


Visual aids


Module 2.1



FAO/WHO CODEX TRAINING PACKAGE

**SECTION TWO
UNDERSTANDING THE
ORGANIZATION OF CODEX**

Module 2.1
Codex: a historical perspective




Codex: a historical perspective

- International food standards are not a new concept
– Assyrian Empire, Egypt, India, Rome, Greece
- “Codex Alimentarius” is Latin for “food code”
- Codex Alimentarius Austriacus (1897–1911)

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Origins of Codex

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Codex Alimentarius Europaeus (1954–58)

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Establishment of Codex

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (1963 to present)
 - Membership (172 Members as of March 2005)
 - Two parent organizations – FAO and WHO
 - Meetings alternate between Rome and Geneva

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**Mandate of
Codex Alimentarius Commission**

- To establish international food standards
- To protect the health of consumers
- To ensure fair practices in the food trade

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**Codex Alimentarius Commission
adopts...**

- food standards, codes of practice, guidelines and recommendations

Codex standards are the international benchmark for food safety

(SPS Agreement)

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Module 2.1 (cont.)


Working procedures and management of Codex

- not static
- Codex Evaluation is a significant landmark

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SECTION TWO UNDERSTANDING THE ORGANIZATION OF CODEX

Module 2.2 What is Codex?




What is the Codex Alimentarius Commission?

- Intergovernmental body
- Implements Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
- Codex statutes adopted in May, 1963
- 10 Articles form the basis of Codex work
- Contained in Codex Procedural Manual

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Mandate of Codex

Article 1:

- Protecting the health of the consumer and ensuring fair practices in the food trade
- Coordinating all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations
- Determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards
- Finalizing standards and publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius either as regional or worldwide standards
- Amending published standards, after appropriate survey in the light of developments

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Membership

Article 2:

- all FAO/WHO Member and Associate Member Nations
- apply to Director General of FAO or WHO

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Observers


Articles 3/4:

- FAO/WHO Members, who are non-Codex Members
- Other UN Member Nations

No voting rights, observer status only

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Statutes enable the Commission to establish


Articles 6/7:

- Executive Committee
- Subsidiary bodies (Committees and Task Forces)

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Module 2.2 (cont.)




Rules of Procedure

Article 8:

- Commission adopts and amends its own rules of procedure - set out in the *Procedural Manual*
- A quorum of member countries is required to amend the rules
- Only the parent bodies can amend the statutes
- Statutes form legal basis for Codex

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Expenses (preparatory work)

Article 10:

- Expenses related to meetings, documents, interpretation, borne by host government
- Exceptions if host is developing country

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Complete list of Articles

Article 1 – Mandate
Article 2 – Membership
Article 3 – Observers (FAO and WHO Member Nations)
Article 4 – Observers (other UN Member Nations)
Article 5 – Reports and recommendations
Article 6 – Executive Committee
Article 7 – Other subsidiary bodies
Article 8 – Rules of Procedure
Article 9 – Expenses (Commission and subsidiary bodies)
Article 10 – Expenses (preparatory work)

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Module 2.3



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SECTION TWO UNDERSTANDING THE ORGANIZATION OF CODEX

Module 2.3 How is Codex organized?




How is Codex organized?

- Main organs of the Commission
- Subsidiary bodies (four types)

A basic understanding of the structure and function of the Commission is essential

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Organizational structure of Codex

- The Commission
- The Executive Committee (17 Members)
 - Chair
 - 3 vice-chairs
 - 7 other members, one from each region
 - 6 regional coordinators

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Organizational structure of Codex (cont.)

- Codex Secretariat
- Codex subsidiary bodies (four types):
 - general subject committees (horizontal)
 - commodity committees (vertical)
 - regional coordinating committees
 - ad hoc intergovernmental task forces

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Codex subsidiary bodies

- General subject committees:

- CCFAC	- CCMAS
- CCFH	- CCNFSDU
- CCFICS	- CCPR
- CCFL	- CCRVDF
- CCGP	

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Codex subsidiary bodies (cont.)



- Commodity committees:

- CCFO	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> :
- CCFFP	- CCCPL
- CCFFV	- CCCPC
- CCMH	- CCNMW
- CCMMMP	- CCS
- CCPFV	- CCVP

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Module 2.3 (cont.)

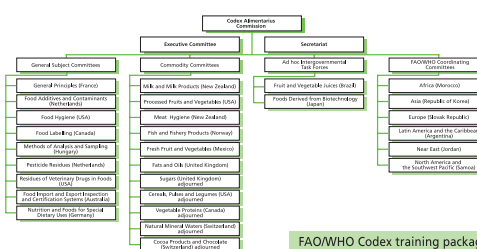
Codex subsidiary bodies (cont.)

- FAO/WHO coordinating committees:
 - CCAFRICA - CCASIA
 - CCEURO - CCLAC
 - CCNASWP - CCNEA
- Ad hoc intergovernmental task forces:
 - Foods Derived from Biotechnology
 - Fruit and Vegetable Juices


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Codex organizational chart



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In conclusion...

- Organization elements are intergovernmental except Codex Secretariat
- Role of host countries
- FAO/WHO are parent organizations

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Module 2.4



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SECTION TWO UNDERSTANDING THE ORGANIZATION OF CODEX

Module 2.4 Which committees should my country be involved in?




Which committees should my country be involved in?

- All Committees have specific terms of reference set out in the *Codex Procedural Manual*
- Basis for prioritization – matching national priorities with relevant Codex subsidiary body
- Countries need to make the most of limited resources

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Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC)

- To establish or endorse permitted maximum or guideline levels
- To prepare priority lists for evaluation by JECFA
- To recommend specifications of identity and purity for food additives
- To consider methods of analysis
- To consider and elaborate standards or codes for related subjects

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Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

- To draft basic provisions on food hygiene
- To consider, amend if necessary and endorse provisions on hygiene prepared by other Codex Committees
- To consider specific hygiene problems assigned to it by the Commission
- To suggest and prioritize areas for microbiological risk assessment
- To consider microbiological risk management matters related to food hygiene

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Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

- To develop principles and guidelines with a view to harmonizing methods and procedures for the application of measures by the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries, and for the utilization, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems
- To develop guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates
- To make recommendations for information exchange
- To consult as necessary with other international groups
- To consider other matters assigned to it by CAC

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Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)

- To draft provisions on labelling
- To endorse draft specific provisions on labelling prepared by other Codex Committees
- To study specific labelling problems
- To study problems associated with the advertisement of food with particular reference to claims and misleading descriptions

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Module 2.4 (cont.)




Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

- To deal with procedural and general matters (e.g. Rules of Procedure)
- To develop guidelines (for Codex committees)
- To develop a mechanism for examining any economic impact statements
- To establish a code of ethics for international trade in food

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Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

- To define the criteria appropriate to Codex methods of analysis and sampling
- To serve as a coordinating body
- To elaborate sampling plans and procedures, as may be required
- To consider specific sampling and analysis problems
- To endorse methods of analysis proposed in Codex texts
- To define procedures, protocols, guidelines or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories

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Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

- To study specific nutritional problems
- To draft general provisions
- To develop standards, guidelines or related texts for foods for special dietary uses
- To consider, amend if necessary, and endorse provisions on nutritional aspects proposed in other Codex standards

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Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

- To establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in foods
- To establish maximum limits for pesticide residues in certain animal feeding stuffs
- To prepare priority lists of pesticides for consideration by JMPR
- To consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of pesticide residues
- To establish maximum limits for environmental and industrial contaminants
- To consider other matters assigned to it by the CAC

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Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF)

- To determine priorities for the consideration of residues of veterinary drugs in foods
- To recommend maximum levels of such substances
- To develop codes of practice
- To consider methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of veterinary drug residues in foods

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Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)

- To elaborate worldwide standards for fats and oils of animal, vegetable and marine origin including margarine and olive oil

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Module 2.4 (cont.)




Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)

- To elaborate worldwide standards for fresh, frozen (including quick-frozen) or otherwise processed fish, crustaceans and molluscs

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Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)

- To elaborate worldwide standards and codes of practice
- To consult with the UN/ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce in the elaboration of worldwide standards and codes of practice
- To consult, as necessary, with other international organizations

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Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (CCMH)

- To elaborate worldwide standards and/or codes of practice as may seem appropriate for meat hygiene

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Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)

- To elaborate worldwide standards, codes and related texts for milk and milk products

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Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)

- To elaborate worldwide standards for all types of processed fruits and vegetables but not dried prunes or fruit and vegetable juices

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Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)


- To elaborate worldwide standards and/or codes of practice as may be appropriate for cereals, pulses, legumes and their products

This Committee is currently adjourned sine die

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Module 2.4 (cont.)




Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (CCCPC)

- To elaborate worldwide standards for cocoa products and chocolate

This Committee is currently adjourned sine die

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Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (CCNMW)

- To elaborate standards for natural mineral waters

This Committee is currently adjourned sine die

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Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS)

- To elaborate worldwide standards for all types of sugars and sugar products

This Committee is currently adjourned sine die

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Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (CCVP)

- To elaborate definitions and worldwide standards for vegetable protein products deriving from any member of the plant kingdom as they come into use for human consumption, and to elaborate guidelines on utilization of such vegetable protein products in the food supply system, on nutrition requirements and safety, on labelling and on other aspects as may seem appropriate

This Committee is currently adjourned sine die

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FAO/WHO coordinating committees

- To define the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control
- To promote, within the committee, contacts for the mutual exchange of information on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and to stimulate the strengthening of food control infrastructures
- To recommend to the Commission the development of worldwide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the committee to have an international market potential in the future

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FAO/WHO coordinating committees (cont.)

- To develop regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intraregional trade
- To draw the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region
- To promote coordination of all regional food standards work within the region
- To exercise a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission
- To promote the acceptance of Codex standards and maximum residues limits by member countries

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Module 2.4 (cont.)




Ad Hoc Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology

- To elaborate standards, guidelines or other principles for foods derived from biotechnology
- To collaborate with appropriate Codex committees within their mandates as relates to foods derived from biotechnology
- To take account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO and other international organizations

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Ad Hoc Task Force on Fruit and Vegetable Juices

- To revise and consolidate the existing Codex standards and guidelines
- To revise and update the methods of analysis and sampling
- To complete its work prior to the Twenty-eight Session of the Commission (2005)

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All Codex committees and task forces provide fora for the development of standards, guidelines and recommendations within the remit of their terms of reference

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Module 2.5



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SECTION TWO
UNDERSTANDING THE
ORGANIZATION OF CODEX

Module 2.5
How do Codex committees
function?




How do Codex committees function?

- Functions of Codex committees
- Composition of Codex committees and task forces
- Preparatory work for a meeting
 - role of host secretariat
 - role of Codex Secretariat
- Conduct of meetings

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Functions of a Codex committee

- List priorities
- Consider the safety and quality elements
- Consider the types and scope of product to be covered
- Prepare draft Codex standards
- Report to each session of the Commission on the progress of its work
- Review and, as necessary, revise existing standards

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Composition of Codex committees and task forces

- Chairperson
- Members:
 - Membership of Codex committees is open to Members of the Commission
 - Membership of FAO/WHO coordinating committees is open only to Members belonging to the region or group of countries concerned
- Observers:
 - International non-governmental organizations may participate as observers in Codex committees and task forces.
 - For regional committees, countries who are not part of the region may participate as observers

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Preparation for Codex meetings

- Codex committee secretariat in host country
 - administrative support staff
 - adequate word processing and document reproducing equipment
 - simultaneous interpretation in all languages used at the meeting
 - translation services

Works closely with the Codex Secretariat in Rome

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Invitations

- Title of the Codex committee
- Time and date of opening and date of closing the session
- Place of the session
- Languages to be used
- Meetings scheduled by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO in consultation with the chairperson of the respective Codex committee

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Module 2.5 (cont.)




Invitations (cont.)

- Request for the names of the chief delegate and other members of the delegation
- Information on hotel accommodation may also be included

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Provisional Agenda

- A Provisional Agenda should be prepared by the host country secretariat (or Chairperson) in consultation with the Codex Secretariat and may include the following items:
 - adoption of the agenda
 - election of rapporteurs (if considered necessary)
 - items relating to subject matter to be discussed
 - any other business
 - date and place of next session
 - adoption of draft report

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Preparation and distribution of papers

- Papers for a session should be distributed at least two months before the opening of the session (by the Codex Secretariat).
- Relevant papers should be sent to the following:
 - All Codex Contact Points
 - International governmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status in the Commission
 - Other participants on the basis of replies received

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Preparation and distribution of papers (cont.)

- Codex Contact Points will be responsible for ensuring that papers are circulated to those concerned within their own country.
- Documents received too late for circulation prior to a session will be circulated at the session itself. These are known as conference room documents (CRDs).

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Conduct of meetings

- Meetings of Codex committees and task forces are held in public
- Host country responsible for official opening
- Meetings conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure
- Adoption of Agenda
- Chairpersons should ensure that all questions are fully discussed
- Ensure written comments of members not present at the session are considered by the Committee

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Conduct of meetings (cont.)

- Interventions:
 - Speak only when acknowledged by the chairperson.
 - Intervene once per issue
 - Interventions should be clear and brief (2 minutes)
 - Normally only the head of the delegations speaks
 - Members and observers can intervene
- Chairperson summarizes the discussion and should always try to arrive at a consensus

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Module 2.5 (cont.)




Meeting reports

- Prepared by Codex Secretariat and adopted by the Committee
- Decisions of the Committee should be clearly stated
- Clearly state where matters require attention by other Codex committees
- Include appropriate summaries
- Appendixes:
 - list of participants
 - draft standards as revised by the Committee

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In conclusion...

- Organization and conduct of Codex meetings is in accordance with rules of procedures
- Important role for host country secretariat and Codex Secretariat

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