JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
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NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS, NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS, AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING.

Comments received from: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Panama and Paraguay

1. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

(I) STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF OFFICIAL SERVICES RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOD CONTROL

BOLIVIA

The institutions responsible for the control of food safety in Bolivia are:


In its central structure and on the regulatory level, the SENASAG has three specific technical units that cover the control of animal health, plant protection and food safety, responsibilities that are allocated by the Law of the Republic, as well as bodies to coordinate food safety throughout the production chain from farm-to-fork. The National Food Safety Unit covers five specific fields under its responsibility, including support staff:

• National Registration and Certification
• National Inspection and Control
• National Food and Residues Analytical Laboratories
• National Monitoring and Control of the National Food Safety Programme
• National System of Ecological Production and Certification

These bodies are responsible for formulating, agreeing and implementing all provisions concerning food safety, including the register of companies and slaughterhouses, food imports and exports, risk analysis, inspection of GAPs, HACCP, laboratory accreditation, programmes of residue control, programmes of food safety assurance in selected hazard chains, traceability in prioritized chains, certification of organic produce, international relations under the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

At the operational and executive level, the SENASAG has nine District Offices that cover the whole national territory, with its various departments and provinces. Each of these areas has a food safety unit, sometimes with infrastructural and logistics support.

The SENASAG has currently certified its Quality Management System in accordance with ISO Standard 9001:2008 in the process of issuing export licenses in the area of animal health, plant health and food safety in the district of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and directed towards streamlining internal management through the continuous enhancement of its resources and user attention service.

2. Ministry of Health and Sport

According to the LOE Law, it is established that the Ministry of Health and Sports regulates, plans, conducts and supervises the compliance and primacy of the standards related to the Public Health, and it must guarantee the population health through the promotion and disease prevention. Based on these aspects, the Health and Sports Ministry establishes through its Unit of Surveillance and Quality Control and Food Safety (UVCCIA, as in Spanish) under the National Institute of Health Laboratories (INLASA, as in Spanish) has as one of its main objectives to protect the populations health against the risk involving contaminated, adulterated or poor quality and safety food, in addition to the frauds in commerce, avoiding food-borne diseases and providing safe and fortified food according to the health regulations.
Units of Environmental Health and Food Safety in the Departmental Health Services Environment Units (SEDES as in Spanish) are constituted through this Unit, and they are in charge of carrying out the following activities:

- Organization and management of the system for the Health Registry;
- Preparation and updating of the database of food industries and results of laboratories;
- Sampling and control of the counter-sample;
- Inspection of industries to grant the Number of Sanitary Registry (Pre-inspection, Inspection and Post-inspection);
- Elaboration and interpretation of Laboratory Results;
- Development and training courses on Good Manufacturing Practices for food handlers in Food Companies.
- Participation on the corresponding Technical Committees regarding the elaboration of Bolivian Standards.
- Support in the planning and coordination of addressed surveillance activities.

Given the importance of laboratory support for the development of food control, the Ministry of Health and Sport created and coordinates, through the National Institute of Health Laboratories (INLASA), the Official Network of Food Analytical Laboratories (RELOAA) recognized as such through Ministerial Regulation No 136 of 28 March 2003, whose primary objective is to underpin food control and surveillance because of its impact on public health. This network is recognized through Administrative Resolution No. 037/2003 of 22 May 2003 by the National Service for Animal Health, Plant Protection and Food Safety (SENASAG).

Likewise, helping to one of the policies that the Government has, which is the "Malnutrition 0", the controls for the different industries that provide the Familiar subsidy Package are carried up. This is a social presentation in which the pregnant from 5-month of pregnancy are benefited giving them food. As well as, it helps Municipalities to control the school breakfasts.

**BRAZIL**

Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control

a) In Brazil, the bodies responsible for food control are the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (Secretariat of Animal and Plant Health - SDA) and the Ministry of Health (National Health Surveillance Agency).

**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply**

The general structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) and information on its divisions, sectors and officials can be found on its Web site at: [http://www.agricultura.gov.br](http://www.agricultura.gov.br) and [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2007-2010/2010/Decreto/D7127.htm#art6](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2007-2010/2010/Decreto/D7127.htm#art6)

The MAPA body responsible for food control is the Secretariat of Animal and Plant Health (SDA) whose structure was set out in the Rules of Procedure approved in 04 March 2010.

1. The SDA has six departments: the Department of Inspection of Animal Products (DIPOA), the Department of Inspection of Plant Products (DIPOV), the Department of Inspection and Livestock Inputs (DFIP), the Department of Agricultural Inputs (DFIA), the Department of Animal Health (DSA) and the Department of Plant Health (DSV), Coordination of Contaminant and Residue Control (CCRC) and Biosecurity Coordination (CBIO).

**Ministry of Health/National Health Surveillance Agency**

The National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) was created by Law. It operates under special self-governing regime, i.e. as a regulatory agency with administrative independence, financial autonomy and continuity of managerial staff for the duration of their mandate. In the Federal Public Administration Structure, the Agency is related to the Ministry of Health.

The Agency's institutional mission is to protect public health through sanitary control of the production and marketing of products and services subject to health surveillance, including associated environments, processes, inputs and technologies. The Agency is also in charge of sanitary control at ports, airports and borders, and for liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, research and analytical laboratories, academia and foreign institutions on international issues related to health surveillance.

ANVISA also coordinates the activities of the National Health Surveillance System (SNVS), collaborating with the states and local authorities for the Brazilian Universal Public Health System (SUS). More specifically, the Agency:

- Coordinates, supervises and controls activities of registration, information, inspection and control of risk by setting standards and guidelines and by promoting the appropriate organization of technical and administrative procedures in order to ensure proper health surveillance of foods, beverages, bottled water, inputs, packaging, food additives, contaminants and residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides residues in foods;
- Encourages scientific research in health surveillance;
- Promotes the training of health surveillance personnel in programs such as the HACCP and Good Manufacturing Practices;
- Fosters expansion of the public health laboratory network to meet demand for food analysis;
- Stimulates the accreditation of health surveillance laboratory services at federal, state and municipal level;
- Stimulates and promotes the adoption of scientific methods of risk analysis in health surveillance actions by personnel of the National Health Surveillance System;
- Supports food safety surveillance actions at ports, airports, borders and customs posts;
- Helps to prepare and to harmonize standards to be agreed in international forums including Codex and MERCOSUR;
- Participates in technical activities for the incorporation of internationally agreed regulations into national legislation;
- Coordinates activities for the evaluation of specific chemical products such as selected additives and contaminants, as well as active ingredients of veterinary drugs and pesticides residues.
- Strengthens decentralized control actions of state and municipality governments in the Brazilian Universal Public Health System;
- Prioritizes inspection in industrial food production, with the adoption of Good Manufacturing Practices and the HACCP;
- Participates actively in national and international technical committees working on food safety standards and guidelines.
- Coordinates the Brazilian Technical Groups for the following Codex Committees:
  - Food Labeling,
  - Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses,
  - Fats and Oils,
  - Food Additives,
  - Natural Mineral Water,
  - Cocoa Products and Chocolate,
  - Contaminants in Foods,
  - Food Hygiene,
  - Methods of Analysis and Sampling.

**COLOMBIA**

**COLOMBIAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SPS MEASURES SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES – MSF**

(as in Spanish)
INTERSECTORAL COMMISSION FUNCTIONS SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES – MSF (AS IN SPANISH)

According to the provisions of Decree 2833 of 2006 in its Article 4. The functions of the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the following:

a) To harmonize the policies of different ministries and other entities that form part of the System of Sanitary and Phytosanitary

b) To guide the formulation of national policies and plans on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, by concluding lines of common interest to the various ministries and national organizations;

c) Support the coordination for the development and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary

d) To promote adaptation strategies, coordination and organizational strengthening of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and its entities;

e) To coordinate the strategies involve the country in various regional and multilateral fora related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the relevant international organizations;

f) Promote cooperation between the public sector, private sector and international agencies through the entities responsible for implementing, in conjunction with the MSF, aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the System of Sanitary and Phytosanitary

g) Make recommendations on draft standards relating to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures should be issued by the National Government;

h) Consider the health issues that are under consideration by those concerned or by the Technical Secretariat of the Commission;

i) Other functions that are specific to the nature of coordination and guidance of its business;

j) to adopt its own rules of procedure within the month following the creation of this Commission.

Article 6. The functions of the Technical Secretariat of the MSF Committee:

a) Provide technical support to the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures for the performance of their duties;

b) To follow up the decisions of the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary

c) To exercise the Secretariat of the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, convening meetings and preparing the agenda and proceedings;

d) prepare the technical documents necessary for consideration by the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, in pursuance of their duties;

e) To submit to the Intersectoral Commission on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, by their request or on its own, those matters relevant to the performance of their duties;

f) To exercise the coordination of the technical committees as required;

g) All others are requested by the Intersectoral Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures related to their activity.

FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Define policies, plans, programs and procedures for the prevention, detection and intervention of health risks and the generation of protective factors that lead an improved quality of life and promote health.

- Strategies to prevent, detect and intervene risks leading to injuries and illness common, environmental and psychosocial factors that affect individuals or communities.

- Establish and determine the risk factors that affect health and quality of life.

- Develop policies, programs and projects aimed at health protection to prevent, detect and intervene environmental risks, physical, chemical and consumer products that affect health and quality of life.

- Coordinate and guide the system in public health surveillance and disease control compulsory registration.

- Issuing its opinion on the toxicologist classification and risk assessment of toxicity of the products intended for use in the country.

- Coordinate, evaluate and control the actions that health surveillance and quality control that INVIMA (as in Spanish) run.
REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HEALTH FUNCTIONS

- Adopt, disseminate, implement and execute public health policy formulated by the nation.
- Ensure the financing and provision of laboratory services directly to public health or employment.
- Direct and control within its jurisdiction the Surveillance System for Public Health.
- Perform inspection activities, monitoring and control of environmental risk factors affecting human health in food marketing.

ROLES OF REFERENCE LABORATORIES

The National Institute of Health-INS (as in Spanish) and the National Institute of Drug and Food Surveillance-INVIMA (as in Spanish), act jointly coordinating the National Network of Laboratories and also to the powers assigned by law, comply with the following functions:

- Advice and technical support to the Ministry of Social Protection in the formulation of policies, standards and guidelines relating to the National Network of Laboratories, in accordance with the powers in charge.
- To develop policies, programmes, plans and projects as defined by the Ministry of Social Protection for the National Laboratory Network.
- To keep the organizational diagnostic and the supply capability of the National Laboratory Network updated.
- To carry out strategic alliances with national and international entities in order to strengthen the National Laboratory Network within the country.
- To implement the management system adopted by the Ministry of Social Protection for the functioning of the National Laboratory Network.
- To develop actions to ensure the efficient operation of the Surveillance System in Public Health in accordance with the guidelines set by the Ministry of Social Protection in conjunction with laboratory component.
- Design and implement the Information System for the National Network of Laboratories in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Social Protection.
- Design, validate and implement a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure efficient control and effective management of the National Laboratory Network in accordance with the Guidelines of the Ministry of Social Protection.
- Perform according to their skills, laboratory tests of high complexity for public health surveillance and testing for surveillance and disease control.
- Support the Ministry of Social Protection in the development of policies monitoring and investigation of health effects associated with the activities of other sectors, as they may affect human health.
- Tend compliance with quality standards aimed at the accreditation of its technical processes, scientific and administrative.
- Define quality standards for the approval of the organizations or laboratories that provide the analysis specific to public health laboratories.
- Monitor compliance with quality standards for laboratories and organizations seeking authorization to perform analysis of interest in public health
- Define, monitor and control compliance with quality standards to be met by public health laboratories and district departmental capital.
- Monitoring the quality of laboratory tests of interest in public health developed by public health laboratories and district departmental capital.
- Participate in programs of external evaluation of performance with national and international organizations.
- Apply the rules of biosafety laboratory procedures including referral, transportation and storage of samples and supplies, and establish the comprehensive management plan for waste management in accordance with current regulations.
- Perform validation of reagents, diagnostic tests and analytical techniques and procedures, consistent with its powers and according to current regulations.
- Support and promote the development of research in health and biomedicine as the country's needs and guidelines of the Ministry of Social Protection.
• Propose and disseminate scientific and technical standards that apply to the strengthening of the Network
• Promote and conduct training on issues of lab to strengthen the management of the National Laboratory Network primarily to public sector organizations.
• Develop, apply and transfer knowledge and technology in the areas of competence.
• Provide advice and technical assistance to public health laboratories in areas related to their skills.

Direction-dependent local health centers – LABORATORIES
Territorial health addresses will provide leadership and coordination of the network of laboratories at the departmental level or district for which they must fulfill the following functions:
• Establish mechanisms to organize and control the operation of the network in their jurisdiction.
• Adopt national policies of the National Laboratory Network.
• Establish goals, objectives and strategies of the network at the departmental level or district level.
• Adopt, disseminate and implement information system for the National Laboratory Network established by the national level.
• Adopt and implement within its jurisdiction the monitoring and evaluation system of the National Laboratory Network in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Social Protection.
• Verify compliance with quality standards of laboratories authorized to carry out tests of interest in public health operating in their jurisdiction.
• Keep updated assessment of the supply of public and private laboratories and laboratories in other sectors with a presence in their jurisdiction and which relate to public health.
• Organize and guide the implementation of procedures for referral of samples and receiving results.
• Develop actions to ensure the efficient operation of the surveillance system in accordance with Public Health guidelines for laboratory component defines the Ministry of Social Protection.
• Provide technical assistance to laboratories in their area of influence on issues related to the strategies for the effective functioning of the network, giving priority to public sector organizations.
• Promote and conduct training on issues of interest to network members as needed.
• Ensure the infrastructure and human talent needed to manage the information of the Laboratory of Public Health and General Laboratory Network in their jurisdiction.
• 13. Foster strategic alliances that promote intersectoral linkages within their jurisdiction to ensure functional integration of the actors of the network in accordance with the guidelines defined by the National Intersectoral Commission.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD DRUG SURVEILLANCE – INVIMA

Since the issuance of Law No. 1122 of 2007, the powers of surveillance and control of food were reorganized as follows:

The National Institute of Food Drug Monitoring - INVIMA such as national health authority, is responsible for:

1. The evaluation of risk factors and issuance of sanitary measures associated with food and raw materials for manufacturing the same, the exclusive competence of the inspection, monitoring and control of production and food processing plants benefit animals, of milk collection centers and milk processing plants and their derivatives as well as transportation associated with these activities.

2. The exclusive competence of the inspection, monitoring and safety control in the import and export of food and raw materials for their production, ports, airports and border crossings.

At Territorial Health departments, districts and municipalities for category 1, 2, 3 and special, it belongs:

1. The health surveillance and control of distribution and marketing of food and eating establishments, as well as transportation associated with these activities.

The National Food Drinks Surveillance - INVIMA is a national public establishment of scientific and technological, legal, administrative and property independent of the Ministry of Social Welfare and belonging to the Health System, whose mission is to ensure public health in Colombia, exercising inspection, surveillance and disease control on scientific technical matters within its competence.
The Decree 1290 of 1994 of the Ministry of Health defined the functions of the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA as well:

1. Control and monitor the quality and safety of the products listed in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant standards for all activities associated with their production, import, marketing and consumption.

2. Advancing the basic studies required, according to their competence, and propose to the Ministry of Health technical bases that required for the formulation of policies and standards regarding quality control and surveillance of the products listed in Article 245 of Act 100 of 1993 and other relevant standards.

3. Propose, develop, disseminate and update the scientific and technical standards that are applicable inspection procedures, monitoring, control, evaluation and punishment, and the licensing and health records.

4. Coordinate the development of quality standards with other organizations specializing in this field in accordance with the competence to grant them the law.

5. Health issue operating licenses and health records, and the renewal, extension, alteration and cancel them if he is entitled, in accordance with the regulations on the subject issued by the National Government based on Article 245 of the Act 100 of 1993, records and licenses issued and may not have a superior effect to that envisaged by the Government in developing the provision in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993

6. Delegate to various local authorities to issue operating licenses health and medical records, and the renewal, extension modification, cancellation and other developments relating to them, in accordance with regulations issued by the Government on the grounds of Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993.

7. Establish operational guidelines and technical operating procedures to be implemented, in matters relating to this Decree.

8. Train, update, advise and control to local authorities on the correct application of standards and procedures in health surveillance and quality control of the products listed in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant standards.

9. Promote, support and accredit organizations for conducting pharmaceutical and technical evaluations and quality control laboratories, advise and monitor its operation in accordance with existing rules, subject to the control that local authorities must advance.

10. Perform laboratory tests to consider more complex the products stipulated in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant standards, develop, assemble and disseminate new techniques of analysis and to act as national reference laboratory.

11. Organize, direct and control the national network of laboratories relating to products specified in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant standards and promote their development and modernization.

12. Direct, coordinate and control the design, operation and updating of the information system referred to the licensing and health records across the country.

13. Resolve conflicts that arise in drug development and technical assessments and the issuance, extension, renewal, modification and cancellation of licenses, health records or other associated developments, including applicants and accredited organizations and delegates.

14. Promote and conduct nationwide public service quality control, health surveillance and epidemiological monitoring of results and adverse effects of the products of their competition.

15. Identify and assess violations of health standards and procedures, and further investigations may be the case, implement security measures health law and the penalties that are within its competence, pursuant to Act 9 of 1979 and refer to other authorities in other cases assigned to them.

16. Propose general measures to promote the implementation of good manufacturing practices in the development of the products listed in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant rules, as well as in transport, storage and other activities own marketing.

17. Participate and collaborate with industry and the private sector in general aspects of training, updating technical assistance and exchange of experiences and technological innovations.

18. Forward, when deemed appropriate, the inspection and monitoring visits to establishments producers and marketers of the products listed in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 and other relevant rules, notwithstanding that these matters be further local authorities.

19. Authorize advertising that is directed to promote the sale and consumption of the products listed in Article 245 of Law 100 of 1993 in accordance with the provisions of Act 9 of 1979 and its regulatory decrees and other regulations to be issued for this purpose. INVIMA may authorize a general and after, all advertising that meets the general criteria for this purpose available.

20. Identify, propose and work with relevant partners, in basic research, applied research and epidemiological areas of competence.
21. Ongoing activities and coordination with producers and traders and health education to consumers, retailers and people in general, care in handling and use of products which the law gives oversight to the Institute.

NOTE: The products which refers to Article 245 of Act 100 of 1993 are: drugs, biologics, food, beverages, cosmetics, devices and medical-surgical, dental, herbal, homeopathic and those generated by biotechnology, diagnostic reagent, toiletries, hygiene and cleaning products, household pesticides and those recommended by the Audit Commission.

To comply with the provisions of Article 34 of Law No. 1122, 2007, the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA formed nine working groups that shelter Territorial departments, in order to provide nationwide coverage for surveillance and food control, including health inspections in places of first barrier to imports and exports of food. The distribution is as follows:

1. Costa Caribe 1 Sede Barranquilla
2. Costa Caribe 2 Sede Montería
3. Centro Oriente 1 Sede Bucaramanga
4. Centro Oriente 2 Sede Bogotá
5. Centro Oriente 3 Sede Neiva
6. Occidente 1 Sede en Medellín
7. Occidente 2 Sede en Cali – Pasto
8. Orinoquía Sede Villavicencio
9. Eje Cafetero Sede en Armenia

Inspection activities, monitoring and control in food manufacturing establishments, are developed taking into account a risk approach therefore consider factors such as type of product that makes setting (high or low risk), the health concept place of manufacture, analytical reports produced products, if there is a link to a foodborne disease (FBD), among others.

In the case of animal processing plants in the establishment of substantial volumes of production and export activities, continuous inspection is performed by veterinarians from the Institute.

Since both the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA as Territorial Health have jurisdiction under the control of health food, promote cooperative activities and feedback in order to communicate the findings in the competition stage entities in order to have coverage of the entire production chain.

INSTITUTO COLOMBIANO AGROPECUARIO – ICA (as in Spanish)

This structure is composed of a Board of Directors, who chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, followed by the director of the National Planning Department, a representative of the Council of the National Agricultural Science and Technology, a representative of the Presidency Republic, the president of the Agricultural Society of Colombia, the president of the Colombian Federation of Cattle and a representative of the National Association of Peasant.

The ICA has twenty-seven (27) Sectional Managers in different departments, which exercise their representation in the area of jurisdiction. The Institute has 128 offices in separate municipality, 25 animal diagnostic centers, 26 checkpoints for the internal movement of animals, and 16 local posts at border control, river terminals, maritime, airports for import control and exports. In terms of aquaculture products, among other things, the ICA runs health checks at farms and production sites or culture, in terms of techniques and practices employed in farms, as well as agricultural inputs used therein.
The integration of the two entities is defined by the powers that have been assigned to each of them for inspection, monitoring and control of food products from primary production, covering the whole chain of processing, distribution, marketing and consumption. The two institutes the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario ICA as the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA were integrated in order to formulate and design the National Residue Monitoring and Control of Medicines and Chemical Contaminants are interacting with the following structure.
COSTA RICA

Institutional responsibility with regard to food safety in Costa Rica lies directly with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade. The official bodies concerned with food safety are:

**Ministry of Health**

In the Law No. 5395 of October 30, 1973 and its amendments, the General Health Law, provides for the issue of quality care, from different perspectives. So, in the article states:

- That any person engaged in producing food should do it on an environmental health and using conservation defense techniques or approved by the health authority, to avoid mainly contamination from such dangerous products and due to the presence of toxic waste from treatment with pesticides or other defense systems or conservation. (Article 213).

- The owners, administrators, managers and leaders of food establishments should allow entry at any time health officials, properly identified, to conduct inspections to monitor hygiene and health status of local health status and health staff and the conditions under which various operations are performed. They must also allow the collection of samples needed to establish the identity, quality and condition of the food or food products with the official right to demand a receipt and the counter shows where appropriate.

- Being subject to these provisions, on the same terms, people who carry food in their vehicles and temporary storage sites. (Article 238)

Similarly, in Section III of Chapter III of Law No. 5395, regulates the registration, duties, and restriction on food material.

INCIENSA, as in Spanish: The Institute for Research and Education on Nutrition and Health of Costa Rica (INCIENSA, as in Spanish) is a public institution under the Office of the Minister of Health, responsible for:

- Prevention and control priorities in public health through the development of epidemiological surveillance systems and laboratory based national reference centers (CNR, as in Spanish).

- Run public health research to generate knowledge to support decision making timely and effective.

- Transfer the knowledge generated by education and communication processes.

**Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG as in Spanish).**

In the Law No. 7064 of April 9, 1987, Law for Promotion of Agricultural Production which provides in Part III the Organic Law of MAG, establishes the creation of the agricultural sector as an institutional ideal for the management, planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public activities in support of the national agricultural development. (Article 29), so that their specific skills in the issue of control or product inspection and verification of the quality of some of the organs that make up the agricultural sector should be viewed according to the laws: the General National Service Animal Health and Plant Protection and Organic Production of the National Council, through these three entities.

**National Animal Health Service, SENASA (as in Spanish):**

In the Law No. 8495 of April 6, 2006 General Law on National Animal Health Service, Article 6 provides that the SENASA, among others, will have the following powers:

"B) Manage, plan, direct, and take the relevant veterinary and sanitary measures concerning control of the security and safety of products and by-products of animal origin, in the stages of capture, production, processing and marketing, taking food additives, residues veterinary drugs, pesticides and other chemical, biological or biotechnological origin.

Establish and enforce quality control regulations, monitoring, registration, import, clear customs, sanitary control of domestic production, storage, transportation, re-destination, transit, trade, transport, restraint and confiscation, and the use of veterinary drugs hazardous substances, genetic material, biotechnology equipment, animal pathogens, food additives and pet food, water, wildlife or other."

**Directorship National Veterinary Services Laboratory (LANASEVE, as in Spanish.)** This Directorate is responsible for providing laboratory support for the remainder of the bodies that run, analyze or evaluate actions about animal health and veterinary public health: verification of the quality of veterinary drugs, diagnostic services, laboratory formalization, identification of safety and residues in food.

**Veterinary Diagnostic Department:** It is responsible for supporting the clinical and epidemiology diagnosis of different diseases that fall under the national program of interest in international trade or the ones determined by the Department, through the use of different immunological, bacteriological, virological, parasitological, and molecular tests.
The Food Safety Department has the following functions:

a. Realization of the microbiological testing of products and by-products of animal and vegetable origin and fruits to determine the presence of pesticides, veterinary drugs and pathogens residues of public health importance.

b. Make analysis of the freshness and organoleptic characteristics of animal products for export, import and domestic consumption and verify compliance of the Program of Pathogen Reduction / HACCP, as in Spanish.

c. Maintain quality control of cultivation media prepared by the Cultivation Media Unit of the General Services Section as well as the microbiological analysis of distilled water used for the preparation of these cultivation media.

d. Perform chemical and microbiological analysis to determine water quality, which is used in the food industry.

e. Designing, directing and implementing the research into new methods of chemical analysis and microbiological requirements.

f. Verify the results of residue analysis and report potential violations of the maximum levels.

g. Release the results of the analysis.

h. Ensure timely collection and proper maintenance of the reagents, materials and equipment needed for laboratory tests.

i. Implement, monitor and improve the quality of the Department in coordination with the Quality Management Unit.

Supplies Veterinary Control Department (LANASAVE, as in Spanish): It is responsible for the verification of the quality of veterinary drugs and animal feed to note that the qualitative and quantitative formula declared on the label matches the results obtained in the laboratory by the corresponding analysis.

Directorship of Animal Quarantine:. This Directorate is responsible for checking the export / import and transit of animals, products and veterinary products with different criteria for entry and exit positions of the country, in pursuant to treaties, conventions and laws, thus creating a barrier to the spread of disease causing agents.

Unit Operation Veterinary Certificates: has the function of authorizing, suspend or disallow the operation of the establishments mentioned in Article 56 of Law No. 8495, in accordance with medical criteria defined in this regard.

Supervision and control department veterinarian is responsible for, inspect and monitor products and establishments that manufacture, process, store, distribute and market foods of animal origin for human consumption, animal feed, veterinary drugs and related products, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the General Directorate and National Divisions.

State Phytosanitary Service – SFE (as in Spanish):

In the Law No. 7664 of April 8, 1997, Plant Protection Act and Regulations the quality issue is referred mainly to the phytosanitary quality of plants or plant health, to ensure that these products do not contain pests or diseases of quarantine concern. Also, the power of the SFE(as in Spanish) to ensure the quality of chemical, biological or related substances and their application equipment used in the country to combat pests.

As for the tasks and duties, Article 5, the SFE (as in Spanish) has the following functions:

a. Ensure the protection of plant health.

b. Control of chemical, biological or related to agricultural use substances, as a matter for registration, import, export, quality, tolerance, residuals, dosage, effectiveness, toxicity, public display, conservation, management, trade, terms of use, safety and precautions in the transport, storage, packaging and waste disposal of such substances, as well as in control the equipment needed to implement such substances and other activities inherent in this matter.

c. Regulate, in the area of plant protection, import, export, research, experiment, mobilization, multiplication, manufacturing, marketing, and use of transgenic and other genetically modified organisms for agricultural use or products.

SFE units more directly related to the topic of food safety

Registration Programme for Organic Agriculture: Executes actions relating to accreditation and registration process in Organic Agriculture set out in the legislation; also offers technical and phytosanitary alternatives that maintain the export of organic and sustainable plant products.

Biotechnology Program: Regulates the area of plant protection, import, export, research, experiment, mobilization, multiplication, manufacturing, marketing and use of transgenic and other genetically modified organisms for agricultural use or products.

Monitoring and Pest Control: It is responsible for monitoring and controlling pests and regulated non-quarantine to prevent its spread within the country. In addition, it performs the monitoring for early detection of the entry of exotic pests.
Agricultural Inputs: It handles the registration, control and supervision of all chemical, biological or related substances and the application equipment for agricultural use.

Plant Quarantine: It is responsible for phytosanitary control on import, international transit or admission by the country of plants, plant products, and other regulated articles.

Laboratories: It is responsible for conducting the necessary analysis to determine the quality of biopesticides, pesticides, pesticide residues in vegetables, soil and water, and plant diagnosis.

Exports: It is responsible for controlling the export of plants, plant products and other regulated articles in accordance with national legislation and international legislation related to plant health.

National Council of Production-CNP (as in Spanish):
According to Law No. 2035 of July 17, 1956, Organic Law of National Production Council, Article 5, the CNP will have the following function in the area of food safety:

- Promoting the regulation of all markets to sell agricultural products of mass consumption, and promoting or controlling the establishment of markets, through farmers' organizations, community development associations or cooperatives which have the minimum infrastructure required. To accomplish this end, it will have the cooperation of the institutions involved.

Act 2035, Organic Law of National Production Council. According to Article 5, to achieve its objectives, the National Production Council regular activities will include:

... I) Coordinate with other public or private organizations, the quality certification of agricultural and industrial metrology ...

... J) Promote the regulation of all types of markets to sell agricultural products of mass consumption, and promoting or controlling the establishment of markets through farmers' organizations community development associations or cooperatives which have the minimum infrastructure required. To accomplish this end, it will have the cooperation of the institutions involved ...

Act 8533, Regulation of the farmers' market will set the CNP other functions, such as: "... Article 10. - ... e) train participants in the markets, in specific aspects of marketing, agribusiness, postharvest handling, food safety, quality agriculture, and good agricultural practices, among others.

e) To train participants in the markets for those aspects related to marketing, agroindustry, post-harvest management, food safety, agricultural quality and good agricultural practices, amongst others.

f) Promote the improvement of infrastructure conditions of the farmers' market.

g) Monitor the performance of members of the National Farmers' Fair in the field of marketing, agribusiness, postharvest handling, food safety, agricultural quality and good agricultural practices. In this regard, the guidelines of the NPC shall be binding on members of the Program.

h) Verify, in coordination with other competent authorities in the field, which meet established standards for the marketing of products in the farmers' market in areas such as safety, postharvest handling, agricultural quality and good agricultural practices, amongst others.

INCOPESCA attached to MAG.
Should promote the development of fisheries and aquaculture. For this regulation, protect and manage marine and aquatic resources, promoting sustainable use as a contribution to economic development.

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Act No. 8436 designates the INCOPESCA (as in Spanish) as the executive authority of this Act and the Plan of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development issued by the Executive, without prejudice to the powers granted by law to other state institutions, which necessarily should coordinate with the Institute with regard to fisheries and aquaculture.

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.
The Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC, as in Spanish), has responsibility for food, in:

- Is the lead agency in protecting the consumer in accordance with Law No. 7472 on Promotion of Competition and Effective Consumer Protection, under which corresponds to the verification in the domestic market for compliance with technical regulations as the productive sectors under his wing and product labeling.
- Also, through Act No. 8279 of the National Quality System, the MEIC chairs the National Quality Council. The development of standards harmonizes technical regulations with international standards and trains the production and consumer sector in its implementation.
- Under that law, it is established the Secretariat and Codex Contact Point attached to this Ministry, who are responsible for coordinating the whole process of the country participation in Codex forums.
**Ministry of Foreign Trade**

**Competence (duties, powers) with its legal basis.**

The mission of the Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX hereinafter, as in Spanish) is to promote, facilitate and strengthen the inclusion of Costa Rica in the international economy as a policy that promote national economic growth, and thus the living conditions of Costa Ricans.

By the Act of Establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Trade Promoter Costa Rica, Law No. 7638, provided, inter alia, the following COMEX powers:

- Define and manage the foreign trade policy and foreign investment, for which coordination is established between the ministries and public entities that have legal jurisdiction over the production and marketing of goods and services in the country.
- Direct trade negotiations and sign international treaties on these matters.
- Represent the country at the World Trade Organization (the WTO, hereinafter) and other international trade forums where they discuss treaties, conventions, and trade and investment issues, in general.
- Additionally, the COMEX legal mandate set out in the Trade Negotiations Act and the Administration of the Free Trade Agreements and Instruments of Foreign Trade, Law No. 8056 of December 21, 2000. By this law, it is established the Directorate for Enforcement of Trade Agreements

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

- Department of Risk Control in Food and Beverage in the General Direction of Environmental Health (DIGESA), and the General Direction of Epidemiology (DIGEPI) from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance (MSP).
- Department of Agriculture and Food Safety (AFS) of the Agriculture Ministry
- General Direction of Cattle Breeding (DIGEGA), through the Animal Health Department of the Agriculture Ministry
- General Bureau of Standards and Quality Systems (DIGENOR), of the Industry and Trade Department

**PANAMA**

- Ministry of Health (MINSA) through the Department for Food Protection (DEPA, as in spanish) responsible for public health with jurisdiction over domestic production and export of food for human consumption.
- Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA, as in spanish) through National Directions of Animal Health, Vegetal Health and Agricultural Quarantine with jurisdiction over domestic production and exports of live animals, plants, food for animal consumption, genetic material, veterinary drugs and pesticides of agricultural use.
- Panamanian Authority for Food Safety (AUPSA, as in Spanish) responsible for protecting public health and, animal and vegetal heritage with jurisdiction over food imports for human and animal consumption
- Authority for Consumer Protection and Competition (ACODECO as in spanish) responsible for the verification of quality characteristics and food labeling.
- Trade and Industry Ministry (MICI as in spanish) through the General Direction of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI), National Standardization Body.

**PARAGUAY**

Vegetal Health: National Service of Seeds and Vegetal Health (SENAVE as in Spanish)

Animal Health: National Service of Quality and Animal Health (SENACSA as in Spanish)

Innocuousness: Public Health Ministry through the National Institute of Food and Nutrition (INAN as in Spanish)

**(ii) LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS ON FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY**

**BOLIVIA**

Draft of the Food Law is in process of approving in the Legislative branch.

1. Ministry of Rural and Land Service – National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (SENASAG, as in Spanish).

It has legal provisions regulating the procedures of control in the animal, phytosanitary and food safety scopes. The SENASAG’s website is [www.senasag.gov.bo](http://www.senasag.gov.bo)
The legal basis of SENASAG (as in Spanish) regarding the control of Food Safety is as follows:

- Act 2061 dated on March 16th through the National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety is created as a decentralized body of the Rural, Agricultural and Environmental Development Ministry, which establishes among other activities the control and guarantee of the food safety in the productive and processing tranches, which correspond to the agriculture sector.

- Supreme Decree 25729 of April 7, 2000, which approves the regulation of the law for creating the SENASAG, and establishes the attributions in matter of food.

- Lead activities related to the food safety at a national level.
- Lead the registry for processor industries of agricultural food.
- Authorize and certify the functioning of farms and industrial plants of agricultural products in terms of food health and safety.
- Issue the corresponding import and export health certifications.
- Manage the provision of services to achieve its organizational mission.
- Regulate the Health Requirements to import animals, vegetables, products and by-products of agricultural and forestry origin, and inputs.
- Develop the standard on food safety, as well as the technical regulation of food quality in coordination with other organizations.
- Regulate the procedures for surveillance, control and further treatment of the food safety in the productive and processing areas of the agricultural sector.
- Regulate the confiscation, destruction and return or final disposal of animals, vegetables, products, by-products of agricultural or forestry origin, and agricultural inputs.
- Regulate the import, use and other activities to be performed with Living Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOS), in coordination with other national organizations related to this matter.
- Regulate the accreditation system of services according to the Act 2061.
- Promote the harmonization and equivalence of international standards and health and phytosanitary standards.
- Establish training programs on agricultural health and food safety.
- Participate in technical negotiations with international bodies regarding its competence, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship.
- Manage technical and financial assistance to strengthen the agricultural health and food safety in the country.
- Coordinate the relevant actions with public and private organizations for complying with the organizational mission.
- Subscribe agreements and contracts with national public and private organizations.
- Exercise the other attributions that allow the compliance of its organizational mission.
- Conducir el programa nacional de inocuidad de alimentos en coordinación con el Ministerio de Salud y Previsión Social y los Gobiernos Municipales.
- Lead the permanent mechanisms of relationship with the National Commission of Codex Alimentarius.

- Supreme Decree 26590 establishes that the National Customs should require the health permit of import granted by SENASAG for products whose health surveillance is responsibility of this organization, prior to the customs clearance, such as food and beverages for human consumption.

- Supreme Decree 26510 appoints SENASAG in coordination with the municipalities, the control of labelling for pre-packaged food.

- Supreme Decree 28147 appoints SENASAG as a competent authority for recording food importers and exporters for any class.

- Multi-ministerial resolution Nº 002 of January 19, 2006 that appoints the National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (SENASAG, as in Spanish), as a COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE ECOLOGICAL PRODUCTION CONTROL in the Bolivian Republic.
• Several Administrative Resolutions of the SENASAG on: health requirements for elaboration, transportation, storage and splitting of food and beverage for human consumption, slaughterhouses, procedure for health control of imports, health registry, labelling control, certification for exporting, control of BPAs, APPCC, laboratories accreditation, programs for control of waste, programs of safety assurance in several chains of risk, traceability in prioritized chains, certification of organic products, among others.

2. Ministry of Health and Sports

Decree of Act 15629, Health Code that established the Health Ministry is the Body responsible for ensuring the population health through the country. Preliminary Title, Unique Chapter, Art. 3 saying: “Executive Branch is in charge of defining the national health policy through the Ministry of Social Welfare and Public Health, as well as training, planning, control and coordination of all activities throughout the country, public and private organizations without. This indicates that any other organization can exercise the role or functions of the Health Ministry”.

Decree of Act 15629, Health Code in their articles 53, 55 and 56 establishes that authority of Health will make, monitor and control the application of the National Food Regulation, which define everything concerning the conditions to be complied by foods for human consumption, and the relevant to the industries that produce, split, deposit, distribute and retail such products and, that with the purpose of complying with the provisions clearly established, the Ministry of Health and Sports should optimize the functions and faculties for the full compliance.

Supreme Decree Nº 05190 puts into effect and implementation the Health Regulation for Food and Beverages for the health control of food and beverages of public consumption.

Art.1: The regulation lays down the minimum health standards on inspection of liquid or solid food intended for the nutrition of the human organism; of liquors producing, importing or retailing into the country and, any other substance becoming part or being used in the preparation or composition of these. In the same way, it prescribes the production, manufacturing, registry, storage, sale and importation of food and beverage consumed in the country.

Ministerial Resolution Nº 687, permits the transfer of the Food Safety Control Program of the Direction of Health Services Development to the Unit of Surveillance and Quality Control and Food Safety (UVCCIA) of the National Institute of Health Laboratories (INLASA, as in Spanish), whose main objective is to protect the health of population against risks involving contaminated, adulterated or poor quality and safety food, in addition to the frauds in commerce, avoiding food-borne diseases and providing safe and fortified food according to the health regulations.

Ministerial Resolution Nº 0301 approves the National Program of Surveillance and Control of Food Safety (PRONVIA, as in Spanish), which should be applied throughout Bolivia by means of specific programs for each region and, activities and strategies of control and surveillance of the food safety and feed fortification should be coordinated at a national, departmental and municipal level.

Based on this standard, the Ministry of Health and Sports through its Unit of Surveillance and Quality Control and Food Safety of INLASA, has 10 Units of Environmental Health and Food Safety distributed in different departments ensuring the compliance with the provisions from the Ministry of Health and Sports under the Supreme Decree 25233.

The Ministerial Resolution Nº 136 establishes that the Health and Sports Ministry has created and coordinated the Official Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (RELOOA, as in Spanish) through the National Institute of Health Laboratories (INLASA, as in Spanish).

Resolution N° 0713 establishes that the different departmental structures of Food Safety Units should be strengthened and standardized at a national level; to implement a permanent training program and an information system establishing a fluent and efficient communication.

Ministerial Resolution 0952 to approve procedure manuals for obtaining the Health Registry, and the Organization Manual and Functions of UVCCIA.

BRAZIL

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SUPPLY FOOD LEGISLATION

MAPA food legislation can be consulted on the following website:

SISLEG – Federal Agricultural Legislative System

AGROFIT – Online database providing access to information on the correct and safe utilization of pesticides for plant protection purposes, with information and indications on use, dose, crop, method of application and withdrawal period for the guidance of producers, consumers and other interested parties.
MINISTRY OF HEALTH/NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AGENCY

All Anvisa’s food safety and quality standards are submitted to public consultation, in order to improve the efficiency and transparency in the regulatory process. The consultations and their deadlines are published on the Official Daily Journal and the proposed draft regulations are made available at the Agency’s website. Comments and suggestions to the drafts are analyzed and summarized in a report submitted to decision makers. All interested parties are informed of the final decision and on how the comments have been incorporated or took into account.


COLOMBIA

Laws

- Laws Act 09 of 1979. Which are dictated by sanitary measures.

1986


1990

- Act 40 of 1990 by which to promulgate regulations for the protection and development of sugarcane production and the quota is set to promote sugarcane.

1994

- Act 124 of 1994. By which prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and enacting other provisions.

1995


DECREES

1950

- Dec. 1250 1950. By which regulates the manufacture of beer.

1982

- Dec. 2278 1982. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979 regarding the slaughter of animals for slaughter for human consumption or public and processing, transportation and marketing of its meat.

1983

- Dec. 2106 of 1983. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979, with regard to identity, classification, use, processing, importation, transportation and marketing of food additives.

- Dec. 2162 of 1983. By which partially regulates title V of Law No. 09 of 1979 in terms of production, processing, transportation and sale of processed meat products.

- 3192 Dec. 1983. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979, with regard to plants alcohol and alcoholic beverages, manufacture, hydration, packaging, distribution, exportation, importation and sale of these products and establishing control mechanisms nationwide.

1984

- Dec. 561 1984. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979, regarding acquisition, processing, transportation and sale of fishery products.


1988

1991

1993

1994

1996
- Dec. 547 1996. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979 regarding the issue of health registration and sanitary conditions of production, packaging and marketing, control of salt for human consumption and containing other provisions on the subject.
- 1944 Dec. 1996. Which is regulated by the fortification of wheat flour and set the conditions for marketing, labeling, monitoring and control.
- Dec. 2311, 1996 partially amends Decree 3192 of 1983 related to the degree of alcoholic beverages.

1997
- Dec. 3075 of 1997. By which partially regulates Law 09 of 1979 and other provisions on the regulation of all activities that can generate risk factors for food consumption.

1998
- Dec. 977 1998. By creating the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius and their functions are fixed.

2000
- Dec612 2000. By partially regulating the system of automatic or immediate medical records and other provisions.

2002
- Dec. 60, 2002. By which promotes the implementation of the System Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points - HACCP in food plants and regulates the certification process.

2003

2004
- Dec. 4003 2004. For which establishes the administrative procedure for the preparation, adoption and application of technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the food area.
- 2350 Dec. 2004. which are set by public health measures for prevention and surveillance of prion diseases, primarily of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob (vCJ, as in Spanish.)
2005

- Dec. 4444 2005. By regulating the sanitary permit scheme for the manufacture and sale of food prepared by microentrepreneurs.

2006

- Dec616 2006. By Issuing the Technical Regulation on the requirements to be met by milk for human consumption to obtain, process, pack, transport, market, sell, import or export in the country.
- 1828 Dec. 2006. By which is created the National Intersectoral Commission for Coordination and Orientation Higher pork slaughter.
- 3249 Dec. 2006. By which regulates the manufacture, marketing, packaging, marking or labeling, health record system, quality control, health surveillance and disease control of dietary supplements, other provisions and repealing Decree 3636 of 2005.
- 3755 Dec. 2006. By authorizing and defining the conditions for imports of bovine meat and products from the United States.

2007

- Dec. 1500 2007. For that establishes the technical regulations through creating the Official System Inspection, Monitoring and Control of Meat, edible meat products and meat intended for human consumption and health and safety requirements that must be met in primary production, profit, deboning the cutting, processing, storage, transportation, marketing, sale, import or export.
- 3515 Dec. 2007. Through Enacting a sanitary provisions for the importation and sale of Alcoholic Beverages in the Free Port of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina and its introduction to the rest of the country.

2008

- Dec. 2490 of 2008. For that establishes the technical regulations on the sanitary requirements to be met by establishments engaged in processing, packaging, transport, sale, import, export and marketing of snails for human consumption. D.O 47,065 of July 9, 2008.

2009

By which amends Article 50 of Decree 616 of 2006.

**RESOLUTIONS**

1964


1976

- Resolution 4135 of 1976. Why rules are issued vegetable-based processed foods for infant use.

1983

- Res 05912, 1983. By establishing mechanisms to exercise control of health, establishments engaged in food packaging and food products, which are under state of emergency.

1984

- Res 11488 1984. By establishing rules regarding processing, composition, requirements and marketing of infants food, foods or beverages and fortified food or dietetic beverages.
- Res 14712, 1984. For which regulates matters related to production, processing, transportation, storage and marketing of vegetables and fruits and vegetables.
- Res 15789, 1984. On Regulating the organoleptic, physicochemical and microbiological characteristics of jams and jellies.
- Res 15790, 1984. Why down the organoleptic, physicochemical and microbiological characteristics of the tomato.
- Res 17855, 1984. By which sets the recommended daily consumption of calories and nutrients.

1985

- Res 13402, 1985. Which is added by Resolution 10593 of July 16, 1985, which regulates the use of dyes in food for human consumption.
- Res 16078, 1985. Which are regulated by the operational requirements of the Laboratory of Food Quality Control.
- Res 17882, 1985. By which standards are adopted for the implementation of Title V of Law No. 09 of 1979 on the food as it relates to mayonnaise, processing, preservation and marketing.
- Res 19021, 1985. By establishing rules for the implementation of Title V of Law No. 09 of 1979 concerning food mustard, processing, preservation and marketing.

1986

- Resolution 2310 of 1986. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979, with regard to processing, composition, requirements, transportation and marketing of dairy products.

1988

- Res. 9553 1988. By which provides identification to packaging and packaging of salt for human consumption

1989

1990
- Resolution 0222 of 1990. Why horses are declared eligible as public slaughter animals in the country.

1991
- Resolution 1618 of 1991. By which amends Resolution 11488 of 1984 as far as it related to the artificial sweetener aspartame.
- Resolution 4124 of 1991. Which is regulated by Title V Food, Law 09 of 1979, insofar as the antioxidants may be used in food.
- Resolution 4125 of 1991. Which is regulated by Title V Food, Law 02 of 1979, insofar as the preservatives that can be used in food.
- Resolution 4126 of 1991. Which is regulated by Title V Food, Law 09 of 1979, as concerns acidulants, buffers, pH regulators of acidity used in food.
- Resolution 4241 of 1991. Why defining characteristics of the species or vegetable seasonings and issuing health standards and quality of these products and their mixtures.
- Resolution 4393 of 1991. By which partially regulates Law 09 of 1979, Title V regarding the manufacture, packaging and marketing of pasta.
- Resolution 4397 of 1991. By which sets maximum levels of oxygen in the packaging of milk powder added inert gas.
- Resolution 7992 of 1991. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979 in relation to conservation development and marketing of juices, concentrates, nectars, fruit pulp, pulp and sweetened fruit drinks.

1992
- Resolution 5213 of 1992. Why establishing a delegation clearances to import records processed food products or processed abroad.

1993
- Res 604 1993. By which is partially regulated by Title V of Act 09 of 1979, regarding the sanitary conditions of food sales in public.

1994
- Res 2229 1994. By establishing rules regarding the composition, marketing requirements and energy sports drinks for athletes.
- Resolution 982 of 1994. By which measures are adopted in health (Alcoholic Beverages)
- Resolution 1082 of 1994. By which clarifies the content and scope of Resolution 982 of February 23, 1994 and other provisions on the subject (Alcoholic Beverages)

1996
- Res 02826, 1996. By which is an addition to Article 46 of Resolution 2310 of 1986 and Article 3 of Resolution 1804 of 1989. (That the previous resolutions do not allow the use of additives such as emulsifiers, stabilizers and gelling agents in fresh and processed cheese with low fat content).

1998
- Resolution 4547 of 1998. Which are defined by laboratory tests on food, beverages, medicines, cosmetics, health products and miscellaneous products of interest in public health, to be performed by public health laboratories and district department, laboratories and clinical laboratories citohistopatologia.

2001
- Resolution 1893 of 2001. By which the arrangements for medical use of incentives in contact with food in food.
2002
- Resolution 1528 of 2002. By which takes a measure of health. (Potassium bromate)
- Resolution 402 of 2002. For which establishes the requirements for the marketing of the entire benefit birds, despresar and/or stoned to undergo the technique of marinating.

2004
- Resolution 2505 of 2004. Why which are regulated by the conditions to be met by vehicles for transporting meat, fish or food easily corruptible.

2005
- Resolution 5109 of 2005. By which establishes the technical regulations on the labeling and marking requirements to be met by packaged food and food raw materials for human consumption.

2006
- Resolution 779 of 2006. By which establishes the technical regulations on the health requirements to be met in the production and marketing of sugar cane for drinking and for other purposes.

2007
- Res 227, 2007. Why some provisions are held on the call, operation and sessions of the National Biosafety Technical Committee for LMOs LMOs.
- Resolution 2905 of 2007. "which establishes the technical regulations on the health and safety requirements for meat and edible meat products of cattle and buffalo species intended for human consumption and provisions for their benefit, cutting, storage, marketing, sale, transport, import and export "
- Resolution 2997 of 2007. "which establishes the technical regulations on the health requirements to be met by whey powder as raw material for human food and other provisions
- Resolution 4282 of 2007. "which establishes the technical regulations on the health and safety requirements for meat and edible meat products of swine intended for human consumption and provisions for their benefit, cutting, storage, marketing, sale, transport, import and export "
- Resolution 4287 of 2007. "which establishes the technical regulations on the health and safety requirements for meat and edible meat products of poultry intended for human consumption and provisions for their benefit, cutting, storage, marketing, retailing, transport, import and export "

2008
- Resolution 775 of 2008. By which establishes the technical regulations on the health requirements to be met by the factories that process, pack, transport, sell, store, import, export and market drinking vinegar.
- Resolution 776 of 2008. By which establishes the technical regulations on chemical and microbiological requirements to be met by fishery products, including fish, molluscs and crustaceans for human consumption.
- Resolution 3462 of 2008. By which modifies the paragraph of Article 9 and Article 15 of Resolution 779 of 2006 and other provisions. Panela
- Resolution 3659 of 2008. By which criteria are set Rationalization Plan Benefit Animal Plant
- Resolution 3675 of 2008. By which dictates an emergency measure banning the importation of milk and other dairy products, whose composition is made from milk produced in China contaminated with melamine.
- Resolution 4278 of 2008. By which amends Article 36 of Resolution 288 of 2008 and other provisions

2009
- Resolution 2606 of 2009. By which establishes the technical regulations on the requirements for food additives that are manufactured, processed, packaged, stored, transport, sell, import, export, market and are used in food processing for human consumption in the territory national. D.O. August 47 431 2009.
- Res 4150, 2009. By which establishes the technical regulations on the requirements for energy drinks for human consumption. D.O. 47 522 of 3 November 2009. I have not sent to the ETS.

2010
- Res 2195, 2010. By which establishes the technical regulations on the requirements to be met during the heating process of foods in airtight containers and acidified low-acid, manufactured, transport, sell, distribute, import, export and market for human consumption.D.O. 47.744
- Res 3009, 2010. By which establishes the technical regulations on the health and safety requirements of the meat from the order Crocodylia intended for human consumption and provisions for their benefit, cutting, storage, marketing, sale, transport, import or export. D.O. 47,798 agosto 11, 2010.

Likewise, in Colombia there is a Health Code is Law 09 of 1979 which showed the current health regulations, through decrees and resolutions which are issued by the competent bodies in the area such as the Ministry of Social Protection Social and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the food item has transversal order regulations such as the Decree 3075 of 1997 in establishing the Good Manufacturing Practices - GMP, Resolution 5109 of 2005 for general labeling of packaged foods, Resolution 288 of 2008 for nutrition labeling, among others. On the other hand, it has product-specific regulations, which mentioned the chemical, microbiological and technological production process themselves.

Given the above, the current food regulation can be found on the website at the address of INVIMA http://web.invima.gov.co/portal/faces/index.jsp?id=1303.

Current national legislation currently in the country, which is directly related to the National Veterinary Drug Residues and Chemical Contaminants is the following:

POLICY FRAMEWORKS

3375, 2005 CONPES
National Policy on agricultural health and food safety for the System of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, the National Council for Economic and Social CONPES.

3376, 2005 CONPES
Health and Safety Policy for bovine meat and dairy chains 2006-2010, National Council for Economic and Social CONPES.
CONPES 3458/2007
National Policy on health and safety for the pork chain.

CONPES 3458/2007
National policy for health and safety poultry chain.

CONPES 3514/2008
National Policy for plant health and safety chains of other fruits and vegetables

3676/2010 Conpes
Health and Safety Policy for dairy and beef chains.

MISCELLANEOUS SAFETY AND FOOD QUALITY

ICA Resolution 1326/1981
Arrangements for the use and marketing of veterinary antimicrobial products, including non-association with bacteriostatic bactericidal substances, non-acceptance of mixtures of antibiotics and vitamins and the prohibition of the use of chloramphenicol.

Act 100 of 1993
By creating the comprehensive social security system and for other purposes.

ICA Resolution 1966/1984
Regulates the use of antimicrobial substances as growth promoters or enhancers and feed efficiency. Not accepted as promoting growth or feed efficiency enhancers or antimicrobial products are used for therapeutic purposes in human medicine. In the same animal species are not accepted as promoting growth or feed efficiency enhancers, those antimicrobial products or substances used therapeutically in that species.

Act 101 of 1993 Agricultural and Fisheries Development
The ICA is responsible for minimizing health risks, food and environment from the use of veterinary drugs and other chemicals in animal production and health.

Decree 1840 of 1994
The ICA has the responsibility to exercise vigilance over the health risks, biological and chemical to agricultural production and facilitated by engineering controls and the issuance of certificates, the marketing of their products and access for products of animal and vegetable markets international.

The ICA will coordinate with the Ministries of Public Health and Environment, Safety measures related to the management and use of agricultural inputs at high risk, with levels of toxic residues in food of animal or vegetable origin, with zoonotic diseases and permissible levels of toxic residues in foods of plant and animal origin.

ICA Resolution 1082/1995
The use and marketing of Furazolidone, nitrofurazone and Furaltadone for animal use.

ICA Resolution 1056/1996
Technical control of veterinary products, veterinary drug registration and medicated feedingstuffs.

ICA Resolution 1023/1997
Registration of veterinary drugs or sold agricultural pesticides. Restricted marketing (under veterinarian formula) of some drugs (hormones, anabolic steroids, antibiotics, analgesics, tranquilizers, anesthetics, muscle relaxants and other drugs) official control.

ICA Resolution 1098/2000
Registration of producers of feed or feed for consumption.

ICA Resolution 00991/2001
Prohibits the use of meat, blood, bone (steamed), flesh and blood and offal from mammals in feed for ruminants.
ICA Resolution 961/2003
Prohibits oral administration and use of Gentian Violet in animals.

ICA Resolution 991/2004
The use and marketing of Dimetridazole for animal use.

Act 914 of 2004
By creating the National System of Identification and Information Cattle

ICA Resolution 2341/2007
By which regulate health and safety conditions in the primary production of cattle and buffalo for slaughter for human consumption.

ICA Resolution 2640/2007
By which regulate health and safety conditions in the primary production of pigs for slaughter for human consumption.

Decree 4765 of 2008
The ICA through the Technical Department of Safety and Supplies Veterinarians have among their functions: maintain a system of communication with the health authorities responsible for other links in the food chain in order to establish ways of improving safety. Coordinate with the corresponding agency use of risk communication strategies to improve practices related to improving safety. Coordinate joint action with producers, traders, exporters, importers and other authorities, to guarantee the safety of animal products. Exercise technical and scientific control for production of products in agrifood chains primary animal production to prevent biological and chemical hazards that may affect human health, animal and contribute to food security.

ICA Resolution 3585/2008
By which establishes a system of inspection, evaluation and official certification of the primary production of milk, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter II of Part I of Decree 616 of 2006.

Costa Rica
Costa Rica has a solid legal framework for quality control and food safety, in short we have several different laws range: - Constitution of the Republic: art. 46.
- Specific International Treaty 3.
- Laws: 7 and 2 indirect special.
- Regulations: 73 approx., Food RT 122.
- Executive Orders: 198 approx. (38).
- Other provisions (directives, resolutions): 2.

Here is an excerpt from the main national legislation:

Constitution: The legislature by Article 46 established the right of consumers and users:
- the protection of their health, environment, security and economic interests;
- receive adequate and accurate information, and
- to equal treatment, this being the reason why the Costa Rican state accounts for safeguarding these rights.
- Law 7475 Approving the Uruguay Round Agreements: Under this law, all the Uruguay Round Agreements are ratified, including those on Technical Barriers to Trade and on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- Law 7473 on Implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements on Multilateral Trade Negotiations: This law establishes the spheres of authority of public institutions with regard to the Uruguay Round Agreements.
- General Law 5395 on Health and the Organic Law of Ministry of Health, No. 5412, giving powers to the Ministry of Health discussed in the previous part.
• Act for Promotion for Agricultural Production which provides in Title III of MAG Organic Law No. 7064, giving powers to MAG discussed in the previous part.

• General Law 8495 on the Livestock Health Service: They give powers to SENASA discussed in the previous part.

• Law 7664 on Phytosanitary Protection and its Regulations, that give the powers to the SFE discussed in the previous part.

• Organic Law of National Production Council, No. 2035 and Law No. 8533 of Regulation Fair Farmers giving powers to the NPC discussed in the previous part.

• Organic Law of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, No. 6054, giving powers to MEIC discussed in the previous part.

• Law 8279 on the National Quality System and Law 7472 on the Promotion of Competition and Effective Defence of the Consumer: giving powers to MEIC discussed in the previous part.

• Regulations concerning Joint Verification of Compliance with Technical Regulations 34129-MEIC/MAG/S: These regulations are intended to optimize the State’s resources in supervising compliance with the legislation and associated technical regulations to ensure that the country’s inhabitants have access to food and products for human consumption that have the benefit of reliable sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The State’s resources will be optimized by providing the officers of the various relevant departments of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Health and the National Production Council with official standing so that they provide mutual support for the inspection, sampling and verification of the food, agricultural and livestock products and by-products that are marketed in the country; this is ensured through a permanent joint verification programme.

• National Policy on Food Safety, Executive Decree No. 35960-S-MAG-MEIC-COMEX, which seeks to define and explicitly set the general guidelines to follow in terms of food safety in order to ensure food safety produced, processed and marketed in the country, in order to ensure protection of human health and the rights of consumers and would enhance the competitive development, production and export of safe food.

• Creation of the Codex within the organizational structure of MEIC, Executive Decree 35966-MEIC-set functions include the following:-Advise State agencies on issues related to quality and food safety within the framework of its competence ;-Boost support in coordinating the preparation of draft Codex standards on the basis of quality standards of our export products, collect, sort and organize the legal system that exists in food and even as it seeks pass on the country, so that the sectors and countries involved in trade have access to them and can give their comments.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

• Act 42-01 of the Public Health Ministry (PHM).

• Act 40-30 of Animal Health

• Act 602 created by DIGENOR.

• Act 358-05 of PROCONSUMIDOR and their application rules.

• Regulation No. 244-10 establishing MRL’s of pesticide residues for food production.

• Resolution No. 18 created by the Agriculture and Food Safety Department (DIA).

• Resolution No. 25 that modifies the structure of (DIA)

• Act 311 of 1968 on pesticides in general

PANAMA

- Executive Decree 256 of June 13, 1962 approving the Regulation for Food and Beverage Inspection and Control.
- Executive Decree 352 of October 10, 2001, and the Executive Decree 81 of March 31, 2003, which regulates the HACCP obligation and their Prerequisite Programs.
- Title II, Act 23 of July 15, 1997 - Provision on Technical Standardization, Conformity Assessment, Accreditation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Conversion to International System of Units.
- Decree 11 of February 22, 2006, for which the Panamanian Authority for Food and Safety was created, as well as the AUPSA-DINAN Resolutions by means the importing requirements are issued;
- Act 45 of October 31, 2007 – Consumer Protection and Competition;
- Act 47 of July 9, 2009 – Vegetal Health Law
PARAGUAY

Article 72 on National Constitution gives State the responsibility for controlling the quality of food during the phases of production, import and marketing.

Act 836/80, Articles 162, 163, 164, 175 on Sanitary Code.

Act 2459/04, regarding the creation of the National Service of Quality and Health of Seeds and Vegetal, SENAVE (as in Spanish)

Act 2426/04, regarding the creation of the National Service of Quality and Animal Health, SENACSA (as in Spanish)

246/96 SG Resolution, regarding the creation of the National Institute of Food and Nutrition, INAN (as in Spanish)

177/09 SENAVE Resolution: by which Direction of Quality and Safety of Vegetal Products is created as part of the Technical General Direction within the organization structure of SENAVE.

668/09 SENAVE Resolution: Extending the functions of the Quality and Safety of Vegetal Products Direction of SENAVE.

490/09 SENAVE Resolution: Establishing the Technical Rule on Quality and Safety of Tomato (Lycopersicum esculentum L.)

516/09 SENAVE Resolution: By which the Basic Guide of Good Agricultural Practices for vegetal products is approved.

102/10 SENAVE Resolution: By which the National Registry of Agrochemical Implementers was created in the framework of Good Agricultural Practices for vegetal products.

516/09 SENAVE Resolution: By which the Basic Guide of Good Agricultural Practices for vegetal products was created.

015/10 SENAVE Resolution: By which the mix of commercial sesame grains and chemical treated seeds are not allowed, and provides the supervision of marketing places of sesame nationwide.

016/10 SENAVE Resolution: By which the technical regulation is approved for determining the quality and safety of sesame for certification, as well as the establishing of obligatory to have the corresponding analytical results for issuing phytosanitary certificates.

101/10 SENAVE Resolution: by which the Requirements for Registration of Individual or Legal Providers of Sesame Commercial Grain Sampling is approved for analytical purpose, and Laboratory Service Providers within the framework of 16/10 Resolution.

Municipality is based on ordinances for the supervision of food safety and quality:

154/00 BPM Ord., 267/05 Ord., Control thoroughfare vendors, 27/02 Ord. Controls natural products.

Act 838/26 and 881/81 empowered municipality to perform the quality control to the imported food products going into the county through different ports of the City.

Act 2426/04 Creates the National Service of Quality and Animal Health.

Art. 7: Develop, coordinate, implement and supervise the national policy of animal health, quality and safety of products and by-products of animal origin.

Act 1146/66 – Establishes standards for slaughter and sale of meat for public consumption.

47/71 MAG Resolution: Regulation of meat and by-products inspection, construction and sanitary engineering of refrigeration facilities and slaughterhouses.

SENACSA 689/06 RESOLUTION – Establishes health and hygiene conditions in slaughterhouses, producers and/or processors of food of animal origin.

SENACSA 1656/06 RESOLUTION – Mandatory implementation of HACCP for slaughterhouses and producers.


(iii) ESTABLISHMENT OF EQUIVALENCE AND/OR OTHER TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS

BOLIVIA

Bolivia has not established any equivalent agreement.

In relation to agreements to facilitate the trade, SENASAG has established the following agreements through bilateral protocols:
Peru Dairy and meat products

Health Authorities from Bolivia, according to the Andean regulations, implement a monitoring system to ensure the Animal Health and safety of these products, so that the health certificate of origin is accepted by the Health Authorities in Peru as a guarantee of compliance.

Argentina Beef

Health Authorities from Bolivia recognize the establishments authorized by the corresponding authority in Argentina to export this product to Bolivia.

Argentina Banana

Health Authority of Argentina recognizes the implementation of the certification system of Good Agricultural Practices supervised by the corresponding authority of Bolivia.

It is appropriate to mention that actually several products are exported based on the Codex Alimentarius regulations.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD SUPPLY**

1 Program of work between the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of Argentina and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil for determining the equivalence of control systems and plant health.

2 Complementary adjustments to the treaty of friendship and cooperation on health requirements and mechanisms for trade in fish and fish products reached between Brazil and Ecuador.

3 Memorandum of Understanding for the promotion of trade and investment between the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the government of the Republic of Ecuador.

4 Memorandum of Understanding between the Federative Republic of Brazil and Norway on technical guidelines, hygienic and sanitary for the bilateral trade in fisheries, aquaculture and its derivatives.

5 Protocol between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China on quarantine and veterinary and health conditions of thermally processed pork to be exported from the People's Republic from China to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

6 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary safety of food products.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH/NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AGENCY**

In 1999, an agreement on the circulation of food products was signed by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) from Brazil and by the National Medicines, Food and Medical Technology Authority (ANMAT) from Argentina.

This agreement aims to simplify the procedures for the sanitary control of foods that do not require registration and that are commercialized between the two countries. A Certification of Mutual Recognition is emitted by both governmental bodies after solicitation of the food industry. The certification is presented in harbors, airports or borderline posts.

**COLOMBIA**

Since the enactment of Law 1122 of 2007, the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA consolidated as national health authority on food safety. Accordingly, the Institute has the responsibility to represent Colombia in the international reference agencies and health authorities counterparts in third countries, in order to advance healthcare eligibility processes aimed at achieving access for our products in markets international.

In this regard, the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA, as important actors in international negotiations that the country develops in the context of the country’s trade policy has focused efforts with the aim of strengthening relations with authorities health counterparts in third countries and thus facilitate bilateral trade in food.

While Colombia has a formal health system Inspection, Supervision and Control in the production, import and export of food, now the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA as the highest health authority in terms of safety, has not undertaken projects related to the application of “equivalence” health inspection systems in third countries.
However, Colombia through the National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA has participated in various tools designed to facilitate the exchange of food and ensure that eligibility processes for export health progress successfully. As an example, we find the following:

1. Free trade agreements.
   a. Existing agreements: Colombia – Chile
   Colombia - El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras
   Group of Three (Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela)

2. Memoranda of understanding health: The National Food Drugs Surveillance - INVIMA has signed memoranda of understanding health with Russia for export of bovine meat and poultry, milk and dairy products and fishery products.
   - On the other hand, is covered by the Agreement on the Recognition of Product Certification through Decision 506 of the Andean Community of Nations.

**COSTA RICA**

Given the high costs involved for developing countries in approving and controlling an equivalence or other type of agreement, it was decided to develop a set of technical regulations for the Central American region, and Costa Rica takes part in these negotiations to facilitate trade of products within the region. With regard to food legislation, our country participates in negotiations of the Central American Customs Union, specifically in managed to harmonize various regulations on food, which are

- RTCA 67.01.31:07 Central American Technical Regulation for Health Food Registration. Central American Technical Regulation
- RTCA 67.01.30:06 Processed Food. Procedure for granting sanitary licenses to factories and warehouses. Central American Technical Regulation
- RTCA 67.01.31:06 Processed Food. Procedure for granting sanitary registration and Registration Health. Central American Technical Regulation
- RTCA 67.01.32:06 for Import Requirements for Food. Processed to an exhibition and tasting.

Also, our country has a system of equivalence beef with the United States of America and in plant protection under Article 4 of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary World Trade Organization, are accepted as equivalent to the sanitary or phytosanitary measures that objectively demonstrate that achieve an appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection of the importing member. In the case of Costa Rica is taken as equal treatment of wood packing Chile.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Based on the Dominican Republic- Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) signed by the Dominican Republic on August 5, 2004, and enforced by the United States since March 1, 2006, an agreement of Equivalency was established with the United States to benefit the food importation from the United States to Dominican Republic.

(On June 19, 2008, the WTO received the notification of equivalence recognition NEQVDOM1, whereby the Ministry of Agriculture recognizes the inspection system of Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) of the United States Agriculture Department, for the purpose of importation to the country of products and by-products of bovine, swine and poultry, as a equivalent to the inspection system of the Dominican Republic for these products.

**PANAMA**

- Process for Incorporating the Central American Economic Integration Subsystem (SIECA)
- DGSANCO Recognition of the Seafood Inspection by the Ministry of Health;
- Recognition of equivalence between the inspection system and the inspection and certification system from U.S. (excluding fish producers);
- Recognition of equivalence for food inspection and certification system from Canada, for a specific food group (meat products derived from cattle and pigs);
- Recognition in Spain of the equivalence on inspection and certification system for food for a specific group of food (meat products derived from pigs, cooked, cured and smoked);
- Recognition in Netherlands of the equivalence of food inspection and certification system for a specific food group (dairy products from cattle);
- Recognition in Denmark of the equivalence of food inspection and certification for a specific food group (dairy products from cattle);
- Protocol of recognition in Peru for the inspection and certification system for fresh potatoes (in progress);
- Chile Protocol for recognition of inspection and certification for fresh stone fruit and pome.
- Recognition in Colombia of the inspection protocol and certification system for fresh fruits and vegetables

PARAGUAY

As for SENAVE, a Framework Agreement has been developed with Argentina in order to implement the System of Risk Mitigation in Cucurbit Crops in the Conception Department.

SENACSA – equivalence has been applied for the program to reduce pathogens in red meat to the FSIS of USA.

(iv) ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE AWARENESS ON FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY AMONG THE CONSUMERS AND OTHER SPECIFIED GROUPS

BOLIVIA

1. Ministry of Rural and Land Service – National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (SENASAG, as in Spanish).

SENASAG (as in Spanish), has developed the following activities, in order to achieve a sensitization on the Food Health between consumers and producers at a national level:

- Training courses have been carried out in BPMs, HACCP for food processor companies as well as its associations at a national level.
- Training courses have been carried out in BPA’s for sectors of the primary chain.
- Training courses have been developed based on the official regulation of prepackaged food labelling for producers and municipal authorities.
- Different diffusion campaigns have been developed through printed documents, such as brochures, triptych, etc., as well as by different media.
- Training and diffusion workshops on food health led for consumers.

2) Ministry of Health and Sports

At present, Ministry of Health and Sports has been developed directed Surveillance Programs through its Units.

At certain times of year, in which more food is consumed, surveillance is organized in coordination with other organizations involved in food. Municipal Government, the Control Body of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and the Consumer and User Rights Department In specific seasons of year where it is consumed the most amount of food, as surveillance participate in this kind of activities. These activities are established in the following stages:

a) Information and communication to the population about the activities which they are starting.
b) raining about handling and regulation of the corresponding food;
c) Sampling and analysis on the risk parameters;
d) Disclosure to population on the state of food.

- Training on Good Manufacturing Practices is performed in coordination with the Municipal Governments of the different departments in the country. This training is focused for all sellers in the market.
- Whereas one aspect of importance is education and awareness to the population, food fairs are being organized, where people have the opportunity to know registered food industries, inform on the importance of Good Manufacturing and Health as well as the importance of labelling.
- Advice specific groups of food industries regarding the control of processes and their improvement, especially the small food industry.
BRAZIL

MAPA

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply develops various activities to ensure the quality and safety of food, of which we can highlight the following:

1) Certification of organic production of food
2) Monitoring of pesticides
3) Monitoring of products for veterinary use
4) Monitoring of inputs for animal feed
5) Inspection of industrial and sanitary products, derivatives and by-products of animal origin
6) Certification of origin and movement of inputs and agricultural products and Traceability
7) Supervisory against fraud and hiding the origin of agricultural products
8) Grading and classification of animal products
9) Inspection of beverages, vinegar, coffee and other products of plant origin
10) Monitoring of the activities with genetically modified organisms
11) Quality control in ensuring the compliance, security and safety of products of animal origin
12) Quality control in ensuring the compliance, security and safety of products of plant origin
13) Control of contaminants and residues in vegetables and their products
14) Standardization and classification of plant products

ANVISA

As coordinator of the National Health Surveillance System, Anvisa is responsible for preparing and publishing materials for communication with consumers and specific groups such as manuals, posters, folders, books related to food. Some examples of the publications are: Good Practices on Food; Guidance on Consumer and Food Labelling; Marketing of Salted Fish and Dried. Salted Fish; Translation of Texts of the Codex Alimentarius Committee of the Food Hygiene and translation of the five keys for safer food. They are available at the Anvisa website: http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/wps/portal/anvisa/home/alimentos.

COLOMBIA

SECRETARY GENERAL NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life of Colombians, the National Codex Committee has promoted scientific research and debate related to food, through the development of different events and seminars on Codex Alimentarius, including the following:


Objectives

- To present the progress in the safety of food additives as well as in handling contaminants and antimicrobial resistance in food safety and food trade in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.
- Promote and strengthen the importance of the activities and functions of the National Codex Committee in its role as advisory body to the National Government in the review of policies and standards on food.

2. Briefings on the structure of the National Codex Committee and operation of the various Technical Subcommittees National Codex.

3. Design and production of information leaflets National Codex Committee - Colombia.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND DRUG SURVEILLANCE – INVIMA

Currently there is a process of training and technical assistance, which is aimed at users outside the Institute as a monitoring and control entities, which aims to provide information on health requirements in the food sector.
There is also a union agenda, which aims to meet the needs of healthcare provision in a particular sector, to promote this segment in terms of safety and quality through the establishment of the need for a new or updated regulations, training for industrial monitoring and control for specific situations, among others.

Moreover, the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA has published various documents such as the ABC of Panela, ABC of Meat and Food ABC Derivatives of Genetically Modified Organisms - GMOs, which serve to guide both manufacturers of such food to consumers.

Another mechanism used by the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA, is publishing on its website www.invima.gov.co (as a method of risk communication to the community) of press releases and alerts, in which provides information and guidance address different health status.

**Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario – ICA (as in Spanish)**

Among the activities to improve awareness of food safety and food quality in primary production, the ICA has been promoting technology transfer events through the methodology Livestock Field Schools (ECAS, as in Spanish) methodology used in non-formal education skills training for adults, based on experiential learning experience that allows the appropriation of good farming practices for both livestock producers and field technicians in charge of rural extension programs through understanding of health and legal regulations safety.

### METODOLOGÍAS ESCUELAS DE CAMPO

#### ECAS 2009

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<tr>
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**TOTAL CAPACITADOS:** 145

#### ECAS 2009

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**TOTAL CAPACITADOS:** 98

### METODOLOGÍAS ESCUELAS DE CAMPO

#### ECAS 2010

| PORCINAS | DON MATIAS (ANTIOQUIA) | MARZO | 20 TÉCNICOS AGROCERDOS |

**TOTAL CAPACITADOS:** 20

#### ECAS 2010

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</table>

**TOTAL CAPACITADOS:** 135
• Publications Information leaflets and booklets on the range and scope of the resolutions of good husbandry (2340) and best practices pig (2641), and the socialization of Decree Law 616.

• Certificates are currently 140 properties in good farming practices and good practices pig.

• As for BPA, as in Spanish (Good Agricultural Practices), begin socialization activities for producers in the departments of Boyaca and Cundinamarca.

• COLCIENCIAS (as in Spanish) project determining the effects on health and the environment by the use of pesticides in tomato crop producing areas of Colombia as part of sustainable production system.-Caldas-county department of Mercy).

• Workshops aimed at raising agricultural production and food safety (ANDI, SAC, SENA, ICA, as in Spanish.)

• Preparation of a National Waste Plan in foods of plant origin in primary production.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (as in Spanish)

• MARD (as in Spanish) bring forward 8 days in order to promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables with the campaign “5 a day.”

• In 2010, the mother develops content in Video Clips and a 1 minute commercial about the importance of consuming clean products.

Colombian Consumer Federation

• The Colombian Confederation of Consumer Affairs recommends that in conjunction with the National Codex Committee is to develop a program for informing consumers about the quality and safety must have the food purchased for human consumption. The consumer is generally unaware, for lack of information, the right of demanding the relevance, quality and safety of the food products that he/she consumes.

COSTA RICA

To increase awareness among consumers and other specific safety and quality, Costa Rica has been made since 2006 a series of activities among which we quote:

- March 26 and October 27, 2006 - National Seminar on Traceability of Food Products.
- October 31 and November 1, 2007 - Practical workshop on quality food preparation in safe conditions, in San Carlos.
- March 13, 2008 - Workshop on Coordination of National Codex Sub-Committees.
- June 5 and 6 2008 - Central American Seminar on Contaminants in Food.
- August 20, 2008 - Seminar on Food Safety in Tourist Zones in Guanacaste.
- March 2 and 16, 2009 - Training on Labelling of prepackaged foods.
- October 2009 - Group work across sectors to diagnose the system of food control.
- December 5 and 6 2009 - Workshop of the National System for Food Safety.
- April 22, 2010 - Press conference for the signing of the National Policy on Food Safety.
- April 29, 2010 - Seminar on Codex Alimentarius and the importance of a safety policy.
- May 27, 2010 - Training in the use of Codex Digital System.
- June 3, 2010 - Launch of Codex Digital System.

There have been several radio programs to publicize that the Codex and the benefits it has given the country.

He has trained with induction talks and private officials on the operation of Codex in the country, also has given talks to specific institutions and it should be noted that by the year 2009, trained more than 400 people in various areas of the Codex.

In this sense the country has training programs in order to raise awareness on the issue, listed below are a few:

- Through Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has a safety educational program for children 8-11 years, with a training manual for teachers, plus demonstration of experiments and activities and an interactive video.
- The National Training Institute (INA, as in Spanish) has educational programs in food safety, such as, Food Safety Inspection “IAPM 157” and Manager of Safety.
The National Council of Production (CNP, as in Spanish) are trained agro companies in matters concerning quality management and safety of agricultural products, and regulatory systems, as professionals, plant managers, personnel managers or plant agro business as a promoter and connoisseur of Integral Systems Quality and Safety in your business. It also has a "Guide to Procedures, Requirements and Specifications for the Application and Certification of Good Agricultural Practices in the Process of Production of Fruits and Vegetables."

The National Production Council (CNP, as in Spanish) is working on the development of a draft presented by FAO that aims to improve the competitiveness of local agricultural markets through the development of capacities to meet the quality standards and food safety and marketing infrastructure as a means of social expression, cultural and commercial people in the area of influence.

The State Phytosanitary Service offers the following manuals:
- BPA Manual production of pineapple and pineapple BPA course,
- In Tomatoes: It was created and has a standard video quality of tomato for fresh consumption, which helps to categorize and manage efficiently and safer product, encouraging both the producer and the market.
- In rice: Technical assistance to producers in Good Agricultural Practices (BPA, as in Spanish), Management of High Productivity (MAP, as in Spanish) and Integrated Crop Management, Quality control of domestic and imported rice and implementation of post-harvest research projects on diverse subjects, for example in the degree of milled vs. milled time.
- The National Health Service (SENASA, as in Spanish) provides the "Seal of Quality and Health SENASA", as a tool to promote the recognition of this authority, those productive players in the stages of production, industrialization and commercialization that are committed to compliance with general regulations issued in terms of health, quality, environmental management and continuous improvement.
- The National Technical Advisory Council for Animal Health (CONASA, as in Spanish) is an advisory board of SENASA, formed mainly by the private sector, that.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The National Institute for Consumer Protection is officially in charge of protecting Dominican consumers. It performs several activities that help to sensitize providers and consumers in regard to the safety and quality of food.

- Department of Inspection and Surveillance has a group of Promoters of Good Trade Practices (GTP) who make daily visits to retailer stores (grocery stores). One of its functions is to give advice employers and employees about the implementation of Good Health Practices to ensure the proper handling and storage of food sold. Program has had tangible results since it follows up the reporting of nonconformities made for each facility in order to document the progress regarding the sanitary conditions of food supply.
- Also, it has a Division for Inspection of Products and Quality Control, whose main function is to perform activities of inspection and verification on health and quality conditions of both stores and products marketed in the country. These activities are performed based on complaints and/or officially. The results of these actions has been satisfactory due to the non conformities found during the inspections, this has generated that corrective actions are taken, demonstrating improvements in the facilities visited to date, which are being monitored periodically.
- Executive Direction take advantage of its participation in the media to advise the population about the proper hygienic and nutritional practices related to the food consumption.
- Execution of the Regional Project FAO TCP/LR/3213
- Activities of Training and Promotion
- Manuals Edition

PANAMA

- The Food Protection Department of the Ministry of Health has a Food Handlers School.
- Regarding its participation in activities, seminars and meetings, representatives of Food Control Organizations before the National Codex Commission, participate in meetings to make participants sensitive about the importance on Codex issues based on safety and food quality.
- The National Vegetal Health Direction of the Ministry of Agricultural Development has an area of Food Safety and a Department of Agrochemical.
- Programs from the Authority for Consumer Protection and Competition (Acodeco Tours), topics of interest to consumers and chats about the distribution points and food manufacturers based on the actual regulations
- Supporting the training for University students and secondary education in order to they know the existing mechanisms to control food safety (laboratory analysis) from the Universities.
PARAGUAY

The National Institute of Food and Nutrition performs briefings with representatives of food industries in order to highlight the importance of implementing the Good Manufacturing Practices throughout the food preparation process so that the end consumer gets a safe and quality product. In this sense, the companies are emphasized on the need to know the regulations in the food area in order to facilitate the production and trade of food that complies with the national and international provisions, in which the authorities in charge of the food control are based, to ensure food security.

In the same way, INAN accompanies the various activities undertaken by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce – Consumer Protection Division related to awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of food safety and quality.

Development of training programs for producers, companies, technical managers in the field of Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) and MRLs.

Control programs are made: the food courts, zonal market kitchens, canteens of schools, premises producing and dispensing food and, in case of ETA outbreaks, the premises where the poisoning occurred are controlled revealing the symptoms data of those affected. Each program includes laboratory analysis.

(v) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

BRAZIL

To promote the improvement of management and support the decentralization of activities within the National Health Surveillance System, Anvisa promotes courses related to the newly published legislation, as well as the Good Manufacturing Practices and Food Risk Management. Capacity building is also strengthened due to participation in Congresses related to Microbiology, Mycotoxins, Toxicology, Food Analysis, Control and Prevention of Chagas Disease through oral transmission, joint inspections with local health surveillance authorities.

COLOMBIA

- Strengthening of the group that serves the Point of Contact with World Trade Organization-WTO agreements on Technical Barriers to Trade, TBT and Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures-MSF, as in Spanish. Strengthening of the group attending the Contact Point for the SPS Agreement. The former group is very important because it begins the process of analysis of notifications of draft SPS and technical regulations that WTO member countries plan to establish and which may become unnecessary technical barriers to trade.

- Adequacy and organizational strengthening of the National MSF System: Strengthening and development of information systems. The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism, who is responsible for the information system for the TBT and SPS agreements of the WTO, in accordance with the document CONPES 3446 on “National Policy Guidelines for Quality October 30th 2006, achieving operating the national information system on technical regulations exporting alert, which is the notification system for national and international consultation on health measures allowing efficient development for the country's participation in international consultations in MSF proposed.

- Sector unions do field days in order to keep farmers technical recommendations for the use of pesticides.

- National Service Learning – sena, as in spanish develop a program of implementation of good agricultural practices in order to strengthen the food safety issue.

COSTA RICA

It has been requested to incorporate in the National Development Plan of the Government, the establishment of a National Food Safety based on the consensus model sectors. Among its strategic actions are

- Having a system of comprehensive Food Safety and efficient.
- There is a plan of action agreed at the national level, known and approved by the National Quality Council (CONAC) at its regular meeting No. 002-2009 of December 10, 2009.
- We have the Decree of the National Policy on Food Safety.
- Having a management coordinated national food control, including leadership roles and administrative structures,
- Modernize the existing regulatory framework in order to resolve overlaps, gaps, or over-regulation and implement proposals for improvement.
- To strengthen food inspection and verification of a more robust and coordinated among relevant institutions.
- Strengthen the capacity of accredited laboratories and also develop the necessary infrastructure.
- Implement an information system with indicators of safety and educational campaigns.
In Latin America the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean agreed to financially support the countries of the region to the need to strengthen and define a safety policy at the level of public and private bodies in the countries of the region. Costa Rica by signing a letter of understanding acceded to the regional project on food safety with the FAO “Strengthening of National Food Control.”

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

There is an inter-institutional coordination organization as the National Codex Alimentarius Committee (NCAC).

National Committee of Phytosanitary and Sanitary Measures (NCPSM)

Dominican Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (RELAD as in Spanish)

**PANAMA**

It is developing a cross-institutional Project on rapid monitoring of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables for domestic consumption, which is addressed to consumers and the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices being supported by the government of Taiwan (MITET).

**PARAGUAY**

Currently, INAN is focused on strengthening the awareness on the food safety for consumers inside the country offering briefings.

Creation of the Paraguayan Food Safety System (SIPAIA in Spanish), coordinated by IICA, whose objective is to establish the competences of the public, national and municipal institutions in order to safeguard the public health and facilitate the safe food trade with institutional capability to address the food chain completely.

**(vi) POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OR SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED FOR THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM**

**BOLIVIA**

Negative experiences

At present, it has not been able to specify competences relative to the granting of the Health Registry, which both SENASAG (as in Spanish) and the Ministry of Health and Sports grant to the companies. This causes a duality of functions between these two organizations, the most of cases forcing producers and retailers to go for both registries having a double expense.

Positive Experience:

The directed supervision that is being organized, improve, promote and make aware not only the population but the food producers, due to the following phases have been established:

a) Information and communication to the population about the activities which they are starting.

b) Training about handling and regulation of the corresponding food;

c) Sampling and analysis on the risk parameters;

d) Disclosure to population on the state of food.

This is very useful as it allows producers to become aware of the importance of developing requirements based on the corresponding regulations, the population in order to they know the products that are approved and their implications on the health and the Control Bodies to carry out a more detailed and continuous control.

**BRAZIL**

Positive experiences:

Recognizing the need for closer coordination among the government, the food industry, the scientific community, and the organized civil society, Anvisa created the Sectoral Chamber for Food (CSA), a consultive and advisory body that plays a key role in guaranteeing transparency and integration of the procedures to control food production. The CSA has an annual schedule of regular meetings, and its members can convene special meetings as needed. In formulating the CSA agenda, items proposed by the members are included; currently, issues that have gained ground are those where there is clearly division among the stakeholders involved, or sanitary problems whose solution requires joint action from social, productive, and government sectors.

Other positive experience is the gradual deregulation of the food registry. Deregulation of the registry helps reduce the excessive workload of pre-marketing control activities, making it possible for health agencies to better explore post-marketing control activities.
Within the health surveillance of food, the consolidation of a management model focused on the outcome necessarily entails the incorporation of tools that provides scientific evidences as a ordinary step at the decision making process. The internationally recommended tools include Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis and Risk Analysis. To meet these requirements, Anvisa, in cooperation with PAHO, during the period 2008 and 2009, trained all health surveillance bodies from each State and their public health laboratories. Furthermore, in order to improve sanitary practices and the pursuit of efficiency of intervention measures, it were organized Workshops on Risk Management and Risk Communication in Food. As a result, guides were prepared for the Management of Health Risks in Foods, available at http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/wps/portal/anvisa/home/alimentos.

**Shortcomings:** The coordination of the National Health Surveillance System (SNVS) is a challenging task, considering the country's size, its socioeconomic diversity, and the population's diverse habits and cultural practices. Furthermore, the competent authorities are seeking to improve the analytical capacity of official laboratories.

**COLOMBIA**

**Success stories**

- Conceptual model, technical and operational support for public health surveillance and health surveillance of food under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary – MSF
- Design Food Information System.
- The Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario-ICA performs annual surveys in total 4 per year to verify the quality of food concentrates and marketed drug.
- Development of research projects aimed at the implementation of the BPA, with the responsibility of several entities. Project: Determination of the effects on health and the environment by the use of pesticides in tomato crop producing areas of Colombia as part of a sustainable production system.
- Draft EU-CAN-FAT Labelling and Market Surveillance (Includes guide the development of market information system for food and draft technical regulations on food labeling).
- Implementation of Information System Point of Contact of the WTO.
- Creation of the National Intersectoral Commission on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – MSF.

In 2005 the National Government through the Ministries of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Agriculture, Social Protection, Environment, Housing and Territorial Development in conjunction with its member organizations and coordinated by the National Planning Department, established the National Policy to organize the system of sanitary and phytosanitary measures - MSF in order to ensure the safety and health of food products produced in the country and comply with the provisions of the SPS and some sections of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade in the WTO.

This policy established the general framework of the MSF system is in the document Conpes 3375, 2005 and the same have been deriving other health policies for different chains (beef and milk, fruits and vegetables, pork, poultry), is currently in the approval process for the laboratories of the system.

The general guidelines include strategies aimed at fulfilling the mandate of the WTO that determines that national MSF systems should be based on risk analysis, for which the actions that have been developed over the years are aimed at: adaptation and organizational strengthening of the entities involved, improving the operational, technical and scientific management to international health eligibility and transition plan.

To integrate the MSF system, through the harmonization of sectoral policies, and coordinate actions among relevant ministries and agencies involved, was proposed in 3375 Conpes the establishment of the National Intersectoral Commission on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, which is composed of the Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development, Social Protection, Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, Trade, Industry and Tourism, and the National Planning Department, which shall exercise the Technical Secretariat of the Directorate through Sustainable Rural Development. This Commission was established by Decree 2833 of 2006.

Additionally, in compliance with the provisions of the Policy, MSF established a Technical Committee which consists of various technical divisions of ministries and meet sporadically to address specific issues that require rapid intervention.

- **Creation of the Risk Assessment Unit for Food Safety (UERIA, as in Spanish) at the National Institute of Health and its participation in the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius.** In 2009, UERIA was created as a technical group - responsible for conducting scientific risk assessments related to food safety in the country, with the purpose of being used as support for the development of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (MSF) in the country and the issue of action. The UERIA CNC currently involved in supporting the Subcommittee on Food Hygiene and Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance. Three studies currently developing risk assessment: Listeria monocytogenes in fresh cheese, positive coagulase Staphylococcus aureus in food prepared for human consumption and raw milk.
Development Cooperation Project EU-Col "Technical Assistance to Foreign Trade in Colombia." The project seeks to help Colombia's exports to meet international requirements required for entry into other markets, through strengthening the capacities of public organizations of the foreign trade system and the private sector to adopt best practices to meet with international export requirements and have adequate organizations and a staff trained in the use of the main tools to facilitate trade between Colombia and the rest of the world.

This project is structured to fulfill two main findings. One of them is aimed at reducing the impact of tariff on Colombian exports, through technical assistance, technical capacity improve public organizations that support the productive sector in particular MSMEs in meeting the technical requirements for export. To this extent, we have identified four key areas where actions will be implemented:

- It will complement the activities in risk analysis designed by the Government of Colombia to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary measures in order to improve the health status of export food and agricultural production in the country.
- Will strengthen the analytical and metrological level, with the aim of seeking international recognition of tests and measurements carried out in the country, which will result in lower costs for exporters.
- It will define and implement measures to train national technical organizations and the business sector in particular MSMEs in compliance with technical requirements to trade such as labeling, packaging, labels and other procedures required by international markets. In general, we will strengthen the national quality subsystem in order to improve the services it offers to industry and MSMEs.
- Measures will be implemented to improve organizational social responsibility by companies with particular focus on MSMEs, in order to prevent environmental issues and / or work can become technical barriers to trade.

It is considered as a positive experience in 2010 Accreditation of Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Food and Beverage and Food Microbiology, National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA under the NTC quality technical standard ISO / IEC 17025: 2005 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories." From these laboratories is leading national efforts to control safety by analyzing food and alcoholic beverages in public health interest.

The following describes the methodologies credits: Food Microbiology Laboratory.

**Food Microbiology Laboratory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT OR TESTING MATERIAL</th>
<th>TYPE OF TEST, MEASURABLE PROPERTIES, RANGE</th>
<th>STANDARD TECHNICAL OR USED SPECIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Aerobic mesophilic count. Read range of 30 to 300 colony-forming units (CFU / ml or CFU / g)</td>
<td>ISO 4833:2003 (E) Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms - Colony - count technique at 30 ° C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat and meat products, eggs, chicken</td>
<td>Detection of Listeria monocytogenes in meat and meat products, eggs, chicken</td>
<td>Food Drug Administration – BAM 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Coagulase positive Staphylococcus count</td>
<td>EN ISO 6888 – 1: 1999 Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs-Horizontal method for the enumeration of coagulase – positive staphylococci (Staphylococcus aureus and other species) Part. 1: Technique using Baird – Parker agar medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Bacillus cereus count.</td>
<td>ISO 7932 : 2004 (E) Microbiology of Food and animal stuffs – Horizontal method for the enumeration of presumptive Bacillus – Colony – Count Technique at 30º C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Physicochemical Laboratory of Food and Beverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT OR TESTING MATERIAL</th>
<th>TYPE OF TEST, MEASURABLE PROPERTIES, RANGE</th>
<th>STANDARD TECHNICAL OR USED SPECIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis by HPLC.</td>
<td>High performance liquid chromatography absorbance measurement range from 0.0 to 2000 mg / kg</td>
<td>J. Assoc. Off. Anal. Chem (VOL 68, N° 3, 1985)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determination of preservatives (sorbic acid and benzoic) juices.</td>
<td>Microcapitura gas chromatography-electronic measuring range from 0.0002 to 0.051 mg / kg</td>
<td>U. S. Food and Drug Administration, Pesticide Analytical Manual, Vol 1, 3rd Ed, Section 303 E1, C1 (1994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determination of organochlorine pesticides in fish products and agriculture (shrimp) with fat content less than 2%</td>
<td>Volumetric% of total nitrogen measuring range: 0.8-8.0%</td>
<td>AOAC 981.10 18th. 2005 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physico-chemical analysis of meat products. Determination of total nitrogen.</td>
<td>UV-visible absorbance spectrophotometry measuring range: 0.0 to 200.0 mg / kg</td>
<td>AOAC 994.02. 18 th. 2005 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicochemical analysis of fortified wheat flour. iron determination</td>
<td>Fluorometry fluorescence measurement range: 0.0 to 150 mg / kg</td>
<td>AOAC 977.13 2005 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicochemical analysis of fishery products determination of histamine in tuna.</td>
<td>High performance liquid chromatography absorbance measurement range: 0.0 - 500 mg / L</td>
<td>AOAC 979.08 2005 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHLC Analysis: Determination of caffeine in energy drinks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA, as in Spanish has been concerned with technological and scientific strengthen the Food Laboratory, so that teams have become instrumental technology for analysis of chemical residues and contaminants in food, pointing to control food safety in such a way that meets the national and international needs.

Moreover, the issuance of Law No. 1122 of 2007 consolidates the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring - INVIMA as the only health authority to inspect food production, including one that is made for import and export Food and empowerment of establishments authorized to export to Colombia meat, edible meat products and meat, making the international community including the different health authorities recognize the Institute's role in verifying the safety of food. Also, this has allowed the construction of the first national statistics compared to the Inspection, Monitoring and Control of food manufacturing.

In the website of the National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring – INVIMA www.invima.gov.co http://web.invima.gov.co/portal/documents/portal/documents/root/PORTAL%20VIC/SABA/Copia%20de%20CONSOLIDADO%20ES TABLECIMIENTOS%20AUTORIZADOS%20%2006092010%20(2).pdf, You can find a list of establishments authorized to export to Colombia meat, edible meat and meat products.

**Identified deficiencies**

- Lack of training in some laboratory techniques.
- Lack of coordination between information systems of the entities that make up the National System of Food Control.
- Lack of coordination mechanisms between the actors of the MSF system.
- Low participation of consumers and academia on issues of the Codex Alimentarius.
- Lack of training in ports.
- Among the difficulties that have been identified in relation to the Colombian law is the existence of regulations that require updating progress against industry and international health regulations.

However, the issue of Conpes 3375, 2005, was established as a policy the need for updating the database SPS regulations (SPS), involving an assessment of existing regulations and the prioritization of regulatory needs.

- Another difficulty observed is the ability of the laboratories of the local health centers for low-complexity analysis in food and beverages, so in cases that require resolve a particular situation, go to the National Laboratory Reference INVIMA.
- Failure to integrate information systems of the various entities involved in the National Food Control.
- Difficulties in coordination between the different organizations that are part of the national food control.
COSTA RICA

Within the national system of food control have been made in the last ten years a number of diagnoses to the national food control in which they agreed on a number of strengths and weaknesses, the main one has:

Strengths:

- There is agreement of the National Quality Council to support the development of SNIA.
- Leadership of the National Codex Committee in strengthening a coordinated process for developing international food standards and project coordination SNIA.
- There are structured programs and infrastructure (CITA, INA, CHAMBERS, private companies, universities, etc.).
- Collaborating institutions on specific issues, examples INFAL agreements delegation.
- Joint and coordinated participation in the Regional Negotiating Central American Customs Union (COMEX, MS, MAG, MEIC, as in Spanish).
- Drafting and updating of technical regulations integrated and coordinated through the ORT.
- There is interested and qualified human resources in the field of AI, which can be enhanced through better coordination.
- There are mechanisms for raising funds that could be channeled to strengthen safety programs.
- Individual improvement efforts in domestic surveillance (MEIC, SENASA, CNP, as in Spanish HEALTH).
- Existence of Bodies of Health Areas throughout the country, which could facilitate the control of food safety and monitoring of ETA. As well as regional offices of the MAG agencies operating in the country.
- Current Legal Framework has coordination bodies:
  a. Ministerial Committee on Food Safety (MS Y MAG).
  b. Interagency Coordinating Committee.
  c. Joint Verification Commission RT.

Weaknesses:

- There is no explicit policy on IA to guide and direct the actions of the entities.
- Lack of coordinating body for the efforts of IA (the competent authorities) and a management body to follow up coordination activities.
- Absence of an information system to integrate and standardize information on IA and ETAs alerts.
- Low coordinate efforts in monitoring and food control, which creates duplication and gaps.
- Lack of communication and education strategy on IA.
- Legal framework has concurrent jurisdiction (overlap) is out of date and broken up in certain areas.
- Specific budget allocation of scarce and limited availability of human and material resources for the work in the food control management.
- The regulations are not issued based on risk analysis, a major weakness given that developed countries apply the tool regularly in the standardization process.
- The audit of compliance with existing regulations is weak, mainly at the level of imported foods and locally produced are for domestic consumption. Another scenario is given to export products are strictly inspected in order to meet the demands and standards of the markets.
- Difficulty in accessing testing services and lack of food testing laboratories.
Needs:

- Institutions need to support each other, inspection, sampling and testing of products and food and agricultural products marketed in the country through the implementation of an ongoing program of joint verification.
- Improve inspections, sampling and inspections, to be conducted in markets, shops, plazas, agricultural fairs, centers or packing, customs territory and on means of transport to verify compliance topics MJ quality and safety.
- An ongoing training program to all stakeholders on the regulatory framework on food safety.
- There is no national database that includes information on food safety (legislation, list of bodies, risk assessments, alerts, sexually transmitted diseases, among other important information for decision making and consumer).
- In most of the RT it is not clear who will perform what in the implementation.
- Overall it seems that the representatives of the institutions in charge of the joint verification have not understood the advantages and benefits of acting in concert, thus wasting resources and opportunity to impose effective sanctions against non-compliance.
- Low coverage of verification.
- Missing a concept country on the subject of inspection and food control (individual checks are performed).
- There is need to revise the RT to determine suitability from the point of consumer that is the basis for 100% quality.

Access to water and sanitation.

As the issue of access to water and sanitation of such an important issue in the production, manufacturing, marketing of food, we wanted to point out that Costa Rica has made significant progress in recent years in expanding access to improved sources of supply water. According to the National Water Laboratory (Mora, 2007), in 2007 98.3% of the population had access to water for consumption humano54 (94.3% directly in their homes), which is one of the highest highest in the region of Latin America and the Caribe55. Approximately 99% of urban population and 96% of rural population have a direct connection to the mains water supply (according to WHO / UNICEF (2008) the percentage of urban and rural population with a direct connection to an improved water supply in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean is 97 and 73% respectively).

The latest statistics also show that there has been significant progress regarding potable56 water, with a national average increased from 50% in 1991 to an estimated average at 82% in 2007 (Mora, 2007). In 2007, there were 2,259 water systems in Costa Rica, of which 1,227 provided drinking water to over 3.5 million people. On the other hand, 1,032 on that date aqueducts supplied drinking water to almost 700,000 people, ie 16.5% of the population.

Also the country has made significant progress in the field of sanitation. Approximately 98% of the rural and urban population has access to improved sanitation.

In 2006, the average number of people with access to improved water sources in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean was 92%.

There is a regulation for drinking water quality which provides physical and chemical conditions in order to be consumed without endangering the health of the user.

Other aspects to be recognized as positive.

According to the 2008 Environmental Performance Index, Costa Rica ranks fifth in the world with respect to environmental protection. Progress in the protection and management of natural resources, including the creation of national parks and reforestation of areas formerly used for agriculture, have also impacted positively on the protection of surface water and groundwater. Likewise there has been considerable progress in increasing access to water and improved sanitation. The results placed the country among the most advanced countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. Thanks to these efforts, it hopes to halve the proportion of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by the year 2015.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Positive

- Inter-institutional communication; Dominican Laboratory Network, elaboration of proposed drafts and regulations for updating the valid regulation for food control, Act 528-01.
- Dominican Proposed Draft of the Quality System (SIDOCAL as in spanish)
- Integration of private sector and consumers
Deficiency

- There is not a policy of safety.
- There is not an executive of coordination of government sectors working with safety of food.
- We do not have the inspection based on risks analysis.
- Lack of trained inspectors in the area
- Non accreditation of laboratories in ISO 17025

Positive experiences

- There are pre-inspection experiences in fresh fruits and vegetables for exporting.
- Act 230, 1st. Revision 2009, cocoa, cocoa products and cocoa beans
- Requirements used at regional level.

Limitations

- Lack of political will due to the ignorance of the DTF impact on the economy and health.

Identified needs

- Certification of laboratories to ISO 17025
- Training in risk-based inspection and microbiology
- Development of a National Safety Policy

Limitations on the availability of laboratories

- There are not certified laboratories to perform validated tests or analysis. Also, there are not available techniques for doing special tests such as determination of dioxins and furans in food, analysis of hormone residues in meat, radioactivity tests in food and water, among others. In the same way, although the country has the proper equipment for analysis of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables, these tests are not performing yet.
- Adequacy of laboratories is also required into the facilities, their technical staff, equipment and techniques, as well as their quality management programs or systems.

Limitation on the inspection services

- Skills and training required for inspection services shall be improved for these personnel as well as the change of the inspectors and/or auditors profile. Professional aspects and skills should be considered too, especially the values of the personnel.
- There are weaknesses in the inspection activities of the different organizations responsible for implementing the actual regulations.

PANAMA

Positive experiences:

- Training from the Ministry of Health (DEPA) through seminars of quality assurance (GMP, HACCP) to the export food chains;
- Automation of information services from AUPSA and MIDA for importation and use of technological services online.
- Support for university students to develop their research by the food control authorities.
- Laboratories have implemented analysis of trans fatty and vitamins.

Limitations:

- The lack of accredited laboratories
- Surveillance in ETAS
- Need for implementing Networks of Laboratories
- Inspection Systems Certification
Inspection organizations of government institutions responsible for Food Control do not work on network, but operate according to their areas of competence.

INAN as the lead organization in the food area has achieved the Accreditation as an Inspection Body according to ISO17020 Standard, as well as the INAN Laboratory has been accredited based on the ISO17025 Standard. In this sense, national products to be exported will increase their credibility into the international market, and the INAN recognition as a health authority in the food control will be strengthened.

In the same way, it is highlighted that the institution actively working with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce on the formalization of companies, which will facilitate the control of food commercialized in the country.

As a limitation to the effective process of the food control activity, the poor availability of human resources is mentioned, as well as other financial or equipment resources that hinder the optimization of the activity to be performed. It is considered important to encourage the experience interchange among countries in the food control area to implement the positive experiences in the country.

Should also be noted as a deficiency, the lack of a “Paraguayan Food Code” in our national legislation, serving as a basic tool to improve the food control and taking into account that a complete and updated food legislation constitutes a basic instrument in a food control system.

**[vii] IDENTIFIED NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM**

**BOLIVIA**

- Creation of laboratory capabilities to detect pesticide and veterinary drug residues in food;
- Creation of capabilities to implement an internal and external system of alert;
- Creation of capabilities to implement a system of risk analysis based on the guidelines of Codex Alimentarius;
- Strengthening of capabilities to the detection of other food contaminants (mycotoxins, heavy metals);
- Strengthening of the improvement of the quality assurance systems of the analytical results in the official laboratories;
- Strengthening of inspection capabilities and certification of the current system of control and surveillance for IA.
- Strengthening of capabilities for implementing the assurance systems of IA (APPCC)

**BRAZIL**

Laboratories are essential components of a food control system. Considering that the laboratories are expensive to maintain and operate, particularly in large countries, it is necessary to expand investment and planning in order to achieve greater results. Also, it is important to guarantee better qualifications for analysts and their access to appropriate equipment and supplies.

Others capacity needs identified by Anvisa are:

- the increase of the awareness and knowledge about food safety and quality issues among consumers and their organizations, and
- the improvement of the capacity to integrate science in decision-making processes.

**COLOMBIA**

- Training in inspection systems
- Training in risk-based inspections.
- Ring with other organizations with which they can feed back the experiences in the implementation of methodologies.
- Training on Risk Based Inspection, Determination of MRLs and Contaminants, Risk Analysis, Epidemiological Surveillance, Food Toxicology.
- Strengthening the capacity of professionals to the analysis of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- Strengthening the country’s technical capacity to generate scientific data.
- Need to strengthen organizations control more human resources, trained and experienced in the activities to develop regulatory, inspection and diagnosis.
- Strengthening analytical capacity in the determination of pollutants (pesticides, drugs, microorganisms) in primary and processed food production.
- Training on the issue of participation of the negotiation tables of the SPS.
- Training on the establishment of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drug residues.
- Strengthening analytical capacity for the determination of pesticide residues and assessment of pathogens in food.
- We need to strengthen the participation of consumers and academia in the work of the National Codex Committee.

**COSTA RICA**

It has been identified the following needs:

There is no detailed inventory yet of the installed capacity for a system of food control, but it has been performing a conducting research that delves into each of the themes of food control system such as, laboratory testing capacity, inspection and verification on the market in food management and regulatory framework.

For this reason, in order to strengthen the national system of control and food safety was raised as a project: Developing an Information System for Food Safety, to establish a digital system that links existing information from each relevant institution on food safety. In the national updates containing outbreaks of foodborne illnesses and deaths caused by them, which has the statistical data that will enable the country to improve the management of food control.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Technical assistance during updated inspection programs and programs to strengthen the training of personnel involved in different regulation and inspection activities, as well as programs for certifying testing laboratories and those for calibration of control equipment and measuring.

**PANAMA**

Training on capabilities of risk analysis

**PARAGUAY**

Harmonize the regulation of competent institutions in the Food Safety area.

Technical assistance and training in mechanisms of food control should be required to develop the “Paraguayan Food Code”.

2. CODEX CONTACT POINT, NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS

(i) ACTIVITIES OF THE CODEX CONTACT POINT INCLUDING ANY INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGE OF CONTACT DETAILS

BOLIVIA

Since creation of the National Committee of Codex in 1997, the point of contact in Bolivia has been the Bolivian Institute of Standardization and Quality – IBNORCA (as in Spanish).

The work is held based on its authority to develop technical standards on a voluntary basis by reference to the CODEX International Standards.

Moreover, it continues with its work of integrating technical committees for the revision of CODEX documents that are being studied, being responsible for disseminating all information among the involved sectors and then, proceed together to develop the national positions.

While the structure of the contact point has not been modified, and competences are the same in relation to the last meeting of CCLAC, work to develop standards has been increased as well as the participation of codex as it is described below.

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT POINT AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR CODEX MATTERS

Activities of Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee

Brazil’s National Codex Committee, the CCAB, was established in 1980 by Resolution CONMETRO 01/80. Its main duties are to represent the country and defend national interests in the Codex Committees and to promote the use of Codex standards as basic reference for the drafting and updating national food legislation and regulations. The CCAB has 15 members representing sectors related to food: the Government, industry, consumers and academia. It is coordinated and serviced by the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Inmetro)

The National Committee comprises an array of Technical Groups monitoring the work of individual Codex Committees and coordinated by CCAB members. These groups are open to all sectors with an interest in the topic under examination.

As of October 2010, the CCAB had held 258 regular sessions and over 74 extraordinary sessions, serving mainly to monitor the work of the Codex Committees of primary relevance to Brazil. Since the 16th CCLAC session in 2008, CCAB Codex-related activity has taken the form of replies to circular letters, the drafting of documents and the presentation of Brazil's position at meetings. Brazil has attended all the meetings of the Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups held during this period.

In addition to its routine activities, the National Committee holds an annual workshop each December to evaluate its performance, with the participation of all the members of the Technical Groups. The CCAB is also promoting annually a course about Codex to improve the participation of the members of the Technical Groups in the work of the Commission. The CCAB is continuously publicizing its and Codex activities through presentations during food industry courses, conferences and workshops and has set up a dedicated Web site:


The site carries the following information:

- structure and functioning of the Codex program;
- structure and functioning of the CCAB;
- calendar of Codex and CCAB meetings;
- list of Codex standards;
- list of circular letters under discussion in Codex Committees;
- news.

The CCAB's contact details are:

CCAB coordination - INMETRO
W3 Norte - Quadra 511, Bloco B, 4º Andar
70750-527 - Brasilia – DF - Brasil
Tel: (55 61) 3340-2211, 347-7882
fax: (55 61) 3347-3284 e-mail <codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br>
COLOMBIA

- Act as liaison between the Codex Secretariat and Colombia
- Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries.
- Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure distribution to all persons concerned within their own countries.
- Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat.
- Working in close cooperation with the national Codex committees in dependent countries have established such committees. The Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and other stakeholders to ensure the government receives an appropriate range of policy advice and technical issues on which to base decisions on the matters raised in the context of the work of Codex.
- Serve as a cause for exchanging information and coordinating activities with other Codex Members.
- Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat the names of the participants from their countries.
- Maintain a library of Codex final texts.
- Promote Codex activities in their countries.

Point of Contact email address Colombia: bolarte@minproteccionsocial.gov.co

COSTA RICA

Ms. Isabel Cristina Araya Badilla is the Director for Regulatory and Technical Regulations of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. PO Box 10216, 1000 San José, Costa Rica. IFAM Building, Moravia.

Tel 1: (506) 2236 2538 Tel 2: (506) 2235-2700 Ext: 203. Fax: (506) 2297 1439

E-mail 1: iaraya@meic.go.cr E-mail 2: infocodex@meic.go.cr

Among the key activities of Ms. Araya as a Contact Point are:

- Chairing the National Codex Committee.
- Execute all the tasks of the contact point and that are stipulated in the Rules of Procedure and amending the structure of the Directorate creating the Department of Codex.
- Being a liaison between the food industry, consumers, traders and other stakeholders to ensure the government receives an appropriate range of policy advice and technical issues on which to base their decisions on the issues raised in the context of Codex.
- Act as official liaison of communication between the Codex Secretariat in Rome and the various chairs of the international committees and its national counterpart, to the effect that the country can vote in relation to different issues that are polled.
- Directing the Department of Regulatory Improvement and Technical Regulation has encouraged national harmonization of national legislation with Codex Alimentarius standards to increase the percentage of alignment with Codex standards and this has led to a good relationship with relevant institutions.

As Director for Regulatory and Technical Regulations:

- Set priorities and monitor the targets set by the formulation of annual operating plan of the Directorate of conformity and compliance with institutional policies.
- Advise higher authorities in matters within its competence, by studying and analyzing the rules and laws that regulate their activity.
- Coordinate and evaluate the results of policies and programs under its responsibility, to develop various activities to quantify the impact of the same to the extent of institutional and national objectives.
- Develop, adopt and implement action plans of the Directorate, preparing proposals, implementing actions and evaluating them in order to support the modernization of the national productive sector.
**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The Contact Point for the Codex Alimentarius in Dominican Republic is:


Address: Ave. Héctor Homero Hernández esq. Ave. Tiradentes, ensanche La Fe. Santo Domingo, D.N.

Email: codexsespas@yahoo.com
codexsespas@gmail.com
codexsespas@hotmail.com

Tel.: +809-541-0382  
+809-541-3121 ext. 2381 al 2385.

fax: + 809-541-0382 y 809-547-2946

Web: www.sespas.gov.do

**PANAMA**

Codex Contact Points: General Direction of Standards and Industrial Technology (DGNTI in spanish), Standardization National Body, of the Ministry of Trade and Industries; and DGNTI is the Executive Secretariat of Codex National Committee.

**PARAGUAY**

Receive and disseminate the Codex documents; collect and analyze together with the National Committee all information about the Guidelines, Principles and Codex Standards.

National Institute of Technology, Standardization and Metrology, INTN

Lic. Mario Leiva Enrique. Director General.

Avda. Artigas 3973 y Gral Roa/ C.C. 967

Phone: 595 21 290 160 Fax: 595 21 290 873
e-mail: codex@intn.gov.py,  
rocioabed@yahoo.es / inesibarra83@gmail.com

(ii) STRUCTURE, COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE (OR EQUIVALENT OR SIMILAR STRUCTURE) OR PLANS FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT

**BOLIVIA**

In Bolivia, activities developed by Codex Alimentarius are performed through the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius – NCCA, created by the SUPREME DECREED No. 2465 of July 14th, 1997.

Among objectives of NCCA are included the following:

- Integrate itself as an instance of policy propositions and food standards;
- To be part of the International Codex Alimentarius Committee to comply with its objectives at a national level;
- Facilitate the compliance with the purposes of the FAO/WHO programs on food standards at a national level;

NCCA includes the following organizations:

- Ministry of Rural Development and Land (as chairmanship);
- Ministry of Health and Sports;
- Ministry of Environment and Water;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship;
- Ministry of Development, Production and Plural Economy;
- Ministry of Economy and Finance;
• National Customs of Bolivia;
• National Chamber of Industries (as vice president);
• National Chamber of Commerce (as member);
• National Chamber of Bolivian Exporters;
• Agricultural Confederation;
• FAO Representation (organization invited);
• Representation of PAHO/WHO (organization invited);
• Representation of IICA (organization invited);
• Municipal Governments of La Paz and El Alto (organization invited);
• Major University of San Andrés (UMSA);
• Major University of San Simon (UMSS, as in Spanish) (organization invited);
• Industrial Superior School Pedro Domingo Murillo (organization invited);
• AIS CODEDCO (organization of consumer protection invited);
• SEDECO (organization of consumer protection invited);
• National Institute of Health Laboratories – (INLASA, as in Spanish) (as a representative of the Laboratory Official Network of Food Analysis (RELOAA, as in Spanish) and National Network of Food Control Laboratories;
• Bolivian Institute of Standardization and Quality – IBNORCA (as in Spanish) (as Executive Secretariat and POINT OF CONTACT OF CODEX);

Functions and authorities of NCCA have been maintained since its inception, but NCCA has also increased its efforts in the following areas:
• Training to the NCCA members for a better understanding of the Codex Alimentarius activities;
• Disclosure of NCCA activities among the involved sectors by seminars;
• Support to the Technical Committees in charge of developing the national positions.

BRAZIL
There is no update of the structure and operation of the Brazilian National Codex Committee. The only change is in the composition. It has changed the representation of the NGO of consumers.

COLOMBIA

By Decree 977 of 1998 establishing the National Codex Alimentarius Committee (CNC), as an advisory body to Government policy on food regulation. The CNC is a technical multidisciplinary agency, permanent, that would consider rules and mechanisms to protect consumer health and facilitate trade in food.

OBJECTIVE

National Government advisory body for the formulation of the country's policies in relation to the processes of normalization and analysis of principles and procedures that can advance in the Joint FAO / WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

CNC MEMBERS

• Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism. – MCIT
• Ministry of Social Protection – MPS
• Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – MARD
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs – MRE
• National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring – INVIMA
FUNCTIONS

1. Advise the Government on the study of policies and plans on food standards and the analysis of principles and procedures that can advance the Joint FAO / WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, its Executive Committee and their Bodies.

2. To advise the Government on the study and coordinating the participation of Colombia in the sessions and meetings to convene the Joint FAO / WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, its Executive Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

3. To advise the Government on the study of the draft rules at the global or regional propose the Joint FAO / WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, its Executive Committee and its subsidiary bodies.

4. Review and propose to the Government measures and mechanisms for adequate dissemination and implementation in the country of food standards adopted by the Joint FAO / WHO Codex Alimentarius.

5. Propose the revision of Codex Alimentarius standards when appropriate.

6. Submit to the Joint FAO / WHO Codex standards proposals, arising out nationally. In any case, the process of national standards, should be following the guidelines established for standardization in the National Standardization, Certification and Metrology in coordination with relevant entities.

7. Prepare the annual work program and send to stakeholders for information and inclusion of the relevant part. Within the annual program of standardization.

8. Advise the Government on the study of national provisions to be issued on the subject.

**Presidency**

Director of Regulation - Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism.
6067676 Ext. 1347 or 1440

**General Secretary**

Office of Regulation - Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism
6067676 Ext. 1205

jmunoz@mincomercio.gov.co

**Features**

The Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism through the Director of Regulation is the Chairman and Secretary General of the Committee, through which coordinates the activities to develop an efficient management of the National Codex Committee, among them are the following: Coordinate Committee meetings, promote the development of the purview of the Committee activities and manage the necessary resources for implementation and monitoring, provide the information needed to develop the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee have made available to Codex final texts (standards codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of the meetings of the Committee.

**Technical Secretariat and Contact Point**

Public Health Directorate - Ministry of Social Protection
3305000 Ext. 1266

bolarte@minproteccionsocial.gov.co
The Ministry of Social Protection Technical Secretariat holds the national committee with the performance of various functions, including support to the CNC in the technical management of the various issues discussed, likewise serving as contact points have as the link between the Codex Secretariat in Rome and Colombia, receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex meetings and submitting comments country on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and / or the Codex Secretariat.

National Technical Subcommittees

The subcommittees are designed to perform the technical work necessary to give due attention and follow up the projects and documents issued or generated within the Codex Alimentarius, important for the country.

Furthermore, the subcommittees play an active role in ensuring the proposal to the National Committee of those potential projects or preliminary drafts of rules that the country requires and could be subject to knowledge of the respective Committees of Codex Alimentarius.

Features

- Conducted meetings and consultations they deem appropriate, including scientific research, in order to get expert advice to underpin the proposals and comments on draft rules generated in the respective Codex Committee.

- Performed and consensus among different sectors within the subcommittee, the proposals of the observations of the country to documents of the relevant committee and prepare the proposed response to the knowledge and approval of the National Committee and subsequent definition of the country position.

- Participate in international Codex meetings when they endorse the National Committee and the budgetary resources permit.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Affairs Subcommittees</th>
<th>Coordinator Agency</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Principles</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce Industry and Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Javier Muñoz Ibarra Phone No. 6067676 Ext. 1205</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jmunoz@mincomercio.gov.co">jmunoz@mincomercio.gov.co</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Hygiene</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Protection</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Blanca Cristina Olarte Phone No. 3305000 Ext. 1266</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:bolarte@minproteccionsocial.gov.co">bolarte@minproteccionsocial.gov.co</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Protection</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liliana Peñaloza Phone No. 3305000 Ext. 1419</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:lpenaloza@minproteccionsocial.gov.co">lpenaloza@minproteccionsocial.gov.co</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biotechnology</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Javier David Castellanos Phone No. 4227371 Ext. 1852</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:jcastellanosp@invima.gov.co">jcastellanosp@invima.gov.co</a></td>
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<td>Food Additives</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td>Myriam Rivera Phone No. 3151970</td>
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<td>E-mail: mriverar@invima</td>
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<td>Food Contaminants</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td>Pedro Torres Phone No. 3151970</td>
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<td>Analysis and Sampling Methods</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Angélica Salas Phone No. 2207700 Ext. 1221</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:asalasb@invima.gov.co">asalasb@invima.gov.co</a></td>
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<td>Inspection and Certification of Food Import</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td>and Export</td>
<td>Maríá Claudia Jiménez Phone No. 2948700 Ext. 3922</td>
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<td>Food Labelling</td>
<td>National Institute of Food and Drug Monitoring</td>
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<td>Julio Vanegas Phone No. 2948700 Ext. 3924</td>
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<td>Veterinary Drugs Residues</td>
<td>Colombian Agricultural Institute</td>
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<td>Mc Allister Tafur Phone No. 2324715</td>
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<td>E-mail: Mc <a href="mailto:Allister.tafur@ica.gov.co">Allister.tafur@ica.gov.co</a></td>
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COSTA RICA

The National Codex Committee is formed by:

- The representative of the MEIC, who presides.
- 7 Representatives of public sector (2 Ministry of Health, 2 Ministry of Agriculture, Trade 1, 1 National Council for Production and 1 representative of the Secretariat of ORT, as in Spanish)
- 4 Representatives of the private sector (1 Costa Rican Chamber of the Food Industry, 1 Chamber of Commerce of Costa Rica, 1 Chamber of Exporters of Costa Rica, 1 National Chamber of Agriculture and Agro-industry).
- 1 representative from academia (National Center for Food Science and Technology / University of Costa Rica)
- 1 Representative of consumers (FENASCO)
- 2 observers (FAO, PAHO / WHO)
Its main functions are:

- Advise state authorities on the priorities on quality and food safety.
- Promote the development of international standards based on the characteristics of domestic products.
- Recommend the adoption or amendment of international standards in this area.
- Review and approve the comments, remarks and positions issued by the country before the International Committees and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Technical Secretariat is under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, within the structure of the Directorate for Regulatory and Technical Regulations, specifically within the Department of Codex Contact Point supports the work of being the communication link between the Codex Secretariat in Rome and the various chairs of the international committees and their national counterparts, in order that the country can vote in relation to different issues that are polled among Codex members. Among other features of interest include:

- Channel and track information received from the Codex Secretariat and sent to the respective National Subcommittees.
- Upon approval of the contact point or to your instructions:
  - Forward the position paper proposed country National Codex Committee to the respective endorsements and study, then send it to the Codex Secretariat located in Rome, Italy.
  - Refer to each Subcommittee Coordinator, Documents of the meeting agenda for review and comments.
  - Forward circular letters of response to service requests or comments.
  - Once the subcommittee submit the document with comments or country to position the Technical Secretariat of Codex, it must submit the document to the National Codex Committee to the respective endorsements and study, and then send it to the Codex Secretariat located in Rome, Italy.
  - Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat.

Currently there are 15 active subcommittees in the country and two sub-groups of action. The coordination of each Sub falls on representatives of public or private sector enterprises, which in turn must coordinate with representatives of public, private, academia and consumer organizations and maintain close communication with Technical Secretariat of the National Committee. Within each sub-committee shall appoint a coordinator according to their suitability for handling the issue, which may be of public and private sector or academia.

The current active sub-committees are coordinated as follows:

Coordinates Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry:
- General Principles
- Food Labelling
- Fats and Oils
- Codex
- Latin America and the Caribbean

Ministry of Health coordinates:
- Food Hygiene
- Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary
- Contaminants

Coordinates Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock:
- Pesticide Residues
- Veterinary Drugs
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Milk and Milk Products
- Inspection and Certification of Food Import and Export
- Methods of Analysis and Sampling
- Fish and Fishery Products
Coordinate other sectors:

- Food Additives (CACIA)
- Fruits and Vegetables (other)

The sub-task force on biotechnology is coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

The main functions of the National Codex Sub-Committees are:

- Observations and comments on the documents, developing country position, including the issues discussed at the International Codex Committees.
- Advise the National Committee on the progress of projects and recommend adoption Codex and/or positions to be assumed by the country with respect to information of Codex.
- Analyze and discuss projects and documents that are generated within the Codex Alimentarius.
- Support and monitor the adoption of International Standards to encourage our trade and ensure compliance.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

- We have 34 technical sub-committees of the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius (NCCA). We keep 21 active subcommittees including the technical subcommittee on General Principles that was reactivated from the end of 2009. Also, the Technical Subcommittee on Fatty and Oils, technical subcommittee on fish and fishery products, as well as subcommittee of Fruits and Vegetables and subcommittee of elaborated fruits and vegetables.
- Function regulation of NCCA has not been separated from the creation decree.
- On 2009, NCCA had four ordinary meetings.
- On 2010, NCCA has had three ordinary meetings, and it has planned to meet at the end of September, 2010 extraordinarily.

**PANAMA**

Created by Executive Decree No. 41 of November 20, 2001 from the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Composition: Ministry of Trade and Industries (Executive Secretariat); Ministry of Health (Food Protection Department); Ministry of Agricultural Development (National Directions of Animal and Food Health); Food Safety Panamanian Authority; Panama University (Specialized Institute of Analysis); Technological University of Panama (Agribusiness Production and Research Center); Authority of Consumer Protection and Competence; Manufacturer Unions of Panama; National Council of Private Enterprise and the Consumers’ Association of Panama.

**PARAGUAY**

National Committee is composed by representatives of the public sector; Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, through the National Institute of Food and Nutrition (INAN as in Spanish), the Foreign Affairs Ministry, Trade and Industry Ministry, Agriculture and Stockbreeding, Asuncion Municipality, University Council and the National Institute of Technology, Standardization and Metrology INTN (Focal Point), and the private sector; Industrial Union of Paraguay (UIP), FEPRINCO and the Rural Association of Paraguay (ARP).

It is a sui generis Committee that, unlike many others in the region, it has the potential to serve as Chair in the Private Sector with the same conditions as the formal sector.

Committee is responsible for accompanying, analyzing and assessing the national laws and regulations of food based on the standards, guidelines and principles of the Codex Alimentarius.

**(iii) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION**

**BOLIVIA**

Since July 2009, the new NCCA management has conducted the revision of the Creation Decree of NCCA and its Functioning Internal Regulation.

In order to:

- Extend the participation of State, Private and NGO’s Organizations within the NCCA;
- Establish clear guidelines for developing national positions and the participation before the Commission of Codex Alimentarius and its subsidiary bodies;
- Coordinate all people involved on the Codex issues;
- Strengthen the NCCA activities developing their actions.
COSTA RICA

Among other relevant information to improve the functioning of the National Codex Committee and its Sub-Committees mirror the Department implemented a system of Codex Alimentarius Digital (www.competitividad.go.cr / Codexalimentarius), which will help increase transparency and country’s participation in the formulation of national positions to the development of Codex standards.

The system is designed to keep users informed about the documentation that manages the Codex Alimentarius and each of the committees and working groups.

The problem it solves is:

- Low participation of key sectors and consumers in the definition of the country position.
- Information does not reach all stakeholders.
- Lack of a database of the topics discussed and little systematized information.
- Times difficult to control for the user.

Among the benefits that this digital system is:

- Facilitates user participation:
  - Receive information of interest automatically.
  - System reminders of due dates.
  - Access to comments from other stakeholders.
- Transparency in formulating country positions.
- Time reduction in the transfer of information.
- Updated database and systematically to measure the degree of participation of the country.

The Technical Secretariat of the Codex is institutionally established as a department within the MEIC, to work exclusively on the subject of Codex Alimentarius, which has 4 professionals dedicated exclusively to these issues with extensive experience in the work of Codex, and with the support budget needed to operate.

In addition, the Department of the Codex, to raise awareness at national level operation and the importance of Codex Alimentarius, collaborated with the National Training Institute (INA) in the implementation of an online course (60 hours) on the Codex Alimentarius, which offers development courses based on the use of information technologies and communication. The cooperation provided by the Department of Codex was the review of course content, proportion of an interview with the Codex Contact Point in Costa Rica and the provision of information content for course modules. The site of the virtual course is www.centrovirtualfina.com

The course has the following modules (each with working guidelines and further reading):

1. Bases of the Codex.
2. Relationship of Codex to the World Trade Organization.
3. The Codex and international food trade.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- We are graduated from the Trust Fund since 2008, but Mrs. Catherine Mulholland from the Trust Fund promised us that we would be supported by participating in the 32th – CCNFSDU for 2010.
- In the meantime, the Country has received the support of the Trust Fund of Codex Alimentarius since 2004 to date in order to send 12 people to 9 meetings including the Codex Course and the Safety Conferences carried out in 2005 in Costa Rica.
- Since the 16th.-CCLAC, Country has participated in 13 Codex meetings:: 40th.-CCFH, 25th.-CCGP, 32nd.-CAC, Symposium in Miami, MRL Workshop in Costa Rica, 15th.-CCFFV, 46th.-MSF, 41st.-CCFH, 26th.-CCGP, 38th.-CCFL, TBT Meeting TBT, 48th.-MSF, 33rd.-CAC and Symposium in Panama. Including contributions of OPS, IICA, USDA and own funds of the Country.

PARAGUAY

At present, the National Codex Committee is reviewing the 17.487 Decree “By creating the National Codex Committee of Paraguay”, as such modification is necessary to adapt and update the composition of institutions integrating the Committee according to the competence field for the importance of the rol it plays in the food safety and the National System of Food Safety.
(iv) POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OR SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED FOR THE CODEX CONTACT POINT, THE NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE AND/OR OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS

**BOLIVIA**

Positive Experiences

- Consolidation of committees working in Codex, including the continuous revision of International works;
- A major participation of organizations integrating the NCCA.

**BRAZIL**

The positive experiences are referred to the integration process between General Subjects and Commodities Technical Groups. This integration seeks experiences exchange and to be aware about deliberations from General Subjects Committees that impact on Commodities Committees work.

Another positive experience is the Annual Planning Seminar, which provides conditions for all Committee and Technical Groups members to interact between them. Besides that, there is also an annual training course on Codex issues for all Brazilians committee technicians.

**COLOMBIA**

Positive Experiences

*Large numbers of National Codex Sub-Committees functioning in the country.*

Major technical input to the comments received from the country on various topics of Codex Committees.

Shortcomings identified

- Little decentralization of the work of Codex Alimentarius: Technical Sub-Committees are hosted by entities located in the capital. It made a failed attempt with a university department.
- Awareness levels of political decision on the importance of Codex to protect consumers and facilitate trade in food.
- In the Technical Sub-National Codex there are many issues that are not subject to study, simply because not investigated or lack of information or knowledge of its existence. You assign a competent person within each organization, research, analysis and development of new work of Codex Alimentarius, which are often approved without any knowledge, which could adversely affect the future of Colombia.
- Ignorance of the importance and significance of high levels Codex administrative ministries and relevant entities, to achieve fluency in Codex issues and that can be defended in the international framework.
- Make arrangements with industry associations to achieve greater participation by manufacturers associations on issues of interest to the country.

**COSTA RICA**

Through joint efforts of the entities that comprise the National Codex Committee in Costa Rica, MEIC as Chairman, with the active participation of public, private and academic sector, the country has strengthened the structure and work of Codex at the national level and this has resulted in a better country participation in international meetings, not only because it was able to increase their attendance at such meetings, but because it has allowed more informed interventions for their own benefit and our region, which has always had the support of many countries CCLAC.

From these results, the work of both the National Committee and the Secretariat and the subcommittees has been reinforced by success factors that enhance the efforts, but equally important has faced obstacles to such progress, then you want to share which have been these factors:

**Key success factors.**

There are many factors that have led to these positive results, but there are some who, from the Costa Rican experience, have been key to success:

1. A strategic formation of the National Committee, through a regulatory framework, which are key entities that have represented interference in matters that are discussed within the Codex. Supplemented this with a selection of members who have two essential attributes: technicians and scientists, committed to the work of Codex. Similarly should ensure that such representation and attributes are present in the formation of mirror committees.
2. However, the best shape I could not have achieved a good performance but there is a logistical and a very effective technical secretariat, to achieve a timely distribution of documents (within the same limitations that one may have in the Codex) and a proactive system monitoring. In this regard, the Secretariat has been strengthening over time and now has a Department of Codex consists of four professionals, whose commitment has driven the work of the rest of the national structure of Codex, and has recently been supplemented Digital System pursued by the distribution of documents, with automatic reminders and also seeks the participation of producers and consumers in the transparency of the process of defining the country's position.

3. The National Committee Chairman complete the structure of Costa Rica and is known for being a country person with vision and leadership, which drives the Codex task, and manages to link the technical work with political support, which is another key factor in a row which we mean.

4. All this effort and technical work, can hardly grow and consolidate if there is no political support at the highest level requires that the heads of key institutions that are represented in the National Committee, understand and commit to the work of Codex, for only in this way is that you can find resources and financial resources, essential for effective participation. In this factor the work of awareness and belief that carry National Committee members and especially the Chairman of the Codex is critical, especially in our countries political leaders change every four years. In this regard he has served as President of the Codex, in the last 7 years has played a valuable work in this regard.

5. On the financial side, Costa Rica has scarce budgetary resources to cope with the international Codex meetings, and therefore the National Committee, has developed a ten year strategy for choosing priority Codex Committees, the costs to attend these meetings are distributed among the members of this Committee and in this way the country manages, year after year, face to maximize participation in international meetings and fulfill his goal.

6. Finally, the last essential ingredient for success is an established legal framework, clearly defines and orders the competence of different actors, in particular the establishment of legal functions, as the work of Codex has to be a noun and not an extraneous public entities involved. In addition, this framework should provide clear rules on how to work and the establishment of the positions that the country will present to the Codex forum, so that through a formal procedure to ensure that decisions made at national level to achieve consensus and reconcile the national interests and not individuals.

In the national act, the role played by the MEIC, through the Department of the Codex has been essential, as well as promoting the issues of concern, is working on implementing a National System for Food Safety (NARS, as in Spanish). As part of its work plan and the National Codex Committee, this year (2010) began a new strategy work, which has had the political support of various ministries with responsibility for food and interference with a NARS.

The work plan of the Department of the Codex in its implementation project, part four strategic areas, which have been working every year with the exception of the development of SNIA, and as detailed below:

- Country's effective participation in the elaboration of Codex standards.
- Strengthening the National Codex structure.
- Increased leadership of Costa Rica at the level of the Latin American Region.
- Development of a National Food Safety.

Given this, the MEIC in a joint effort with the Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Comex, the Academy and the private sector drive the development of SNIA, which ensures safe food to consumers and our export products meet the safety requirements of our international buyers. Product of this effort has achieved the following:

- The subscription agreement FAO-Costa Rica, with a commitment to four ministries.
- The development and implementation process agreed Action Plan, derived from a national forum in December 2009.
- The agreement by the National Quality Council - CONAC.
- The formulation of the National Policy for Food Safety, by executive decree, signed by 4 competent Ministers and the President of the Republic.

Following the agreed Action Plan for the NARS, April 22, 2010 was the official signing Executive Order Policy Food Safety, by the competent ministers and above.

With the same orientation, and as part of the outreach strategy and awareness of the importance of establishing a National Food Safety System was conducted in the same month, a seminar entitled "The Codex Alimentarius and the importance of a National Safety Food", in order to present an overview of what has been the country's participation in the Codex Alimentarius, both regional and global context and the impact that participation has had on the national act, for it is counted valuable support from the American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the participation of two international experts such as Mr. Gabriela Catalani, Codex Contact Point in Argentina and Ph.D. Ricardo Molins, Director of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Institute.
In the same vein on 3 June, it launched the "Codex Digital System", with this system is designed to encourage participation in the productive sector and consumers, in developing international food standards of Codex Alimentarius, giving back gains these same sectors, which will be reflected in a positive and beneficial for the country. In this same event was officially launched the book "Benefits of Codex in Costa Rica 2004-2009" prepared by the Technical Secretariat of Codex, which sets out the achievements of our country to successfully participate in the Codex.

**Major limitations.**

The first thing that can be understood as limiting the scarcity of resources, lack of knowledge and awareness on Codex issues, and expound the following:

- Low awareness about the importance of Codex in international food trade, both competent institutions (especially some middle managers who in turn fail to take hold in their Hierarchs) as of the private sector.
- Weak participation of some productive sectors, lack of knowledge and interest and therefore lack of facts and figures that support national positions.
- Sometimes the work of the institutions on issues of Codex is seen as voluntary, which has been remedied by explicitly incorporating the role of Codex in the relevant departments.
- Scarce budgetary resources for physical participation in international meetings and negotiations, heightened by the fiscal problems facing our countries.
- In addition to internal constraints above, there are others that transcend national operation, some are quite often the National Sub do not have the documents of the meeting with sufficient time prior to analyze these because of delays that has the International Codex Secretariat or the Codex Committee on sending documents to member countries in all official languages of the Codex, thus limiting the time of assessment and analysis, reinforces the fact that sometimes the documentation is in English only.
- The language difference is an obstacle that makes a pretty strong disadvantage to countries that do not share the language compared with those who did not understand it, because the contents of the dense text rules are very technical and difficult translation or compression. Another aspect to be assessed by the Commission is the recent merger of committees in some areas to disadvantage the other, must work for a presence in all regions in the chairmanships of the committees.
- Also, another key issue is the proliferation of working groups and face meetings prior to the Committees, in which many developing countries can not participate and it is your breast on which many issues that are agreed at the meeting of the Committee concerned will not require much discussion, and proposals as they reach consensus. In addition to the above, and represents a constraint strong enough for developing countries, is that the reports of the Secretariat for each of the meetings in order to economize on text, paper and translations, are very limited and specific, without giving details of the debate, thus damaging the information that they may perceive that countries could not attend.

**Current projects and challenges.**

Costa Rica in this area faces several challenges that short and medium term, including:

- Dissemination and awareness of consumers in Codex issues and food safety.
- Accompanying farmers, small, medium and large food industries in the development of Codex standards and knowledge for better applicability.
- Promoting active participation of the country through the widespread use of Codex Digital System.
- Development and implementation of National Food Safety, set in the National Development Plan for the Administration 2010-2014.
- Further strengthening the structure of the National Codex Codex to achieve in the medium term and is the geographical representation of the Latin America and the Caribbean or you make assuming the chairmanship of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC).
- Increase national participation in Codex work: expanding the private sector and consumers, and international levels to promote greater country participation in international meetings.

In addition to the above, the goal is to increase the country's participation in Codex meetings and discussions, conduct seminars of national interest, to accompany the national productive sector and consumers to promote more active participation in discussions of the Codex and to achieve this we now have the technological tools Codex Digital System, discussed above. In addition, they position and disseminate the Codex issues at the national level through training and lectures to the private sector, monthly publications in journals of chambers of commerce, newsletter, strategy and media campaign through the press of the various participating ministries within the National Codex Committee.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- PCC has been received the support of Government Authorities to participate in different meetings of the Codex Alimentarius.
- In the same way, activity of technical subcommittees harmonizing Codex Standards has been rising.

PANAMA
As a positive experience:
All decisions on the Codex issue are presented at a national level. They are discussed and taken together into the National Codex Committee.

As a limitation:
- Further work to reach a greater support from decision-makers authorities and private sector.
- A greater disclosure to those involved in food production chain and consumers in relation to the existing regulation and development work by the National Codex Committee.
- Lack of own budget from the National Codex Committee
- Need for developing the Procedure Manual of the National Codex Committee.

PARAGUAY
It can be noted that the National Committee meets once a month and if necessary, it has special meetings to validate a position or socialize any document. These positions are studied within the Technical Sub-Committees where coordinators lead meetings and study the documents. These documents are validated and forwarded to the Focal Point before sending to the Codex Secretariat.

A major difficulty that arises is the low participation of both public and private sectors in the Sub-committee meetings. Another considered issue is the information since it refers first to the English language.

(v) IDENTIFIED NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN THE CODEX CONTACT POINT, NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE, AND/OR OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURES FOR CODEX MATTERS

BOLIVIA
- An advice is required to improve the participation of Country in meetings of Codex regarding the elaboration of positions with a better technical base.
- An advice is required so that, Bolivia be able to propose and lead the elaboration of a Codex Standard, both national and international.
- Need a great support from government authorities in order to strength their capabilities, and give a better support and continuity to the processes developing into the NCCA.

BRAZIL
It is necessary that National Committee technicians improve their language skills, especially in English. Language courses and negotiation techniques/skills are required.

COLOMBIA
- Information systems
- The representation of countries in the process of Developed in Codex meetings should be stronger in terms of human resources, ie the representation of one or two people is not enough to defend national interests, as topics are varied and specific, which require technical expertise. Codex should consider options for increasing the representation of developing countries in such meetings.
- Training new members of the National Codex Committee: To promote among the productive, academic and consumer-related entities are part of the health system and international trade, active participation in the Codex Alimentarius.
- Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of CNC and the subcommittees, and their activities.
- Establish strategic alliances in the private sector, academia, NGOs, consumer organizations and regional and local governments.
- Establish effective mechanisms for communication, cooperation and integration between the Points of Contact and the CNC of the countries of the Andean region and with the CCLAC (as in Spanish).
- Participate in chat to arrange the CCLAC to exchange information and discuss common agendas.
- Promote and strengthen universities including the Codex issue related academic programs
- High-level meetings to create greater awareness among policy makers and decision makers, in their respective entities in the National Codex Committee.
- Conduct seminars for officials responsible for functions related to food control
- Conduct training for experts from the scientific community and industry that will help prepare the written positions and, finally.
- Training activities on Codex procedures for delegates to participate in Codex meetings.

COSTA RICA

Based upon the limitations identified for strengthening the capacity of Codex Contact Point, the National Codex Committee and / or other structures related to Codex work at national level, we have listed the following key issues:

- Assistance to train more people in the structure of Codex Alimentarius and the methodology to participate in the development of standards and texts on food, and food safety.
- Training of national authorities to implement a national food control, in order to strengthen existing initiatives.
- Training on risk analysis in food, and each of its components (assessment, management and communication) officials on the subject in each of the ministries in the field, in order to provide guidance and input for implementation in the country in certain foods according to risk priority.
- Strengthening the emission mechanism of feedback or country to position Codex documents, both national and regional level.
- Implementation of an administrative mechanism to support developing countries in the region in attendance at Codex meetings.

For this reason we have proceeded to raise a number of cooperation projects or technical assistance to international institutions and friendly governments. Among them:

Project 1:

- The Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Costa Rica (MEIC) and the American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the letter are intended to establish a fundamental technical cooperation between IICA and the MEIC to establish and implement a work plan that will help to improve the management of small and medium-sized food companies, on issues related to quality and safety of agricultural food products, in order to facilitate trade of products is in the process of subscription.

This letter is looking for supporting the MEIC to strengthen the structure of the National Codex Committee, the Technical Secretariat and national leadership of the Latin American region of Codex.

To:

1. Develop a training program aimed at SMEs in priority productive sectors related to the issue of food safety in order to generate self-control processes and improve the competitiveness of the country.
2. To support an outreach program to schools and continuing education on topics related to food safety.
3. Provide technical assistance and training in the implementation of a pilot plan verification based food risk analysis and training in the guide to inspection and verification of certain products as a priority.
4. Strengthen the structure of the National Codex Committee, the Technical Secretariat through expert advice and technical assistance on issues of interest to the Committee or the Secretariat.

Project 2: Bilateral support was achieved for an internship in Chile and Guatemala Training on issues related to the national system for food control and in this I referred to the safety of them.

Furthermore, we have raised the following projects, in which there is not yet funded:

Project 3: Developing an Information System for Food Safety, whose main objective is to establish a digital system that brings together existing information from each of the relevant institutions on food safety.

Project 4: Implement a Training of the Codex in order to have staff trained in issues related to the Codex Alimentarius and Food Safety and adapt work systems or mechanisms implemented in other countries.
Project 5: Another proposed cooperation project for developing a national model for verification of market entities coordinated by the National Quality System, for technical regulations issued by the Government of Costa Rica, based on three pillars that involves inspection bodies accredited public and private nature, such as:

1. Direct verification of the State in priority products.
2. Hiring of inspection services.
3. Accredited laboratory testing under the 8279 law.

Prior to the inspection market for the products already on the market, it would establish a policy of provision of “quality labels” based on requirements of technical regulations in force. For manufacturers this is an option that allows you to demonstrate compliance with the quality parameters, before your product is available to consumers and the government would reduce direct verification activities of the products already available.

Project: 3

It also raised another cooperation project proposed for Project: Promoting compliance and disclosure, both at the country level and regional level, the CODEX standards.

Specific Objectives:

1. Encourage the participation of countries in regional issues related to the review, monitoring and preparation of draft standards and regional positions, as well as improving interaction activities among countries of the region.
2. Encourage specialization programs or other instrument training and CODEX Alimentarius Food Safety and related issues.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Need of having an extent area that allows complying with the proposal of having a Library with all documents of Codex Alimentarius.

PANAMA

Need to develop a computer program to Exchange opinions at a national, regional and world level, without language barriers.

Need to provide a computer program for translating documents.

PARAGUAY

Optimize resources and strengthen the work performed by the Focal Point, the National Committee and Sub-Committees. Training of professionals of different sectors whether public, private or consumer in the various thematic areas of Codex.

Disclose the levels of political and technical impact of Codex procedures in the framework of integration, trade and development of the country.
3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING

(i) CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN CODEX RELATED ACTIVITIES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND/OR INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

BOLIVIA

Two ONG work in Bolivia in the realm of consumer protection:

AISCODEDCO (as in Spanish), member of consumer international

SEDECO (as in Spanish), member of consumer international

These two organizations participate in the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius and in the Technical Committees of Standardization related to work performed as follows:

CTN 3.14 Labelling – AIS CODEDCO and SEDECO

CTN 3.27 Special diets – AIS CODEDCO

CTN 3.29 General foods – SEDECO

BRAZIL

Consumers organizations are members of the National Codex Committee and the Technical Groups. Besides, consumers are involved in the regulatory process of Anvisa through public consultation.

Since 1992 bodies representing consumers (governmental and non-governmental) have been involved in the work of the Brazilian Codex Committee (CCAB).

At a national level, in 2004 the National Council of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Conmetro) approved the creation of a permanent commission of consumers with the aim of making viable the participation of consumers in standardization and regulation activities, recognizing in its terms of reference—among other aspects—that “… civil consumer defense bodies’ work together with standardization and technical regulation cannot be dispensed with, due to their legitimate nature in representing consumers’ interests and needs. One of the main reasons for civil bodies’ failure to increase their participation in the follow-up of standardization activities is the lack of financial resources”.

The limitations that exist in the participation of the consumers in Codex related activities at an international and national level are lack of financial resources.

COLOMBIA

The Colombian Confederation of Consumers participate in the following activities related to the CODEX:

a) Is a member of the National Codex Committee.

b) Through his television and radio, Consumer Bulletin, which is broadcast nationally and regionally, discloses CODEX activities that are requested.

COSTA RICA

The National Codex Committee of Costa Rica has facilitated the participation of consumers in the National Committee, which has a representative of the social organization “National Federation of Consumers and Users Association” (FENASCO – In Spanish). The consumers representative participates in the deliberations leading to the establishment of national positions that take place in the National Committee in addition to the competent public institutions, production sectors, exporters, and academia. Moreover, consumer participation is enhanced with Codex Digital System, in which each consumer can register and make their comments to the topic of interest at a predetermined time, to be taken into consideration in development of the country position.

We participated in the National Consumer Fair where an explanation and we provide information content and importance of food labeling, on the steps to follow when shopping at the supermarket, interest, clarifying doubts that consumers approach.

We participated in radio interviews organized by consumer associations which explains the importance of Codex and is used to address concerns of the listeners.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

• National Institute for Consumer Protection (Pro Consumer) is the official body to protect Dominican consumers. It actively participates in the Technical Committees of Standards coordinated by the General Direction of Standards and Quality Systems (DIGENOR, as in Spanish), especially in those related to the CODEX Standards, which are part of the National Committee of Codex Alimentarius.
Recently, Pro Consumer Board of Directors approved the Regulation of Consumer and Users Defense Organizations, which establishes the regulatory framework for the operation of such organizations and enable organization to coordinate and improve participation in the Technical Committees of Standards specially those related to the CODEX Standards.

Continue participating in Technical Committees, consumer associations: FUNDECOM, ACACIDISNA, CODOCONA and others.

**PANAMA**

In our country, consumer participation in Codex related activities is partial, only one of seven (7) organizations officially registered in the Authority of Consumer Protection and Competition (ACODECO) is participating in the Codex activities. Now, it is good to clarify that it is representing the guild with its participation.

**PARAGUAY**

They are not involved, since there is not a consumer association for food area officially recognized.

(ii) ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

**BOLIVIA**

Government has created a portfolio of state-specific related to the consumers, the Department of User and Consumer Protection.

The new decree and regulation of NCCA includes in its composition to this Vice-Ministry in order to have an approach to the strategies of this organization with the consumer, and coordinate activities related to CODEX for a better approach to the consumers in Bolivia.

**COLOMBIA**

We would like to list the standards of protection and consumer protection that are related to food:


b) Act 144, 1982, section 1.

c) Act 144, 1982, article 10, d and g. Literals

d) Decree 3466 of 1982.

In addition, the Colombian Confederation of Consumers involved in the development of standards for food in the Colombian Institute of Technical Standards-ICONTEC.

**WEAKNESSES**

Lack of technical support staff to strengthen the effective participation of consumer associations.

**COSTA RICA**

Recently it has been implementing a nationwide system of Codex Digital pursued by the distribution of documents, with automatic reminders and also seeks the participation of producers and consumers in the transparency of the process of defining the country's position.

**PANAMA**

We want to clarify that the consumer associations are called to participate in the Codex Committees and their participation in food regulations in the country has been of great importance, since they become in multipliers agents of the work carried out by the committee relating to the food regulation.

(iii) POSITIVE EXPERIENCES OR SHORTCOMINGS IDENTIFIED FOR CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN CODEX RELATED ACTIVITIES

**BOLIVIA**

It has been developed a work in 5 countries of the region related to the participation of consumers with codex and the result was an issue with conclusions and recommendations.

**BRAZIL**

Shortcomings

One of the great difficulties for consumers to participate effectively in the work of the National Committee is lack of financial resources and also lack of experts in quantity to attend all the meetings of the Technical Groups and of the National Committee.
COLOMBIA

It has been found that knowledge about the existence and development of Codex activities is minimal in the public and private, especially in non-capital cities and main towns.

COSTA RICA

* With regard to consumer participation in setting national food standards, our country directly involves consumers in this process through a representative on each of the National Technical Committees that draw up technical regulations, many of which are harmonized with Codex standards. However, with regard to national subcommittees directly connected with the Codex, consumer participation has been ensured through Executive Decree 33212 establishing the internal regulations of the National Codex Committee and the National Codex Alimentarius Subcommittees in Costa Rica.

It should be pointed out that in our country application of Law 7472 of December 1995 on the Promotion of Competition and Effective Defence of the Consumer and Law 8220 of March 2002 on the Protection of Citizens from Excessive Requirements and Administrative Procedures has led to the establishment of a National Consumer Commission, with responsibility for verifying that products comply with regulations protecting consumers, including regulations for the food sector. The publication of proposals for technical regulations or decrees means that citizens (all of whom are consumers) have the opportunity to comment and thus to participate in the setting of standards. Part of the work that has been developed in conjunction with the National Consumer Commission is the development of Guidelines on Food Labelling aimed at schooling teachers to include this subject in primary and secondary education.

Also, as noted above, the Codex Digital system makes the information of Codex texts more accessible to consumers, and a simple and friendly way that encourages consumers to sign up easily.

Shortcomings

** As for the deficiencies in the participation of consumers is that nationally are that few organizations that are formalized or legalized in the country and therefore sometimes difficult for them to participate in all meetings of National subcommittees.

Also, national consumer organizations have problems of association, are discrete, existing organizations have few resources to participate thus reducing their impact or involvement.

It is considering to incorporate in the national Codex structure which is rotatable a share for each of the consumer organizations in the country and every one of them is appointed for a specified period, in order to obtain and assistance criteria each of these organizations.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

- Consumer organizations do not have enough awareness or personnel with the proper training to have the most efficient participation in the Standards Committees of the DIGENOR (as in Spanish).
- Codex Technical Committees meetings are held only in Santo Domingo City, so participation of organized consumers in the country is difficult.

PANAMA

One of the major limitations we have observed it is the disclosure of the Codex activities. This responsibility should not be only for the point of contact but for all members of the National Committee. We are making efforts in our country so the consumers are aware of Codex and its condition of being useful.

In the same way, one of our more positive experiences has been the achievement of favoring consumers in our country through the food standards based on the Codex experience, as with this mechanism we have progressed in the ordinance of the food activity.

(b) IDENTIFIED NEED FOR CAPACITY BUILDING TO STRENGTHEN CONSUMERS PARTICIPATION IN CODEX RELATED ACTIVITIES

BOLIVIA

Training and awareness for the end consumer regarding standards on safety, change in conduct regarding the consumption

BRAZIL

It is necessary to strengthen consumers organizations in financial meaning, so they can hire experts and organize their participation in Codex work, and also in other standardization organizations.
COLOMBIA

To strengthen consumer participation in Codex related activities, it is necessary that members of consumer organizations are technically trained on the activities of the CODEX and achieve a greater impact on the development of food standards, as well, for better oversight of those rules so that they do not violate the rights of consumers.

COSTA RICA

To strengthen consumer participation requires a continuous training program on various crosscutting issues in Codex, for example, topics on nutritional and health effect, as the global strategy for physical activity, diet and nutrition WHO, safety issues and food quality, labeling, false advertising, among others.

It is important that consumers know and master the information in the cloud because most of them do not read the nutrition labels and do not understand. Training for consumers on the issue of understanding of labels is essential, so it is considered that the development and implementation of a dissemination and training project would come to address the existing needs.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In order to have a proper participation of the sector in the food process, it should be desirable to sensitize and train representatives of consumer organizations through chat, courses and workshops.

PANAMA

Through the participation of the consumer representative, we could establish seminars and training to let know consumer how the Codex is functioning at a national level, so that they become multiplier and marketing agents of the Codex benefits. This could be initiated through the National Association of Users and Consumers.

PARAGUAY

Integration of Consumer Associations and Training on the role of consumers and the food safety.