



Report of LATINFOODS ACTIVITIES held on 13 and 14 November
2012 at the LATINAMERICAN Congress of Nutrition (SLAN),
La Havana, Cuba

List of participants:

Ruth Charrondiere	FAO, INFOODS Coordinator
Adriana Blanco-Metzler	LATINFOODS President Coordinator, COSTA RICAFOODS
Leticia González de Núñez	LATINFOODS Vice-President, PANAMAFOODS
Norma Samman	Geographic Representative of South America, ARGENFOODS
Julieta Salazar de Ariza	Geographic Representative of Mexico, Central America and Spanish Caribbean Countries, GUATEFOODS
Elizabete Wenzel Menezes	Regional Committee Compilation Coordinator, BRASILFOODS
Lilia Masson	Regional Committee Data Generation Coordinator, CAPCHICAL
Saturnino de Pablo	SAMFOODS Center Coordinator, CAPCHICAL
Ana Victoria Roman	MESOCARIBEFODS Center Coordinator, GUATEFOODS
Lourdes Valdés Fraga	CUBAFOODS
Victoria Valdés	PANAMAFOODS
Marielos Montero Campos	COSTA RICAFOODS
Katrina Heredia Blonval	COSTA RICAFOODS
Eliana Bistriche Giuntini	BRASILFOODS
Eliana Rodrigues Massini	BRASILFOODS
Jenny Ruales	ECUADORFODOS
Lizette Ganoza Morón	PERUFOODS
Zulma Arias H	COLOMBIAFOODS
Faviola Vidal Velasquez	BOLIVIAFOODS
Esperanza Guillén Luzguichi	BOLIVIAFOODS
Ariel Alejandro Vega	ARGENFOODS
Angela Zuleta	ARGENFOODS
Virginia Melo	MEXICOFOODS
Marianne Lutz	Chile
Carolina Henriquez	Chile
Laura Beatriz López	Argentina
Maribel Susana Poy	Argentina
Daniella Pereira Barrientos	Brasil
Yaneth Palacios Paz	Colombia
Rufino Ramos	Cuba
Patricia Mogrovejo	Ecuador
Elizabeth Dunford	Australia ((The George Institute for Global Health)



Annet JC Roodenburg*	The Netherlands (Choices International Foundation)
Marcela Leal*	Argentina
Luz Amparo Urango*	Colombia
Lorena Allemandi*	Argentina
Angela Zuleta*	Guatemala
Ariadna Mill Bellester*	Cuba
Carmen García Calzadilla*	Cuba
Rebeca Monroy Torres*	México
Luis González Franco*	México

(*) attended only the “Seminar of monitoring of salt and sodium in processed foods”

I. Welcome

Adriana Blanco, LATINFOODS coordinator opened the networked activities, welcomed all participants and presented the next program.

II. Program of LATINFOODS Activities (updated)

I General Program: Tuesday November 13, 2012 (Room 7, 8:30-18 hours

8:30-9:25		
FAO/SLAN/LATINFOODS Symposium on “Sustainable diets and food composition” (Coordinator Adriana Blanco)	‘Biodiversity, sustainable diets and food composition’	Dr. Ruth Charrondiere (FAO/ Rome, Italy)
	Sustainable diets and food composition in South America	Dr. Lilia Masson (Chile)
	Update on dietary fiber: Codex definition and analysis	Dr. Elizabete Wenzel (Brazil)
9:30-11:30		
Presentation	Guidelines for internal checks on food composition	Dr. Ruth Charrondiere (FAO/ Rome, Italy)
Training course	FAO’s Food Composition Compilation Tool	Dr. Ruth Charrondiere (FAO/ Rome, Italy)
11:30-12:30		
General Assembly: I part, Work Reports, period 2009-2012 (Coordinator Adriana Blanco)	Report of LATINFOODS President	MS Adriana Blanco (Costa Rica)
	Report of Geographical Representative South America	MS Norma Samman (Argentina)
	Report of Geographical Representative for Mexico, Central America and Caribbean	MS. Julieta Salazar de Ariza (Guatemala)
	Report of SAFOODS Sub-Center	Dr. Saturnino de Pablo (Chile)
	Report of MESOCARIBEFODDS Sub-Center	Dr. Ana Victoria Roman (Guatemala)
	Report of Compilation Committee	Dr. Elizabete Wenzel (Brazil)
	Report of Generation Committee	Dr. Lilia Masson (Chile)



13:30-18:00		
General Assembly: II part Work Plan , period 2012-2015 (Coordinators Adriana Blanco and Leticia de Núñez)	Food Composition Software for LATINFOODS	Eng. Ariel Vega (Argentina)
	Proposed work plan and discussion	MS Adriana Blanco (CR) and MS Leticia de Núñez (Panamá)
	Election of Regional Executive Committee 2012-2015	MS Adriana Blanco (CR) and Leticia de Núñez (Panamá)

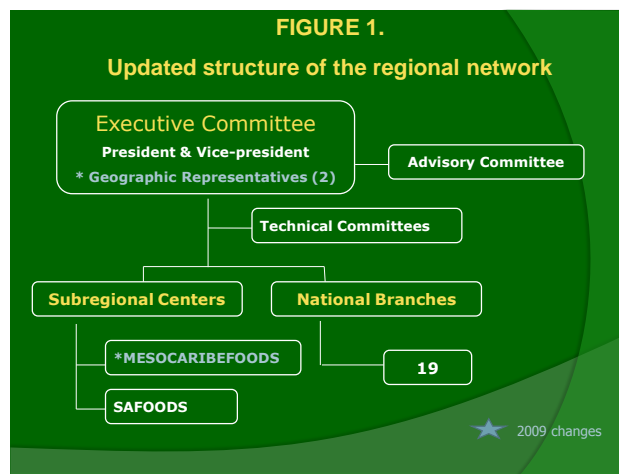
II Special Program: Wednesday November 14, 2012 (Piano Bar, 14-20 hours)

Seminar of monitoring of salt and sodium in processed foods (Coordinator Adriana Blanco)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background information about The George Institute • The importance of salt reduction • International activities on salt reduction • Monitoring salt levels in foods – Australia example • Global Food Monitoring Group • The importance of branded food composition databases • Country-specific experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Islands • Costa Rica • Argentina • Training on data collection and data entry. The following topics were covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using the WHO tool - Manual vs. digital camera vs. Smartphone data collection - Other considerations (e.g. shop permission, what information to collect, ongoing support, costs - Manual vs. online system generated data collection - Data checking and data categorization - Potential reports such as industry/category 	MS Elizabeth Dunford (The George Institute for Global Health de Australia) Collaborators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lorena Allemandi (Fundación Interamericana del Corazón-Argentina) • Katrina Heredia (Programa Reducción del Consumo de Sal/Sodio de Costa Rica, INCIENSA/FUNDEVI/ID RC) • Adriana Blanco (INCIENSA-Costa Rica)
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III- LATINFOODS achievements and plans

A) General: The regional network was created 26 years ago and has an organized structure with national chapters and sub-regional centers and geographical representatives who are always under evaluation (See figure 1). It has also developed operating rules for adequate functioning. More details can be found in the website of LATINFOODS network (<http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods>)



B) Achievements of LATINFOODS Work plan 2009-2012:

- 60% of a total of 27 activities planned for the year period were done. These activities were classified into three groups: research and technological development (6), training and dissemination (14) and administrative management (7).
- Seven additional non planned activities were done
- The most relevant activities that were developed were:

B1. Research and technological development

1. Development and almost finished of a relational database model for LATINFOODS, including validation by four countries
2. TCP/FAO proposal prepared and in negotiation status to establish food composition databases in the Central American and Dominican Republic
3. Continuity of activities of FAO Project TCP/RLA 3107 (involving Argentina, Chile and Paraguay)
4. LATINFOODS Website: design modification, database location, optimization of the structure and operating rules (update on 2009); branches information was updated (executive members and work plans); five national FCDBs were updated
5. MEXICOCARIBEFODS Website was developed in 2012



6. Eight LATINFOODS branches (42%) are participating in the international collaborative project to compare and monitor nutritional composition of processed foods coordinated by the George Institute of Sydney from Australia and more branches are interested to participate.

B2. Training and dissemination

7. Participation in the 9th International Graduate Course on production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition, Wageningen in October 2011 (3 members of LATINFOODS were trained through INF and UNU funding)
8. Participation in 9th International Food Data Conference, Norwich/London, September 2010: 18 presentations were done by LATINFOODS members, organization and development of a LATINFOODS meeting and participation in INFOODS meeting; participation in workshops organized by INFOODS/Eurofir (“tagnames”) and The George Institute for Global Health (Food Monitoring Group)
9. Participation in the elaboration of the FAO/INFOODS Guidelines for Checking Food Composition Data prior to the Publication of a User Table/Database, Version 1.0
10. Combination of forces with Pan American Health Organization Salt Reduction Initiative to control non communicable diseases where knowledge of food composition is key. Support given to international declaration policies in sodium reduction and obesity prevention, participation on international meetings, regional survey on sodium data in processed and prepared food from Latin America was done, and results were included in Expert Group’s final report.
11. Manual of food’s composition sampling for foods is under revision (prepared by USDA)
12. Participation of LATINFOODS representatives in international meetings (FAO Meeting on “Biodiversity and sustainable diets united against hunger”; PAHO’s and Ministry of Health of Mexico High Level Regional Conference on NCDs and Obesity, Latin American Scientific Committee of CHOICES Programme, The Aruba Declaration on Obesity, and PAHO’s Initiative on Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in the Americas by Reducing Dietary Salt Intake Population.
13. Newsletter—for 150 professionals related with food composition- was sent every 3 to 4 months to inform members about achievements and future activities of LATINFOODS. Nine newsletters already distributed and one is in preparation.
14. Workshops in food composition and visits to branches were conducted by LATINFOODS President and the Geographical Representatives of Mexico/Central America/Caribbean and South America, in order to strength and reactivate national branches.



B3. Administrative management

15. Of the 19 originally created branches, 10 (56%) sent the final report of activities (ARGENFOODS, BRASILFOODS, BOLIVIAFOODS, CAPCHICAL, COLOMBIAFOODS, COSTA RICAFOODS, CUBAFODOS, GUATEMALAFOODS, PANAMAFOODS and PERUFOODS).
16. General Assembly of LATINFOODS, Symposium of FAO/LATINFOODS/SLAN, a course of FAO tools and a seminar were done at the Latin-American Nutrition Congress, Cuba in November 2012. Representatives of twelve (12) Latin American countries assisted and three from international organizations and ONG.
17. Manual of food's composition sampling for foods is under revision
18. Communication with INFOODS coordination was highly improved.

Detailed reports prepared by coordinator of Regional Executive Committee are available on <http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/>

C) Priority plans:

- Database software developed by ARGENFOODS will be improved (INFOODS system to be included, additional outputs as Excel sheet with the entire database) and inclusion of the estimation of the nutritional profile of recipes.
- Regional workshops on software installation and use are planned to be done.
- To update the design and information of the LATINFOODS branches in the regional web page
- To update the local and regional FCDB, after DB software is completed

Detailed work plan is available on <http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/>

III. Points discussed during the meetings

1. **Software for compilation on food composition data:** it was decided to support and improve the program developed by ARGENFOODS. We want it to be complete and validating as soon as possible.
2. **Inactive and partially active branches:** updated executive committees, plan of activities and expert directory for each branch should be established by June 2013, otherwise new coordinator will be identified and previous (if existing) will "rotate".
3. **Advocacy, communication and dissemination.**
 - More advocacy work has to be done in order to make governments and other stakeholders more aware of the importance of food composition in



the various areas besides nutrition, e.g. food labelling, prevention of non-communicable disease, biodiversity, sustainable diets and agriculture.

- Newsletter has been found an excellent way to maintain network members linked and informed.
- The INFOODS and LATINFOODS Listserv should be strength with the inclusion of new members and development of an instruction guideline.

IV. Election of Vice-president and members of Regional Executive Committee. LATINFOODS final staff for the period 2012-2015 is:

Leticia de Núñez	LATINFOODS President, PANAMAFOODS
Norma Samman	LATINFOODS Vice-President, ARGENFOODS
Julieta Salazar de Ariza	Geographic Representative of Mexico, Central America and Spanish Caribbean Countries, GUATEFOODS
Esperanza Guillén Luzguichi	Geographic Representative of South America, BOLIVIAFOODS
Ana Victoria Roman	MESOCARIBEFOODS Sub-Center Coordinator, GUATEFOODS
Saturnino de Pablo	SAMFOODS Sub-Center Coordinator, CAPCHICAL
Angela Zuleta and Jose Luis Rodríguez	Regional Committee Data Generation Coordinator, ARGENFOODS and CUBAFOODS
Elizabete Wenzel Menezes	Regional Committee Compilation Coordinator, BRASILFOODS
Adriana Blanco-Metzler	Regional Committee Users Coordinator, COSTA RICAFOODS

V. Budget

INFOODS Coordinator gave a total of 10,000 USA\$ to LATINFOODS in order to organize the:

- FAO/SLAN/LATINFOODS Symposium on “Sustainable diets and food composition”
- Presentation of Guidelines for internal checks on food composition
- Training course on FAO’s Food Composition Compilation Tool
- LATINFOODS General Assembly

The budget was distributed on the members of the Regional Executive Committee that supported the network activities all over the period and to the informatics that developed the database software for the network.



Budget was sent by INFOODS-FAO/ROME directly to two FAO Latin-American Representations: Panamá and Cuba. The first one managed the purchase of air-tickets and the other one the payment of accommodation & participation fee. Focal points in these representations were Juliana Dolum (Juliana.Dolum@fao.org) and Marta Veloso (Marta.Veloso@fao.org). In the next Table is detailed the distribution of the budget and beneficiaries.

The George Institute for Global Health supported the “**Seminar of monitoring of salt and sodium in processed foods**” organized by LATINFOODS and this Australian Institution.

Table # 1

Financial statement of expenses of LATINFOODS activities

Participants (country that represents)	Stay	Rate (€)	Accommodation & participation fee (USD \$)	Air ticket (USD \$)	Total expenses (USA\$)
Adriana Blanco (Costa Rica)*	7 días/6 noches	478	593.79	541.11	1.134.90
Lillia Mason (Chile)	7 días/6 noches	543	674.53	1,009.50	1.684.03
Julieta Salazar (Guatemala)	7 días/6 noches	543	674.53	655.40	1.329.93
Elizabeth Wenzel (Brazil)	6 días/5 noches	461	572.67	0.00	572.67
Leticia de Núñez (Panama)	6 días/5 noches	450	559.01	615.00	1,174.01
Norma Samman (Argentina) *	6 días/5 noches	461	572.67	0.00	572.67
Ariel Vega (Argentina)	--	--	0.00	1,401.65	1,401.65
Saturnino de Pablo (Chile)	3 días/2 noches	387	480.75	1,102.50	1,583.25
* Accompanying paid their expenses		3,323	4,127.95	5,325.16	9,453.11
** 1€= 1.242236USD **UN Rate 1 Jun 12					

VI. Conclusion

- The current regional network is dynamic and productive with a great potential to improve the availability of update and high quality data in food composition in the region.
- Accompaniment of INFOODS Coordinator from FAO, Dr. Ruth Charrondiere has been a great driving to LATINFOODS since her designation in 2010.
- The association with users of food composition data, as PAHO and George Institute for Global Health promoted different activities of the network
- Efforts has to been done to update regional data base, activate some national branches and to achieve funding.