

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

18th Session
San José, Costa Rica, 19-23 November 2012

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (Prepared by FAO and WHO)

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2. Under their respective mandates, goals and workplans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4.
3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:
 - upgrading the capacity of developing member countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
 - enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
 - strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.
4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided below in tables shown in paragraph 8 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at <http://www.rlc.fao.org/en/>; www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns, www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/capacity/en/> and <http://new.paho.org/panaftosa/index>.
5. Important information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 35th Session of the CAC and is available in CX/CAC 12/35/14 Add.1 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac35/cac35_14_add1e.pdf). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials including guidelines, manuals and online resources, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include ongoing work to address issues related to foodborne pathogen contamination and antimicrobial resistance, the development of global training materials on import food control programmes and food; strengthened efforts to support countries in managing food safety emergencies; promotion of the adoption of safe food practices by food chain operators, and the undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG).
6. Joint FAO/WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners for the period in question appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which were submitted to the 67th Session of the CCEXEC and the 35th Session of the CAC (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CAC/cac35/cac35_13e.pdf).

7. On the occasion of the 18th Session of the CCLAC, FAO and PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the Codex Trust Fund, are organizing a pre-CCLAC workshop to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 18 November 2012 to discuss: "Risk management to reduce food safety problems within national food control systems". It is hoped that the delegates will be able to identify key stakeholders and decision makers along the food chain to increase awareness and support across sectors and stakeholders for food control activities at the national level.
8. Activities completed or ongoing since the 17th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean are detailed in the following tables.

REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS			
Activity(Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Regional training workshops on pesticide MRLs –in Latin America, 23 participants representing 11 countries (Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Uruguay). The objectives of these training workshops were to strengthen the capabilities of scientists from developing countries in the techniques of pesticide evaluation for the establishment of MRLs and to update their knowledge of the assessment of risks associated with dietary intake of pesticide residues.	FAO, in partnership with the USDA	16 – 20 May 2011	San Paulo, Brazil
GFN international advanced workshop for Central America countries, Mexico, Cuba and Dominican Republic in burdens of illness, antimicrobial resistance and strengthening of foodborne surveillance systems. 3 participants per country.	PAHO/WHO	30 May-3 June 2011	Regional
Final Project meeting for the Regional Project TCP/RLA/3213 "Assistance in the design and /or strengthening of food safety policies for the countries of the region". Participating countries; Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Dominican Republic and Uruguay	FAO	October 2011	Santiago, Chile
9 th Meeting of the PulseNet for Latin America and the Caribbean	PAHO/WHO CDC	19-21 October 2011	Santiago, Chile
Regional training workshop on quality linked to geographical origin (TCPRLA3211) for Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru	FAO	8-11 November 2011	Lima, Peru
e-learning activities of the Inter American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL) on food safety included 9 webinars with 3214 participants from 18 countries. Issues of interest for the laboratories that are members of the INFAL were addressed, such as: quality control of culture media, residues of radioactivity in food, uncertainty of measurement for chemical methods, proficiency testing, security in testing laboratories, sampling and success experiences in accreditation ISO 17025 standard accreditation. Specialists from Latin America and Europe were the speakers	PAHO/WHO FAO	2011	Regional
Regional Workshop on the Development of National Food Safety Emergency Response Plans for Central American countries, Mexico,	FAO, PAHO/WHO, OIE, OIRSA	13-15 March 2012	Panama City, Panama

REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS			
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Dominican Republic and Cuba. The seminar allowed participants to learn about successful experiences to face emergencies where food safety can become an issue and affect public health. Participants learned about the methodology to develop a plan, with a risk based approach.			
4th module of the Executive Leadership in Food safety series with young professionals from 34 countries, Theme was the multiple roles of agricultural health and food safety	PAHO/WHO University of Minnesota, Nebraska-Lincoln University, IICA	10-14 April 2012	Panama City, Panama
Regional electronic course on "Food Safety Control Systems, SCIA" version 2012 for professionals working in public institutions related with national food safety control. The course is based on documents published by FAO and the Codex Alimentarius relating to risk analysis, with 60 participants from all countries in LAC	FAO	23 April – 20 June 2012	Regional
Final Project meeting for the National Project "Food safety and quality costs in selected small-scale fish chain".	FAO	May 7, 2012	Santiago, Chile
e-learning planned activities of the INFAL in 2012 include 1 webinar on uncertainty in microbiological analytical methods, 4 sessions on EU guidelines on food safety, webinar on CODEX guidelines for the control of chemical residues in food	PAHO/WHO FAO	May through November 2012	Panama City, Panama
GFN international advanced workshop for the English speaking Caribbean countries on burden of illness, antimicrobial resistance and strengthening of foodborne surveillance systems. 3 participants per country: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Trinidad, Turks & Caicos	PAHO/WHO	9-12 July 2012	Antigua and Barbuda
6th Meeting of the Pan-American Commission on Food Safety, with the participation of representatives of the ministries of health and agriculture, industry, consumers associations of the 5 subregions of the Americas	PAHO/WHO	24 July 2012	Santiago, Chile
Regional Forum on Integrated public health and agriculture surveillance, including antimicrobial resistance. Participation of the public sector (health and agriculture), private sector, research and education of the region	PAHO/WHO	25 July 2012	Santiago, Chile
General Assembly of the Inter American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL)	PAHO/WHO/ FAO	October 2012	Guayaquil Ecuador
Workshop(s) for the CARICOM members in the LAC and Caribbean region to field-test practical risk analysis training materials based on	PAHO/WHO, Health Canada	November 2012	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS			
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CODEX Working Principles			
National workshop "Hygienic food handling" for small rural food producers	FAO	23 - 24 November 2012	Concepción, Chile

PROJECTS/ DIRECT ASSISTANCE		
Summary of activities(which were referenced in the last paper for 35th session)	Country	Status
Eat Safely campaign launched in the Dominican Republic	FAO Dominican Republic	March 2012
Telefood on food labelling for rural producers	FAO Chile	April – September 2012
FAO/WHO continued their technical assistance activities in the region in strengthening national food safety control systems and Codex knowledge in the MERCOSUR and CARICOM countries, technical assistance in designing new food safety agencies and/or strengthening food safety policies, including modernization of SPS legislation and healthy food markets; capacity building in risk analysis for national health authorities, creation of national network of food analysis laboratories and strengthening laboratory quality assurance of foodborne. The FAO Eat Safely Campaign and WHO Five Keys to Food Safety in urban and rural primary schools are part of the communication strategy to enhance the level of information available to consumers with special focus on children.	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panamá, Honduras, Argentina, Chile, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Paraguay, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Ongoing
Eat Safely campaign has been implemented by the Ecuador Government as part of their national food safety strategy	FAO Ecuador	Closed
Eat Safely campaign implemented in Cuba with the cooperation of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative.	FAO Trinidad and Tobago	Ongoing
TCPF/CUB/3401 Assistance for the analysis and implementation of a National Strategy on Food Safety Risk Analysis.	FAO Cuba	Ongoing
Regional project to support development of schemes related to quality linked to geographical origin and geographical indications	FAO Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Peru,	On going

PROJECTS/ DIRECT ASSISTANCE		
Summary of activities(which were referenced in the last paper for 35th session)	Country	Status
PAHO/CFIA (Canada) and NFA (Sweden) carried out a proficiency testing round for food analysis laboratories for microbiology (quantitative: <i>E.coli</i> , coliforms and <i>S.aureus</i> qualitative: <i>Salmonella</i> and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>) and chemical (ash, water, nitrogen, fat, sodium, calcium, iron, potassium, phosphorus) with 81 participating laboratories from Latin America.	PAHO/WHO Regional	Ongoing
PAHO/WHO is supporting seven projects in South America in integrated surveillance for antimicrobial resistance in the poultry chain.	PAHO/WHO Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela and Uruguay	Ongoing
Community intervention for the implementation of the WHO Guide Five keys to growing safer fruits and vegetables: promoting health by decreasing microbial contamination	PAHO/WHO, FDA, PNUD, UNICEF El Salvador	Ongoing
Eat Safely campaign has been implemented in the English speaking Caribbean countries with radio spots and comics aimed for children	FAO Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago	Ongoing
National project: "Food safety and quality costs in selected small-scale fish chain" (TCP/CHI/3302)	FAO Chile	Ongoing
New activities of particular importance include:		
FAO/ACHIPIA (Chilean national food safety agency) cooperation agreement. This agreement includes provisions to support ACHIPIA with capacity building in food safety control systems, food safety risk analysis and food safety in emergency situations through e-learning courses in the areas of national food control systems and food safety risk analysis and a program of internships	Chile	Ongoing
The Eat Safely campaign has been adopted by the UN agencies residing in Colombia	Colombia	Ongoing

9. Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO and WHO have a tradition of collaboration and coordination in the implementation of food safety related activities.

16TH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE (RIMSA 16)

10. Ministers of Agriculture and of Health met at the 16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 16), in Santiago, Chile, July 26-27¹. The RIMSA is the most important forum in the Americas for defining veterinary public health and food safety policies. RIMSA 16 was organized by PAHO/WHO with the support and under the auspices of the Government of Chile.

11. Under the theme ***Agriculture, Health, and Environment: joining efforts for the well-being of the Americas*** the Agriculture and Health Ministers and Official Delegations analyzed the opportunities and challenges of maintaining adequate, sustainable, safe and nutritiously balanced quality food supplies for a continuously growing human population, in harmony with the environment. They recognized the importance and the complexity of the interactions that take place at the public health-animal health-environment interface.

12. Three major technical events served as preparation for the ministerial summit: the Sixth Meeting of the Pan-American Commission on Food Safety (COPAIA 6) the 12th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA12), and the Inter-Agency Forum: "Toward integrated epidemiologic surveillance". The recommendations of the COPAIA 6², and the RIMSA 16³ are included in two information room documents.

13. ***The membership of CCLAC is invited to engage with FAO and WHO*** to provide feedback on:

- ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region
 - priority needs at national and regional level which require further support from FAO and WHO.
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¹ <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/rimsa16/>

² http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/copaia6/dmdocuments/COPAIA%20FINAL%20REPORT_jt7ago2012-engl.pdf

³ <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/rimsa16/dmdocuments/RIMSA16%28INF5%29%20Consensus%20ingles.pdf>