



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NEAR EAST**

**9<sup>th</sup> Session, 15 – 19 May 2017**

**Rome, Italy**

**MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019  
(STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCNE 2014-2019) - STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

(Prepared by CCNE Coordinator)

**Introduction**

1. The 36th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC36)<sup>1</sup> (July 2013) adopted the Codex<sup>2</sup> Strategic Plan 2014-2019. In adopting the Codex plan, the Committee noted that some members had indicated that the Codex plan could serve as the basis for the development of regional strategic plans.
2. The 8th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE)<sup>3</sup> (June 2015) agreed with the Strategic Plan for CCNE 2014-2019.
3. The Committee acknowledged that meeting the recommendations of the safety and quality standards adopted by CAC can open markets for food products in many parts of the world resulting in increased income for exporting countries. The CCNE Strategic Plan was therefore aligned to support the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019, seeking to achieve better coordination and interaction among Member countries for strengthening national food safety systems and promoting harmonisation with Codex.
4. When considering the revitalisation of regional coordinating committees, CAC38 (July 2015)<sup>4</sup> noted that some delegations questioned the usefulness of regional strategic plans while others saw them as necessary tools for addressing regional priorities and for supporting the Codex strategic plan. The need for regional plans to be coherent with the global one was broadly appreciated.
5. In considering the follow-up to the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019, the 71st Session of the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) (July 2016) considered a document prepared by the Codex Secretariat which recommended a process and timeline for developing a new Codex Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. The CCEXEC recommended the Commission to request the Secretariat to start the process of developing the new strategic plan and that the current strategic plan should be the starting point for the new plan.<sup>5</sup>
6. The first step for the preparation of the new strategic plan will be the provision of suggestions from the regional coordinating committees (RCCs) on possible goals and objectives for integration into a new plan. The RCCs will therefore be requested to provide comments during the 2018-2019 round of meetings.
7. With regards to the development and implementation of regional strategic plans, only two RCCs have kept regional strategic plans on their work plan namely CCLAC<sup>6</sup> and CCAFRICA<sup>7</sup>. Other RCCs have decided to discontinue the development or implementation of their regional strategic plans completely namely CCNASWP<sup>8</sup> or have converted them into a more simplified document for internal use by the Coordinator / RCC.

<sup>1</sup> REP13/CAC, paras. 162-177

<sup>2</sup> Also known as the General or Global or CAC Strategic Plan

<sup>3</sup> REP15/NE, paras. 77 - 88

<sup>4</sup> REP15/CAC, para. 107 - 118

<sup>5</sup> REP16/EXEC, para. 71

<sup>6</sup> REP17/LAC, para. 113

<sup>7</sup> REP17/AFRICA, para. 62

<sup>8</sup> REP17/NASWP, para. 55

8. In this regard, CCASIA discontinued<sup>9</sup> the development of a regional strategic plan and replaced it with a list of activities of interest to the Region. This decision was taken as the Codex strategic plan provided adequate guidance to CCASIA and the Coordinator could use the list of activities as a basis for the work of the Committee as appropriate. CCEURO discontinued<sup>10</sup> the development of a regional strategic plan and agreed to keep it as an internal reference document that will inform the activities of CCEURO as necessary.
9. Following the completion of CCNE08, a regional FAO/WHO workshop on Codex work was held in Beirut, Lebanon in October 2015. At that meeting, several Member countries noted that the CCNE Strategic Plan envisaged activities that may not be possible to complete within the timeframe allocated to the plan. In view of this, two questionnaires were launched by the Coordinator:
  - general survey on prioritization of activities of the CCNE Strategic Plan to identify activities that could be prioritized for completion between 2015 – 2019 and
  - comments on agenda items of Codex committees meeting between 2016 – 2017 to identify items of interest to the Region and to include observations from countries on their specific items. This with the aim to improve coordination of work within the Region and participation of CCNE Member countries in the discussion of such items.

Due to the low response rate, no data analyses could be performed to define further actions and to report back to CCNE09.

#### **Further work on the CCNE Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019**

10. The development of regional strategic plans imply considerable time and resources. This should be avoided as (i) the Codex strategic plan includes a number of items for which all Committees, including RCCs, are responsible; and (ii) RCCs are consulted each time a Codex strategic plan is developed and may propose activities of their interest for inclusion. This is of particular relevance as the second round of RCC meetings will actually contribute with the development of the revised Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (see paras. 5-6).
11. The Committee may therefore consider how to proceed further with the implementation of the CCNE Strategic Plan 2014-2019. It is noted that a number of activities identified in the plan are already taken up by the Codex Secretariat, FAO, WHO and standing items on the agenda of RCCs which have high priority within the framework of the revitalization of RCCs.
12. In recognition of the need for CCNE to contribute to the Codex Strategic Plan, draft strategic objectives for CCNE have been developed as a guidance and information source to provide suggestions on possible goals and objectives that the Region may input in the revised Codex Strategic Plan as requested by CCEXEC71. The Codex Strategic Plan and the regional CCNE Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 have been taken as the basis for this proposal (see Annex).
13. The Codex Secretariat will take note of the information provided by CCNE when updating the general implementation status of the Codex Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019 for consideration by CCEXEC73 (July 2017).

#### **Recommendations**

14. In the light of the above mentioned considerations the Committee is invited to:
  - Discontinue the implementation of the CCNE Strategic Plan and to actively contribute to the development of the revised Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (as of this session onwards).
  - Discontinue the implementation of the CCNE Strategic Plan and to keep a simplified action plan for core activities of CCNE as an internal reference document that will inform the work of CCNE as necessary (see Annex).
  - Continue the implementation of the CCNE Strategic Plan.

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<sup>9</sup> REP15/ASIA, para. 78

<sup>10</sup> REP17/EURO, para. 58

## DRAFT - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR CCNE

Codex Strategic Plan	CCNE Objective	Proposed Activities	Output	Indicators
<b>Goal 1:</b> <i>Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues</i>	To develop and/or review Codex standards and other Codex texts taking into account regional interests	Identify specific food products of interest to the region that require standards to be developed (e.g.: Standard for Zaatar);	Identification through: 1. Workshops, interviews, questionnaires, online surveys 2. Standing items on CCNE agenda	Overview of specific food products of interest to the region that merit standards to be developed.  Number of regional-standards developed for products of interest to the region
	Submit all proposals for new Codex standards for products of interest to the region and other CCNE related issues	Promote the use of standards in regulations to facilitate trade in the region	Proposals for new CCNE related Codex standards	Number of proposals for new Codex standards submitted

Codex Strategic Plan	CCNE Objective	Proposed Activities	Output	Indicators
<p><b>Goal 2:</b> <i>Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards</i></p>	<p>To strengthen the exchange of scientific and technical expertise amongst CCNE Member States</p>	<p>Exchange of written notes between the countries of the region on draft standards and Codex issues and ensure that these observations are well defended during the Codex meetings even in the absence of the country;</p> <p>Identify and prioritize regional and global issues where there is a need for scientific research/analysis;</p> <p>Identify the needs for scientific researches;</p> <p>Organize meetings on the sidelines of the Codex meeting to discuss food safety and quality issues in the region</p>	<p>Identification through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In session working groups</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• eWGs</li> <li>• PWGs</li> <li>• CCNE documents</li> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul>	<p>Number of meetings and number of participants</p> <p>Outcome of meetings and reports</p>
		<p>Promote the participation of experts from CCNE in the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and provide data/experts in response to call for data/experts</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze current participation of experts in the Joint FAO/WHO bodies</li> <li>2. Stimulate participation of experts</li> <li>3. Stimulate the provision of data in response to calls for data</li> </ol>	<p>Increase CCNE participation in the Joint FAO/WHO scientific advisory bodies</p>

Codex Strategic Plan	CCNE Objective	Proposed Activities	Output	Indicators
<b>Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex members</b>	To strengthen capacities of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC)	Update list of Codex Contact Points in the countries of the region; Supply CCP and NCC with the required references trainings and tools so they can perform their roles properly.	Identification through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In session working groups</li> <li>• Interviews</li> <li>• eWGs</li> <li>• PWGs</li> <li>• CCNE documents</li> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul>	(TBD)
	Identify Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups that are of particular interest to the region	Conduct periodic surveys via questionnaire about Codex Committees priorities for the countries of the region and schedule priorities according to the common interests among countries of the region.	Identification through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys</li> </ul>	List of priorities from surveys results
	Encourage stakeholders engagement in Codex activities	Explore different means, including through use of CTF2 to ensure continued effective participation of countries of the region in priority Codex Committees and related codex activities.	Identification through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports of Participation</li> <li>- Documents submitted to a meeting</li> </ul>	Number of participating countries in Codex activities

Codex Strategic Plan	CCNE Objective	Proposed Activities	Output	Indicators
<p><b>Goal 4:</b> <i>Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices</i></p>	<p>Strengthen regional communication, experience sharing and coordination among CCNE members in Codex activities</p>	<p>Develop a communication platform for CCNE members.</p> <p>Define a common position of the region towards Codex issues</p> <p>Establish an updated list of names and contacts of countries of the region Heads of delegations participating in meetings of the Codex from countries of the region.</p>	<p>Use of CCNE website</p> <p>CCNE Secretariat to provide a summary of issues of interest to CCNE on the Codex agenda, in cooperation with CCNE Member States</p>	<p>Functioning updated CCNE platform</p>
	<p>Coordinate the participation in Codex events and enhance regional communication through different tools</p>	<p>Follow-up, where possible, the access of the Codex documents in a timely manner especially in Arabic language</p> <p>Organize electronic working groups when necessary to discuss specific topics of common interest for the countries of the region.</p>	<p>Use of CCNE website</p>	<p>CCNE agenda that reflects the particular interests to the region</p>