety of all delegates following demonstrations and riots in the Metropolitan Region of Santiago that led to the declaration of a Constitutional State of Emergency. After two half days of discussions (22 and 23 October 2019), the session had to be discontinued due to the persisting situation in Santiago and the increasing challenge to ensure the security and safety of all delegates. This report reflects those agenda items that were discussed when the meeting was in session and on an exceptional basis was adopted by correspondence after the meeting¹.
2. Mr Diego Varela, International Affairs Coordinator, Chilean Agency for Food Safety and Quality (ACHIPIA) chaired the session, which was attended by 14 Member Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean, three Member Countries and one Member Organisation from outside the Region, and four Observer organizations. The list of participants is included in Appendix I.

OPENING²

3. The Chairperson welcomed the delegates and opened the meeting, noting that in order to ensure security in the current situation, Chile, as the host country, had taken the decision that CCLAC21 would be a closed meeting and not opened to the public.
4. Ms. Nuri Gras, Executive Secretary of ACHIPIA, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, noting that the current situation prevented Ministerial participation and acknowledged and appreciated the efforts and solidarity of delegates to attend CCLAC21 despite the difficult circumstances. She noted that, as the food basket of the world, it was imperative that the region promote food safety and encouraged delegates to make maximum use of this meeting to discuss the important issues critical to achieving food safety, including: the opportunities presented by science and technology; the critical role of science and evidence in decision-making; and the challenges governments face in maintaining the balance between access to safe food and promoting a sustainable food production sector. She also noted that while Chile was coming to the end of its term as Regional Coordinator (RC), it was committed to continuing to be very active in Codex and in addressing food safety in the region.
5. Ms. Marisa Caipo, Food Safety and Quality Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, speaking on behalf of Ms. Eve Crowley, Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean and FAO Representative in Chile, and Dr. Fernando Leanes, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO Representative in Chile welcomed the attendees on behalf of FAO and WHO, respectively. The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr., Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) (through a pre-recorded video) and Mr. Steve Wearne, vice-Chairperson, CAC.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)³

6. CCLAC21 adopted the agenda, noting that Agenda Item 2 (Keynote Address: The role of science in food safety risk management) could not be considered due to unavailability of the keynote speaker, the Chilean Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation, and agreed to consider the following topics under Agenda Item 10 (Other Business) subject to the availability of time:
 - (i) Physical working groups;
 - (ii) Adulterated honey⁴
7. CCLAC21 further agreed to establish an in-session Working Group (WG), open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Ecuador and working in English and Spanish, to consider Agenda Item 7.2, taking into account written comments received as Conference Room Documents (CRDs) and any other relevant information (e.g. Agenda Items 6 and 8); and to prepare a report with recommendations for consideration by the plenary.

¹ The draft report was circulated for comment via Circular Letter. Comments were received via the Online Commenting System (OCS). The report was revised by the Chairperson and circulated for final adoption.

² CRD1 (Opening speeches)

³ CX/LAC 19/21/1

⁴ CRD4 (Argentina)

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN FOOD SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT (Agenda Item 2)⁵

8. CCLAC21 did not discuss Agenda Item 2 for the reasons indicated in paragraph 6.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY IN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION: CURRENT AND EMERGING ISSUES IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 3.1)⁶

9. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO, WHO, the RC and the CCLAC Secretariat, introduced the item, noting that its purpose was to draw the attention of Members to emerging issues of concern in the region and to discuss how these could be addressed. The Representative presented the two major categories of current and emerging issues identified by the survey, namely the major trends which included antimicrobial resistance (AMR), new technologies and climate change; and all other topics which revolved around National Food Control Systems and related capacities.
10. The Representative highlighted the changes that had been made to the survey since CCLAC20 and the slightly higher response rate (from 36% to 45%) and encouraged Members to provide their feedback on (i) the survey approach the usefulness of the survey and its output, (ii) the follow-up actions to be taken to address the identified emerging issues at national and regional level, and (iii) possible support to be provided by FAO, PAHO/WHO and Codex.

Discussion

11. CCLAC21 noted the information provided by the Representative and made the following observations.

Survey approach:

- The survey used for this round of the Regional Coordinating Committees or FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs) was a very useful tool to identify emerging issues at national and regional level.
- There were still challenges in ensuring everyone had the same understanding of emerging issues and further orientation or detailed guidance providing explanations on how emerging issues are defined (e.g. whether it relates to an issue that is new for a country or a new or novel concept in the context of Codex work) would be useful.
- To support responses from Members the development or provision of a mechanism to identify emerging issues in a country would be useful.
- The response rate, 45% (15 out of 33 countries), meant that there was still a gap in terms of having a regional overview of emerging issues and further efforts were needed to engage all members in this effort.
- More time was needed to respond to the survey to improve the quality of the replies and the subsequent identification of priorities.

Identified Issues:

- The issues identified in the survey were reflective of the actual concerns of the countries in the region.
- As not all Members were able to respond to the survey additional issues were highlighted in the course of the meeting including: (i) digitalization of the relevant elements of national food control systems; (ii) laboratory grown meat; (iii) new sources of food for human consumption, e.g. insects; (iv) food fraud; (v) nanotechnology; and (vi) e-commerce.
- While AMR was identified as the highest priority, it was noted that it was not necessarily an emerging issue as there were various initiatives underway in this area including the work of the Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) and the development and implementation of National Action Plans at country level. The importance of increased participation in the ongoing Codex work was highlighted as well as the need to develop handbooks and indicators to support implementation and monitoring of compliance with Codex standards.
- The need to clarify that reference to climate change referred to the impact that climate changes can have on food safety (e.g. emergence of pathogens, spread of hazards, availability of clean water etc.) and the measures needed to address them and not on how to address climate change per se, was highlighted.

⁵ CX/LAC 19/21/2; CRD5 (Chile); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD15 (Colombia)

⁶ CX/LAC 19/21/3; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

12. The Chairperson reminded the meeting that the identification of emerging issues was one of the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and some of the ideas presented could be considered in the development of the work plan for implementation of the Strategic Plan under Agenda 7.2.

Conclusion

13. CCLAC21:
- (i) noted the emerging issues identified in the survey and by Members at CCLAC21 and confirmed their relevance to the region;
 - (ii) appreciated the efforts of FAO, WHO and the RC in implementing the survey and preparing the paper and also acknowledged the challenges faced by countries in responding to this survey;
 - (iii) agreed that the survey was a valuable tool to identify emerging issues in the region but that it was also critical to have a mechanism to follow-up on these issues and requested the RC to identify and implement a mechanism to facilitate this follow-up including video conferences, and twinning and cooperation initiatives;
 - (iv) invited FAO and WHO to support countries in the region in identifying and implementing solutions particularly with regard to the challenges and issues identified in relation to national food control systems; and
 - (v) agreed that reference to climate change in the context of Codex must clearly and exclusively refer to the challenges and impact that changes in climate can have on food safety so as to ensure any work in this area remains clearly within the mandate of Codex.

THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY: OUTCOME OF THE FIRST FAO/WHO/AU INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE – WHAT'S NEXT? (Agenda Item 3.2)⁷

14. The Representative of PAHO/WHO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item, summarising the context and the outcome of the FAO/WHO/African Union (AU) International Food Safety Conference held in February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade held at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2019 with the support of FAO and WHO.
15. The Representative encouraged Members to work closely together to continue to raise the profile of food safety and awareness of its importance and to support the inclusion of food safety on the agenda at the upcoming 2020 World Health Assembly (WHA).
16. The Representative further drew attention to the activities of PAHO, that serves as Regional office for WHO in the region, making reference to its strategic plan 2020-2024 which includes food safety as a key area, and reminded participants that concerted efforts to promote food safety should be made globally.

Discussion

17. Delegations expressed their strong appreciation for the Addis Ababa conference and the Geneva forum and emphasized the need to build on the current momentum to address food safety concerns. Members also noted the following:
- Efforts should be made to review and update national policies to incorporate food safety into food security and nutrition policies, as well as to modernize food safety methodology including risk assessment based on Codex standards and guidelines.
 - Capacity building activities should be implemented to promote participation in Codex activities, taking advantage of the Codex Trust Fund and support from FAO and WHO.
 - Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the food chain remains a key issue and coordinated actions between countries are needed to tackle AMR.
 - Efforts should be made to strengthen foodborne disease surveillance systems in order to generate and maintain data in a systematic way that facilitates decision-making and food safety management.
 - Efforts should be made to build resilient food supply chains, which incorporate measures to manage food safety and procedures to manage food safety emergencies.
 - Emerging issues e.g. the need to promote healthy diets and the impacts of climate change on food safety, should be recognized when updating and improving national food security policies.

⁷ CX/LAC 19/21/4; CRD3 (Costa Rica); CRD5 (Chile); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

- Communication tools should be updated to facilitate further collaboration among academic, public and private sectors.
 - Countries should work together to support efforts to include food safety on the agenda of the next WHA and to ensure that any potential Resolution on food safety is well supported by countries in the region.
18. CCLAC21 also generally supported the action areas in food safety for the next decade identified by several Members, noting the importance of making this information more visible to facilitate its consideration by FAO and WHO.

Conclusion

19. CCLAC21:
- (i) took note of the summary of the First FAO/WHO/AU International Food Safety Conference and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade and committed to making these documents available to high level policy makers within their governments;
 - (ii) reaffirmed the need to use different approaches to raise and sustain the profile of food safety at a high-level profile so that resources are made available by competent authorities;
 - (iii) encouraged Members to communicate with their national delegations and their representatives in Geneva to make all possible efforts to include food safety on the agenda on the next session of the WHA; and
 - (iv) invited FAO and WHO to consider the areas for action proposed by Members, included in Appendix II of this report, in their ongoing efforts to support improvement of food safety in the region.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION: USE OF THE ONLINE PLATFORM FOR INFORMATION SHARING ON FOOD SAFETY CONTROL SYSTEMS; STATUS OF INFORMATION AND FUTURE PLANS/PROSPECTS (Agenda Item 3.3)⁸

20. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item, highlighting the status of information on the online platform from countries in the region. The Representative recalled the purpose of the platform to promote sharing of information on national food control systems and relevant regulations and legislation
21. There was general agreement that the platform and the information it shared was very useful but aspects for improvement were also highlighted. Delegations considered that information provided through the platform was not easy to find and the presentation style could be improved so as the information was more user-friendly.
22. A number of possible challenges were identified as to why countries may not have provided the information requested on the platform including: challenges with internal coordination, particularly when multiple entities had a role in food safety; problems to get consensus on or clearance of the information to be provided; problems with login and access; insufficient time to complete the platform survey; and changes in the CCP.
23. There was also widespread recognition of the challenges in responding to the issue of development and use of risk assessments, as Members noted that many do not undertake their own assessments but rather rely on those provided by the international organizations. It was clarified by the Codex Secretariat that a country did not need to have risk assessments to answer this question and that risk profiles and any other reports and/or analysis used to support evidence-based decision-making could also be provided.
24. Sharing information on national food control systems was considered very important and additional mechanisms to do so needed to be implemented, for example a regional meeting or forum for exchange of information. CCLAC21 was also reminded that the platform provided a link to the FAOLEX database, where countries' food safety legislation could be uploaded and made widely available and encouraged delegates to update their legislation online. Several Members committed to upload their information to the platform before CCLAC22.

Conclusion

25. CCLAC 21:
- (i) noted and appreciated the information provided and confirmed the utility and value of the platform as a means of information sharing on food regulatory systems and food legislation within the region;

⁸ CX/LAC 19/21/5; CRD5 (Chile); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

- (ii) noted the challenges faced by countries in providing information in a timely manner and requested FAO and WHO and the Codex Secretariat to support countries in their efforts to provide information to overcome these challenges and to continue to improve the level of information on the platform; and
- (iii) requested FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat to implement the proposed changes to the platform to improve its visibility, accessibility and utility.

USE OF CODEX STANDARDS IN THE REGION (Agenda Item 4)⁹

26. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item and noted that the online survey focused on the use of the following Codex texts: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for residues of veterinary drugs in foods, two Codex texts on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Regional Code of Hygienic Practice for the Preparation and Sale of Street Foods. He recalled that the goal of the survey was to investigate the use and relevance of Codex Standards in the region, as well as acquire insight into the difficulties related to their use.
27. The Codex Secretariat drew the attention of CCLAC21 to the outcome of the survey, noting that the survey was also relevant to Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2025 and invited comments on the analysis and the way forward.

Discussion

28. CCLAC21 noted the results of the survey and Members expressed the following general views:
- This information was valuable in understanding the challenges faced by countries in using Codex standards.
 - Codex Standards were the reference standards used in global food trade, and it is critical that they were based on scientific evidence and applied by Members.
 - The monitoring of the use of Codex standards is a long-standing issue that was also previously included in the Procedural Manual (PM). As new technologies become available, the Codex and WTO secretariats could work together to develop information technology based systems to monitor the use of Codex Standards, which are the benchmark standards under the WTO SPS Agreement.
 - Providing more time to collect replies to future surveys (2-4 months) to facilitate internal coordination and issuing the analysis of replies periodically could further increase the response rate and the collection of relevant data;
 - Regional and national offices of FAO and WHO could support communication and data collection and should be further involved in the process.
 - Future surveys could focus on commodity standards, MRLs for pesticides and labelling.
 - Consider establishing a permanent mechanism to collect information on the use of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs.

Conclusion

29. CCLAC21:
- (i) noted the outcome of the survey, generally recognized its usefulness and strongly supported its continuation and improvement, highlighting the importance of allowing more time for countries to respond to the survey;
 - (ii) requested the Codex Secretariat to consider the inclusion of commodity standards, MRLs for pesticides and standards on labelling in future surveys;
 - (iii) highlighted the importance of harmonizing national legislation with Codex standards;
 - (iv) requested the Codex Secretariat to work in coordination with other multilateral agencies that address food safety issues, such as the WTO, to develop a joint mechanism to further investigate the use of Codex standards by Members; and
 - (v) requested the Codex Secretariat to take proposals from Members into account when implementing the next round of the survey.

⁹ CX/LAC 19/21/6; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 5)¹⁰

30. CCLAC21 noted that some matters were for information only and that several other matters for consideration would be taken up under other relevant agenda items.

Matters from CCMAS40

Review and update of CXS 234 and development of database of methods

31. CCLAC21 took note of the recent progress and ongoing work on the review and update of the *Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling* (CXS 234-1999) in the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS). CCLAC21 highlighted the work undertaken by Brazil and Uruguay in the harmonization of the standard CXS 234-1999; the importance of engagement by countries of the region in CCMAS and the review of methods; the promotion of the use of performance criteria, which provided greater flexibility with regard to the range of methods that can be used; the importance of Codex methods in having reliable results; and the value of CXS 234-1999 for national food control management systems.

Matters from CCFA50

Guidance on the alignment of food additive provisions and alignment plan

32. CCLAC21 recalled that there were three regional standards developed by CCLAC, namely the *Regional Standard for Culantro Coyote* (CXS 304R-2011), *Regional Standard for Lucuma* (CXS 305R-2011) and *Regional Standard for Yacon* (CXS 324R-2017), which needed aligning with the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995).
33. As Members needed to review this issue with their technical experts before they could take any decisions on alignment of the regional standards with CXS 192-1995, CCLAC21 agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to issue a Circular Letter with detailed information on the background and the potential options for alignment of the food additive provisions in order to facilitate decision-making at CCLAC22.

Matters from CCEXEC77

Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV) on cashew kernels

34. CCLAC21 highlighted the relevance of the work of CCPFV for the region and agreed to discuss the specific issue of cashew kernels at the national level to determine its relevance to countries in the region.

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 6)¹¹

35. The RC presented the results of a survey conducted to gather information on Codex work relevant to the region and included replies from 17 of the 33 Members in the region. The issues identified through the survey were categorized into two groups; i) proposed draft standards, potential new work and ongoing discussions seeking regional support as category I and ii) cross-cutting topics for the region as category II.
36. Given that the nature of the discussion required for both categories was different, CCLAC21 agreed with the proposal of the Chairperson to discuss each category separately.
37. Before embarking on the discussion some Members requested the inclusion of additional items as follows:

Category I

- Discussion paper on harmonized probiotic guidelines for use in food and dietary supplements to be discussed at the 41st Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) in November 2019.
- Reactivation of the work on food additives in wine in the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)
- Grain size in the standard for quinoa
- Methods of analysis for determination of moisture in powdered milk products

Category II

- Questioning of the scientific basis of Codex MRLs and impact on use of these MRLs

¹⁰ CX/LAC 19/21/7; CRD9 (Dominican Republic)

¹¹ CX/LAC 19/21/8; CRD2 (Uruguay); CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD8 (Costa Rica); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD10 (Brazil); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD13 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

38. With regards to use of Codex MRLs, one delegation expressed concerns that some countries were not applying the science based standards of Codex, but rather taking a hazard based approach to regulation which could lead to trade barriers.

39. CCLAC21 discussed the items in category I and made the following comments and observations.

Provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in ultra heat-treated (UHT) milk

40. CCLAC21 recalled the discussions on this issue at CAC42 and the lack of agreement to adopt the provisions and noted that; the proposed provisions were based on an evaluation of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA); there had been no objections to the proposed adoption at Step 8 at CCFA; and the objections to adoption presented at the CAC42 were not accompanied by relevant data. Concerns were expressed that despite the fact that due process had been followed and there had been an opportunity for Members to raise concerns at CCFA or in advance of CAC42 this had not happened. It was further noted that many of those raising concerns were developing countries while those that could benefit most from the adoption of this standard were also developing countries. This highlighted the importance of developing countries from different regions working together to better understand and support each other's needs.

41. Costa Rica highlighted their concerns, as previously raised at CCFA, relating to the inclusion of food additives in milk, noting the complex character of milk and the difference in composition of milk from different species and the potential for the use of this food additive to contribute to quality (jellification) and safety (masking microbiological contamination) concerns.

Draft Maximum level for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa products

42. Members recalled the failure of CAC42 to adopt the proposed maximum levels (MLs) for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa products due to the opposition of some delegations¹². Some Members, proposing the establishment of a regional position on this issue, expressed their strong concern for the lack of respect of the available science and consideration of the work of the technical committees, highlighting that the evaluation of JECFA, the work of the electronic working group (EWG) and the recommendations of both Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) and Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) were overlooked without any new data being presented to support rejection of the proposed MLs.

EWG: Guidance for committees working by correspondence

43. CCLAC21 encouraged Members to participate in these discussions noting that the guidance provided should remain within the working framework provided for Committees in the PM.

Role of science in Codex work

44. CCLAC21 expressed its strong support for the role of science in Codex and the establishment of Codex standards based on the scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO and their expert bodies (e.g. JECFA, Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)); highlighted its strong concerns regarding the failure of CAC42 to adopt standards for the use of the additive trisodium citrate in UHT milk and the maximum limit for cadmium in chocolate containing or declaring <30% total and cocoa solids despite the scientific advice from the FAO/WHO expert committees and the recommendations of relevant Codex committees and CCEXEC; noted the potential risk associated with deviating from the principles of science in Codex work; and expressed their strong defence of the Codex principles relating to the role of science.

45. Based on the above views, some Members proposed the establishment of a regional position and the Chairperson invited interested Members to prepare a proposal for consideration by the committee.

46. The discussions could not be completed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

Conclusion

47. CCLAC21 agreed on a regional position to support the adoption of the provisions for the use of trisodium citrate in UHT milk as proposed at CAC42 at the forthcoming CCFA. Costa Rica expressed their reservation to this regional position and the proposed adoption of this provision.

48. CCLAC21 could not make further conclusions due to the discontinuation of the session for security reasons.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019 (STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCLAC 2014-2019 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION) (Agenda Item 7.1)¹³

49. Agenda Item 7.1 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

¹² REP19/CAC paras 52 - 67

¹³ CX/LAC 19/21/9; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD11 (Honduras); CRD12 (Ecuador)

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 – ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENTATION (Agenda Item 7.2)¹⁴

50. The Chairperson recalled that the Committee had established an in-session WG to consider item 7.2 and develop activities to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The in-session WG, chaired by Ecuador, held a brief meeting to prioritize the strategic goals on which the region should focus its activities over the next two years. The report of the WG is available in CRD16¹⁵.
51. The discussions could not be completed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN (Agenda Item 8)¹⁶

52. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item, recalling CCEXEC74 support for “the need for members to contribute [to the] development and implementation” of the current Codex communications work plan and “the potential for greater engagement and impact through tailored collaboration with the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees”¹⁷. A video on Codex communication initiatives in several countries was presented with a particular focus on “How to prepare bananas for the world - an Ecuadorian story”.
53. The Codex Secretariat recalled that Codex Members can play an active role in supporting communication strategies, explaining how everyday e-tools such as social media can play an important part in raising awareness on Codex either at political level or to inform consumers on food safety initiatives. He reiterated the availability of the communications team in the Codex Secretariat to engage with Members and the RC to deliver on the communications work plan to ensure the achievement of proposed activities and plans.
54. CCLAC21 noted:
- (i) the importance of communications in Codex as a whole and the need to underpin this through the proposed regional work plan; and
 - (ii) that a communications centre, supported by the RC in collaboration with the Members of the region, would be key to coordinating communication activities and would directly contribute to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-25.
55. CCLAC21 further highlighted the importance of collaboration between the current and the future RCs in order to ensure a smooth transition of initiatives led by the Coordinator.

Conclusion

56. CCLAC21 agreed to:
- (i) adopted the Regional work plan and actively participate in its implementation (Appendix III);
 - (ii) supported submission of content for publication to the Codex Secretariat by Members, noting the important role of the RC for this task;
 - (iii) agreed to establish a communication centre, supported by the RC, to coordinate relevant activities in the CCLAC region; and
 - (iv) requested the current and future RCs to work closely together to ensure the smooth transition of a communication centre and related communications responsibilities.

NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 9)¹⁸

57. CCLAC21 unanimously agreed to recommend to CAC43 that Ecuador be appointed as the next Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean.
58. Ecuador thanked all delegations for their support, expressed their strong commitment to fulfil the duties of the Coordinator, and agreed to work closely with Chile to ensure an orderly handover of the role.
59. Delegates also expressed their appreciation to Chile for their excellent work as RC.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 10)

60. Agenda Item 10 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

¹⁴ CX/LAC 19/21/10; CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD7 (El Salvador); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD12 (Ecuador); CRD14 (Colombia)

¹⁵ CRD16 (Report of the in-session working group)

¹⁶ CX/LAC 19/21/11; CRD5 (Chile); CRD6 (Nicaragua); CRD9 (Dominican Republic); CRD12 (Ecuador)

¹⁷ REP18/EXEC1 paras 9 -12

¹⁸ CX/LAC 19/21/12; CRD9 (Dominican Republic)

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 11)

61. Agenda Item 11 was not discussed due to the discontinuation of CCLAC21 for security reasons.

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APPENDIX II

**FOOD SAFETY ACTION AREAS FOR THE NEXT DECADE
AS PROPOSED BY MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY FAO AND WHO**

Country	Areas for which initiatives are required	Member States (individually or in groups)	FAO/WHO	Other interested parties	Term
Costa Rica ¹⁹	Review and update the National Food and Nutrition Security Policies for the countries in the region to include elements that have a focus on health, a healthy diet and climate change.	Run a regional policy update project that includes national workshops with all the stakeholders involved.	Funding of regional project and workshops.	Support the regional project and workshops.	2020-2021
	Strengthen national food control systems using a risk-based approach.	Evaluate national food control systems in at least the following areas (food laboratory networks, alert services, product recalls, food fraud, informal markets, e-commerce, electronic certifications and data protection, among others).	Support to address the problem of informal markets in developing economies.	Support for a review of advanced documents on the various aspects to be covered, as well as information on the approach to informal and other markets.	2020-2022
	Reinforce dissemination of new Codex standards to be adopted by Codex member countries.	Disseminate new standards adopted in different Codex committees related to safety, such as Food Hygiene, Contaminants in Foods, Food Additives, Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, among others, through Codex Coordinating Committees and other regional forums.	Recognise the work of Codex and bring it into line with the work of FAO and WHO. Place safety topics of global interest being discussed in Codex on the agenda of FAO and WHO assemblies. Facilitate the dissemination of new food safety standards on web pages through information notices, summaries, seminars, social networks and others.	Support the dissemination of new Codex standards.	Ongoing

¹⁹ Information on the goals of the proposed activities is provided in CCLAC21, CRD3.

	<p>Coordinate country and regional action to reduce antimicrobial resistance in the agrifood chain via national committees set up for this purpose.</p>	<p>Play an active role in the Regional Network on Antimicrobial Resistance in Animal and Plant Production and publicise action taken.</p>	<p>Create a regional network on antimicrobial resistance to harmonise the implementation of the tripartite WHO/FAO/OIE Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.</p>	<p>Support action to reduce antimicrobial resistance.</p>	<p>2020-2021</p>
	<p>Migrate to risk-based control plans based on existing methodologies.</p>	<p>Establish risk-based control plans according to existing methodology.</p>	<p>Provide guidance documents on how to develop risk-based control plans. Fund regional project and workshops.</p>	<p>Provide support with other existing information on the subject.</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>
	<p>Explore and improve mechanisms for cooperation between academia, the public sector and the private sector on issues of innovation in food safety, as well as communicating technological advances.</p>	<p>Identify relevant mechanisms for cooperation in this area.</p>	<p>Provide information on mechanisms for cooperation between academia, the public sector and the private sector on innovation in food safety, as well as communicate technological advances. Support for projects submitted through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). Financial support for participation in neutral multilateral forums for dialogue, allowing members to share knowledge and experience on the use of new technologies and policy choices.</p>	<p>Actively participate in identifying mechanisms for cooperation in this area.</p>	<p>2022-2024</p>
	<p>Inventory of programmes, plans and strategies for education, communication and social marketing on food safety.</p>	<p>Follow up on the results of the study conducted on food safety knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAPs) and establish a consumer communication and education strategy that includes information on complaints mechanisms.</p>	<p>Provide updated information on education, communication and social marketing strategies.</p>	<p>Coordinate efforts to implement action to improve consumer participation in food safety issues.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Conduct a second disease burden study based on methodology to be provided by WHO.</p>	<p>Review of methodology and search for partners to run the study.</p>	<p>WHO – provide methodology on the disease burden study mentioned in the Safety and Trade Forum.</p>	<p>Technical and financial support to carry out the study.</p>	<p>2023</p>
	<p>Develop food safety information systems to enable the sharing of food safety</p>	<p>Inventory of existing and missing food safety information systems.</p>	<p>Provide countries with an inventory of existing systems.</p>	<p>Support for raising awareness of the</p>	<p>2025</p>

	information at national, regional and global levels.			importance of data sharing.	
Chile	<p>National coordination with FAO and WHO representatives.</p> <p>Take steps to ensure that delegates attending these FAO and WHO meetings succeed in placing food safety on the respective agendas and reports. This could be coordinated by the National Codex Contact Points.</p> <p>Although the conferences provided a great showcase to publicise the impact of food safety in various areas and to reflect on the future of global food chains, FAO and WHO need to witness a clear decline to continue to address the issue. FAO and WHO carry out their work according to their members' requests, which are officially transmitted at meetings of their highest coordinating bodies, the World Health Assembly for WHO and the Conference for FAO.</p> <p>It is at these forums that countries should express the importance of working on food safety and make concrete proposals based on national deliberations and prioritisation conducted at the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean's (CCLAC) regular meetings.</p>	CCLAC member countries.	Regional FAO and WHO offices and national offices should support the countries in the region in prioritising and producing proposals, and back the regional/national implementation of the activities supported in FAO and WHO higher decision-making bodies.	Observers, multilateral agencies, NGOs and trade associations.	<p>WHO:</p> <p>WHO World Health Assembly: next meeting in early 2020.</p> <p>FAO:</p> <p>Next FAO conference (No. 42) will be held in Rome 12-16 July 2021.</p> <p>The next FAO regional conference: regional conference No. 36 to be held in Nicaragua in 2020.</p>
Honduras	Review and update national policies to incorporate food safety systems into food and nutritional security policies as part of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.	Promote intersectoral and inter-agency coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage resources to fund regional projects. • Organise regional workshops to develop and implement work plans. 	CCLAC countries that need to update and coordinate their national policies could be asked to take part.	2020-2021
	Modernise risk-focused food safety systems and the concept of "One Health" by setting up national food regulations based on and/or harmonised with Codex standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage resources and identify human talent at inter-agency level. • Compare current regulations and their level of harmonisation with Codex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide diagnostic tools for food regulation requirements. • Provide tools to assess gaps in existing food regulations. • Organise national/regional workshops to identify and 	CCLAC countries that need to modernise their national food control systems.	2020-2022

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up multidisciplinary work teams to design and implement the work plans. 	<p>prioritise food regulation requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance and advice in developing and updating food regulations to modernise national food monitoring systems. 		
	Strengthen Foodborne Disease Outbreak Surveillance Systems (FDOSSs) to generate and maintain data in a systematic manner and facilitate food safety decision-making and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote intersectoral and inter-agency coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage resources to fund regional projects. Organise national/regional workshops to develop and implement work plans. Provide technical assistance in the design of efficient FDOSS surveillance platforms and their integration with food safety managers. 	CCLAC countries that require strengthening their FDOSS surveillance systems.	2022-2025
	Fight and contain antimicrobial resistance in the food chain through prudent use of antimicrobials in animal and plant production.	Prioritise finalising national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) plans.	Focus resources and efforts in providing technical assistance and support to countries that have not yet finalised and approved their national plans.	CCLAC countries that have not yet approved their national AMR plans.	2020
	Improve countries' participation in work to set the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and facilitate the implementation of Codex standards.	Prepare and submit robust implementation proposals for the Trust Fund.	Continue to manage and support countries to strengthen their national Codex capacities through the Trust Fund.	Potential Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries.	Ongoing
Ecuador	Fight and contain antimicrobial resistance in the food chain through prudent use of antimicrobials in animal and plant production.	Draft national plans and agendas.	Training and research. Funding.	Build analytical capacity through existing laboratories in the country and the Academy for Surveillance and Control.	Ongoing
	Increase investment in national food control systems, enhance risk-based approaches and build capacity to manage food safety emergencies with a view to ensuring the safety of food supplies in informal and formal markets and a special focus on vulnerable populations.	Develop public policy to promote food safety.	Training and research. Funding.	Raise awareness of the importance of food safety.	Ongoing

	Ensure proper food safety management in the food sector, pay special attention to small-scale operators and enhance private sector investment to develop resilient safe food and feed supply chains.	Create inter-institutional technical committees.	Training and research. Funding.	Participate at the committees' invitation.	Ongoing
	Raise public awareness; promote food safety education and training in communities and schools; encourage dialogue and inspiring action to improve food safety, using World Food Safety Day as an international reminder of the need to maintain a high level of public awareness.	National communication and training programme.	Training and research. Funding.	Participate in training.	Ongoing
	Contribute towards incorporating data on a global scale and sharing expertise, knowledge and information on existing and emerging food safety issues to inform forward-looking policies, regulations and programmes.	Develop programmes to share experiences with countries in the region.	Training and research. Funding.	Be a guest at events.	Ongoing
Colombia	Strengthen and reinforce risk assessment by Codex scientific advisory bodies (JMPR and JECFA).	Develop discussion and analysis workshops on this issue to define the positions of the countries in the various Codex Commission Committees.	Organise regional workshops and video conferences to address and discuss this issue. Include this topic in FAO and WHO ministerial or international meetings. Send a notice to the countries stating their opinion on this situation. Propose adding this item to the agenda of the next meetings of the WTO SPS Committees.	Review this issue and establish a position at the IICA's annual conference.	By 2020

REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN 2020-2025

The table shows the proposed objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCLAC Regional Communications Work plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”, in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards”.

Objective	Activities	Targets	Indicators
1. Establish clear, communication channels	1.1. Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and Codex Secretariat (CS) 1.2. Establish simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. WhatsApp communications group, or discussion group on Codex EWG forum)	By CCLAC22 (2021) 75% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of survey responses rating regional communications “excellent” or “good”
2. Communicate the value of Codex standards in the region	2.1 Provide CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region 2.2 Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO 2.3 Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects	By CAC43 10 news items from countries in the region published By CCLAC22 30 news items from countries in the region By CCLAC22 50% of countries in the region have made a contribution to codex news on the regional webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of CCLAC news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution