

COMISIÓN DEL CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



Organización de las Naciones
Unidas para la Alimentación
y la Agricultura



Organización
Mundial de la Salud

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Tema 5 del programa

CX/EXEC 21/81/5

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PROGRAMA CONJUNTO FAO/OMS SOBRE NORMAS ALIMENTARIAS COMITÉ EJECUTIVO DE LA COMISIÓN DEL CODEX ALIMENTARIUS Octogésima primera reunión

Subcomité sobre el Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025

(Informe preparado por el cuarto Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica para el Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius en su 81.ª reunión)

1. PRÓLOGO

1. La Comisión del Codex Alimentarius aprobó su Plan estratégico para 2020-2025 en su 42.º período de sesiones, celebrado en julio de 2019. Al aprobar el Plan estratégico para 2020-2025, las delegaciones señalaron que el verdadero trabajo estaba por realizar, en términos de elaboración y aplicación de un plan de trabajo para la consecución de sus metas estratégicas y aprovechamiento de las oportunidades que se presentarían para adquirir formas nuevas y constructivas de trabajar.

2. Ninguno de nosotros en aquel momento habría podido prever las pérdidas humanas, los desafíos en materia de salud pública y la perturbación mundial que causaría la pandemia de la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19). La pandemia ha cambiado el mundo en que vivimos, ahora y en un futuro próximo y, quizás, para siempre. Las cadenas de suministro de alimentos mundiales de las que todos dependemos han sufrido una presión continua y sin precedentes. También el Codex.

3. El Codex y sus prácticas de trabajo han sufrido una rápida transformación en respuesta a los desafíos operacionales asociados a la pandemia, pues ha sido necesario trasladar todo su calendario de reuniones a plataformas virtuales y priorizar el trabajo para elaborar normas internacionales sobre inocuidad y calidad de los alimentos basadas en datos científicos en el que se centra su misión. La labor sobre la elaboración y aplicación de un plan de trabajo prevista por la Comisión en su 42.º período de sesiones ha continuado en segundo plano, impulsada por los coordinadores regionales, la Secretaría del Codex y otros actores del Codex, y ha sido supervisada por sucesivos subcomités de planificación estratégica.

4. El plan para consolidar esta labor en un único plan de trabajo coherente que permitiera la aplicación del Plan estratégico se ha retrasado, pero no se ha abandonado. En el presente informe se incluye el plan de trabajo para la aplicación del Plan estratégico y, desde nuestra perspectiva actual habiendo transcurrido un cuarto del período de seis años del Plan estratégico, también se presentan los progresos logrados hasta la fecha y las enseñanzas adquiridas a lo largo del proceso de aplicación.

Recomendaciones

5. Presentamos este informe y sus recomendaciones al Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius en su 81.ª reunión, en cumplimiento del mandato del cuarto Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica en relación con la aplicación del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025.

6. El Comité Ejecutivo, en su 82.ª reunión, con sus miembros renovados tras las elecciones previstas para el 44.º período de sesiones de la Comisión, debería considerar si el seguimiento de la aplicación del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025 debería ser un tema permanente de su programa y si esta actividad debería estar respaldada por otro Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica.

7. En el 45.º período de sesiones de la Comisión, debería celebrarse un debate sustantivo sobre la aplicación del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025 como parte del primer examen bienal del Plan, fundamentado en el presente informe y en todos los debates del Comité Ejecutivo.

2. PRINCIPALES LOGROS Y PROGRESOS

2.1 Planificación y aplicación en el ámbito regional

8. Durante la aprobación del Plan estratégico para 2020-2025 en el 42.º período de sesiones de la Comisión, las delegaciones señalaron que la elaboración del plan había sido un proceso ejemplar en términos de transparencia e inclusividad que había incluido consultas informales con los comités coordinadores regionales FAO/OMS, así como debates en reuniones informales de los mismos. La atención a la transparencia y la inclusión ha continuado a lo largo del proceso de elaboración y obtención de un plan de trabajo para la aplicación del Plan estratégico. El programa de cada comité coordinador regional FAO/OMS que se reunió entre septiembre y noviembre de 2019 incluía un taller para empezar a elaborar un plan de aplicación regional centrado en las actividades prioritarias que debían llevarse a cabo en 2020 y 2021. La Secretaría del Codex ha apoyado la elaboración continuada y el examen periódico de cada uno de estos planes de aplicación regionales. Los planes actuales de cada una de las seis regiones se proporcionan en el Apéndice I.

9. En su reunión virtual del 1 de julio de 2021, el Subcomité recibió presentaciones e informes por escrito de cada uno de los seis coordinadores regionales en los que estos indicaban los principales logros y desafíos a la hora de aplicar el plan de trabajo en su región, así como los próximos pasos que tenían previsto llevar a cabo. Estos informes se proporcionan en el Apéndice II.

10. Existen temas comunes que surgen de estos informes. También existen desafíos comunes y compartidos relacionados con la pandemia de la COVID-19 y el nuevo establecimiento de prioridades de trabajo y recursos en los Estados miembros. La transición a un entorno de trabajo virtual en el Codex ha ido acompañada de un aumento de los niveles de participación en los comités del Codex, los seminarios web y otros foros. Aunque esto se ve como un avance positivo, también ha tenido repercusiones importantes en las cargas de trabajo de la Secretaría del Codex y de los equipos del Codex en los Estados miembros. Varias regiones están planificando capacitación en el uso de foros en línea u otras actividades similares a fin de fortalecer su capacidad de trabajar de manera colaborativa en los foros en línea.

11. También se informó al Subcomité de los logros alcanzados en la creación de capacidad a nivel nacional y regional en numerosas regiones, en particular mediante proyectos del Fondo fiduciario del Codex, la cooperación técnica y otros mecanismos de apoyo. Los actos y actividades para conmemorar el Día Mundial de la Inocuidad de los Alimentos también continuaron en 2020 y 2021 a nivel nacional y regional.

12. En conjunto, los informes y las presentaciones de los coordinadores regionales demuestran la enorme variedad de actividades que se han llevado a cabo y que están planificadas para realizar los logros del Plan estratégico a los que se ha otorgado prioridad en cada región.

Recomendaciones

13. El programa de cada uno de los comités coordinadores regionales FAO/OMS, que tienen previsto reunirse en 2022, debería incluir:

- el examen del plan de aplicación regional para 2020 y 2021 pertinente;
- la elaboración de planes de aplicación regionales que se centren en actividades prioritarias que deban llevarse a cabo en 2022 y 2023.

2.2 Medidas dirigidas por la Secretaría del Codex

14. En la elaboración del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025, se determinó específicamente que la Secretaría del Codex, aparte de desempeñar una función de apoyo en todos los aspectos relacionados con la aplicación, tendría un papel fundamental en la aplicación de la Meta 3 (Incrementar los efectos mediante el reconocimiento y uso de las normas del Codex) y la Meta 5 (Mejorar los sistemas y las prácticas de gestión del trabajo que contribuyen al cumplimiento eficiente y efectivo de todas las metas del Plan estratégico). Las actividades que debía llevar a cabo la Secretaría del Codex para respaldar la aplicación de estas metas se debatieron en la reunión presencial del tercer Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica, celebrada en febrero de 2020.

15. En su reunión virtual, celebrada el 1 de julio de 2021, el Subcomité recibió un informe actualizado de la Secretaría del Codex sobre su contribución a las metas estratégicas 3 y 5. El presente informe incluye el cuadro de actividades presentado en febrero de 2020, revisadas a la luz de los debates del tercer Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica y con información actualizada sobre los progresos de cada actividad. Este cuadro figura en el Apéndice III.

16. La Meta 3 representa una nueva esfera de trabajo en el marco del Plan estratégico del Codex. El plan de trabajo en materia de comunicaciones de la Secretaría del Codex y los comités coordinadores regionales tienen una función importante que desempeñar en la aplicación de los objetivos 1 y 2 de la Meta estratégica 3, cuyo fin consiste en aumentar la conciencia sobre las normas del Codex y permitir la comprensión y la aplicación de las mismas.

17. La información sobre el uso y la repercusión de las normas del Codex es esencial para comprender el valor de la labor del Codex. Aunque el Objetivo 3 de la Meta estratégica 3 resulta, por tanto, importante, el tercer Subcomité de Planificación Estratégica reconoció que las actividades orientadas a apoyar su aplicación debían examinarse y planificarse en mayor medida. Francia presentó un documento de debate sobre el seguimiento del uso de las normas del Codex¹ en la 32.^a reunión del Comité del Codex sobre Principios Generales (CCGP). Tras esa reunión, y teniendo en cuenta las opiniones que se manifestaron en el debate celebrado en la misma, la Secretaría del Codex junto con la FAO y la OMS han debatido en mayor medida cómo abordar esta esfera de trabajo. Las unidades de evaluación de la FAO y la OMS están elaborando una planificación para trabajar en un posible mecanismo destinado a evaluar el uso y la repercusión de las normas del Codex. La Secretaría del Codex también está realizando un seguimiento de la experiencia pertinente de otras organizaciones internacionales, en particular la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y el Comité de Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias de la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC).

18. Las actividades para apoyar la aplicación de la Meta 5 se basan en actividades previas y enseñanzas adquiridas durante la aplicación del Plan estratégico para 2014-2019, de la cual se ha informado recientemente². La pandemia de la COVID-19 ha repercutido en la manera en la que podrían llevarse a cabo determinadas actividades planificadas en el marco de la Meta 5 y también provocó la cancelación de varios talleres presenciales. No obstante, el objetivo de muchas de estas actividades se logró principalmente mediante actos virtuales, que han incluido actos para proporcionar información actualizada y preparar a los miembros y observadores para las reuniones virtuales, la difusión a través de los coordinadores regionales para garantizar que los miembros dispusieran de información actualizada y canales mediante los cuales pudieran comunicar sus preocupaciones, y la elaboración de orientación sobre la participación en los comités virtuales del Codex. El Subcomité observó que la facilitación de medios virtuales para participar en la labor del Codex había incrementado el registro tanto de miembros como de observadores en los comités del Codex. Esto es positivo en lo que respecta al aumento de la participación en la labor del Codex y la comprensión de la misma entre el conjunto de sus miembros. Sin embargo, se necesitarán más tiempo y análisis para comprender la eficacia de dicha participación y cómo afecta esta a la elaboración de normas del Codex, por ejemplo, en cuanto a la calidad o la puntualidad. El seguimiento del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025 se llevará a cabo de manera bienal y en 2022 se presentará el primer informe de seguimiento (véase el documento [CX/EXEC 21/81/5 Add.1](#)). La puntualidad de los documentos será uno de los temas que abarcará el informe de seguimiento.

19. Otra actividad que respalda la aplicación de la Meta estratégica 5 es la renovación de los sistemas de tecnología de la información (TI) del Codex, en colaboración con la División de Digitalización e Informática (CSI), adoptando tecnología reciente para gestionar y proteger mejor los datos e incrementando la integración entre los diversos sistemas y herramientas de TI empleados por el Codex.

20. El Subcomité tomó nota de la evaluación de la Secretaría del Codex de que todas las actividades que describía estaban en marcha.

Recomendaciones

21. La Secretaría del Codex debería informar anualmente al Comité Ejecutivo sobre los progresos adicionales en la ejecución de las actividades de apoyo a la aplicación de las metas estratégicas 3 y 5, y en particular su labor continua para desarrollar un mecanismo que permita medir el uso y la repercusión de las normas del Codex.

¹ Documento CX/GP 21/32/7, disponible en: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-716-32%252FWD%252Fgp32_07s.pdf.

² <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/es/c/CB2927EN/>.

2.3 Formulación de medidas y estrategias de inocuidad de los alimentos por parte de la FAO y la OMS

22. La Comisión recibe, en cada uno de sus períodos de sesiones, informes de la FAO y la OMS sobre la prestación de apoyo científico y la dotación presupuestaria conexas³, actividades de desarrollo de la capacidad⁴ y otros asuntos pertinentes para el Codex, además de un informe anual del Fondo fiduciario del Codex. Los próximos informes se publicarán antes del 44.º período de sesiones de la Comisión, que se celebrará en noviembre de 2021. Conjuntamente, estos informes demuestran la contribución que están realizando los órganos principales para realizar los logros del Plan estratégico para 2020-2025.

23. En su reunión, celebrada el 1 de julio de 2021, el Subcomité recibió presentaciones de la FAO y la OMS sobre la labor que se estaba llevando a cabo en cada organización para elaborar sus respectivas estrategias de inocuidad de los alimentos.

24. La elaboración de una nueva estrategia de inocuidad de los alimentos por parte de la FAO responde a la solicitud que realizó el Comité de Agricultura de la Organización en su 27.º período de sesiones, celebrado entre septiembre y octubre de 2020. El Subcomité fue informado de que el proceso de elaboración de la estrategia estaba en una fase inicial y que se estaba llevando a cabo una consulta sobre un proyecto preliminar en la FAO y la OMS, en particular con los oficiales de seguridad alimentaria regionales y del Codex. Este proyecto consistía en un esquema anotado estructurado para la estrategia y en él se determinaban cuatro esferas de logros estratégicos:

- refuerzo de la coordinación intergubernamental e intersectorial de la gobernanza de la inocuidad alimentaria en todos los niveles;
- facilitación de datos científicos y objetivos fehacientes como fundamento para la adopción de decisiones sobre inocuidad de los alimentos;
- incremento del fortalecimiento de los sistemas de control de alimentos;
- colaboración entre partes interesadas de los sectores público y privado para garantizar sistemas agroalimentarios resilientes y sostenibles.

25. La revisión por parte de la OMS de su estrategia de inocuidad alimentaria mundial responde a la solicitud de sus Estados miembros recogida en la Resolución 73.5 de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud sobre el fortalecimiento de la inocuidad de los alimentos. La estrategia revisada se remitirá a la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud en su 75.ª reunión, que tendrá lugar en 2022. Se explicó al Subcomité que el proceso de elaboración de la estrategia estaba en una fase de análisis, consulta y redacción que incluía consultas web en curso. En este proceso se han determinado cinco prioridades estratégicas:

- Infraestructura: fortalecer los controles alimentarios nacionales.
- Visión de futuro: determinar y responder a los desafíos relacionados con la inocuidad de los alimentos que se deriven de los cambios para la transformación y mundiales en los sistemas alimentarios.
- Enfoque basado en datos objetivos: incrementar el uso de información sobre cadenas alimentarias, datos científicos y la evaluación de riesgos a la hora de tomar decisiones sobre gestión de riesgos.
- Atención centrada en las personas: reforzar la participación de las partes interesadas y la comunicación de los riesgos.
- Rentabilidad: promover la inocuidad de los alimentos como un componente esencial del comercio nacional e internacional.

26. Se informó al Subcomité de que, aunque las estrategias de inocuidad de los alimentos de la FAO y la OMS se estaban elaborando por separado, reconociendo sus estructuras de gobernanza independientes, se habían establecido mecanismos para la comunicación frecuente entre los respectivos equipos de elaboración de las estrategias, además de las consultas oficiales.

³ Apoyo científico de la FAO/OMS al Codex: Informe sobre las actividades y asuntos presupuestarios y financieros (CAC/44 INF/2). Disponible [aquí](#).

⁴ Actividades de desarrollo de la capacidad de la FAO y la OMS (CAC/44 INF/1). Disponible [aquí](#).

27. En las presentaciones tanto de la FAO como de la OMS también se exponía cómo sus prioridades estratégicas y esferas de logros estratégicos propuestas coincidían respectivamente con las cinco metas estratégicas del Plan estratégico del Codex para 2020-2025. Estas coincidencias se incluyen en el Apéndice IV del presente informe.

28. El Subcomité, en su reunión del 1 de julio de 2021, también recibió información actualizada de la Secretaría del Fondo fiduciario del Codex sobre los preparativos para la evaluación provisional prevista del Fondo fiduciario 2 del Codex, que constituirá una evaluación externa independiente de la capacidad y eficacia del Fondo fiduciario del Codex para cumplir su mandato y apoyar lo mejor posible a sus beneficiarios. La elaboración del mandato del examen se encontraba en una fase inicial, en preparación para su debate con el Grupo asesor del Fondo fiduciario del Codex en la segunda mitad de 2021. El mandato también tendría por objeto abordar las cuestiones fundamentales determinadas en los debates con las regiones y los Estados miembros en relación con el reducido número de solicitudes presentadas al Fondo fiduciario del Codex en la última ronda, en particular los obstáculos a la participación inclusiva que se están experimentando en nuestro nuevo entorno de trabajo. A continuación, la Secretaría del Fondo fiduciario del Codex pretende solicitar manifestaciones de interés para el examen, algo que actualmente se prevé que se complete para mediados de 2022. El examen fundamentaría después los debates y las decisiones sobre las enmiendas al documento de proyecto del Fondo fiduciario del Codex que define su mandato y sus operaciones.

Recomendaciones

29. Que el Comité Ejecutivo, en su 81.^a reunión, recomiende a la Comisión, en su 44.^o período de sesiones, que los países miembros de la FAO y la OMS insten a las dos organizaciones a mantener y ampliar al máximo la coordinación en la elaboración y posterior aplicación de sus respectivas estrategias de inocuidad de los alimentos⁵.

30. En una futura reunión del Comité Ejecutivo se debería debatir el resultado de la evaluación provisional del Fondo fiduciario 2 del Codex y evaluar todas las implicaciones para la consecución de los logros del Plan estratégico del Codex, a fin de fundamentar los debates en el seno de las estructuras de gobernanza existentes del Fondo fiduciario del Codex sobre las enmiendas a su documento de proyecto.

⁵ En la Resolución 73.5 de la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud se solicita que el Director General de la OMS explore con el Director General de la FAO un método para coordinar los esfuerzos estratégicos de las dos organizaciones en materia de inocuidad de los alimentos, y presente un informe sobre este método propuesto a la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud en su 75.^a reunión, y a través del Director General de la FAO a los órganos rectores de la FAO, según proceda.

	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards	Adopt/ adapt codex standards in development of national food standards & regulations and application in food trade. Support industries to comply to regulations	There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders. These activities will contribute to implementation and application of codex standards	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Increased application/ uptake of codex standards by the industry	Biennial Report
4: Facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process	4.1. Enable sustainable Codex structures in all Member countries	Conduct advocacy to policy makers to prioritize codex work, allocate resources and provide institutional framework for Codex structures within member countries	Need to institutionalise work of codex at the national level by strengthening codex structures.	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Enhanced resources in support of codex activities	Biennial Reports
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members	Establish expert committees with resource allocation at the country level to enable active participation and timely responses to circular letters, EWG work	The experts committees will be the forum for discussion on Codex Work and contributions of countries on Codex standards	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Increased participation in EWG, PWG and response to circular letters	Biennial Reports

Activities to be implemented in the CCASIA region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	1.1.1 Collect information on country's current, emerging and critical issues and identify the needs.	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country	Regional Co-ordinator / FAO / WHO	Compiled list of issues and needs of Member countries	Survey questionnaires
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Establish practical criteria taking into consideration prioritization criteria	The criteria for evaluating and prioritizing emerging	CCASIA / Regional co-ordinator	Practical criteria will be established	Report of the coordinator (e.g. under

		used in relevant Codex committees and the Codex Procedural Manual	issues could be used to assess and prioritize the proposal for new work in terms of the need and appropriateness for the region			the Agenda Item on Codex work relevant to the region)
		1.2.3 Prioritize the issues and needs at the regional level	To get an official Codex regional document	CCASIA	Needs and emerging issues prioritized	Plenary
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles	2.1.1 Arrange capacity building programs to enhance understanding of all countries in the region on the use of scientific information and risk analysis principles	The activities will help improve understanding of all countries in the region on the scientific data needed for drafting standard and risk analysis to manage measures accordance with the risk assessment outcome.	FAO/WHO coordinating Committee/Member Countries/ FAO/WHO	Enhanced awareness and knowledge of member countries on the use of scientific information and risk analysis principles	FAO/WHO reports on capacity development activities
		2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.2.1 Assessment of total number of member countries responding to calls for data	Such an assessment will help provide a picture of member countries who have not been able to submit data.	FAO/WHO	Baseline information on countries responding to calls for data.
	2.2.2. Collate, analyze and share data on a specific product contaminant that is common to member countries.		Before embarking on generation of new data, this activity will assist in getting a picture of the existing data in the region and contribute to building capacity on data management and analysis.	FAO/WHO/ Member Countries	Increase in understanding of available and capacity to collate, manage and analyse data in the region	Report by FAO/WHO to CCASIA22
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert	2.3.1. Inform the RCCs of the annual discussions in CAC on sustainable funding for FAO/WHO scientific advice to Codex through	Not all Codex members have the opportunity to attend CAC but may be able	FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat	Raise the Member country's awareness	Matters arising document and meeting report

	bodies that deliver scientific advice.	its inclusion in the agenda item on Matters arising from CAC and its subsidiary bodies.	to attend the RCCs and given the importance of this issue for Codex work, the RCCs provide an important opportunity to share this information.		about current situation	
		2.3.2. Member countries encourage FAO/WHO governing bodies to allocate dedicated funding for scientific advice	This will help keep funding for scientific advice a high priority for FAO/WHO	Member Countries, FAO/WHO	Sustained funding for scientific advice ensured	
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	3.1.1. Implement activities (e.g. seminar) to increase awareness of stakeholders on Codex matters	This will help to increase awareness on the impact of Codex standards on trade, facilitate adoption of Codex standards, and therefore facilitate trade.	Member Countries	Codex members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Activity report to Codex Secretariat or CCASIA Coordinator
		3.1.2. Engagement of stakeholders for participation in Codex matters <i>[Subject to government's policy]</i>	Most stakeholders (industry, academia etc) may not be aware of Codex work.	Member Countries	Codex members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Activity report to Codex Secretariat or CCASIA Coordinator
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards	3.2.1 Enhance understanding on the use of Codex standards as the guidance for development of national food standards by responding to the biannual survey on the use of Codex standards	Developing food standards based on Codex standards will help to facilitate international trade e.g. facilitate the setting up of MRAs and acceptance of equivalence as and when necessary	Member Countries	Increased knowledge on the use of Codex standards in the development of national food standards and regulations.	Report of the survey on Use of Codex standards

	3.3 Recognize and promote the impact of Codex Standards	3.3.1. Identify and report success stories on the use of Codex standards	Published success stories will provide inspiration for adoption of Codex standards on larger scale	Member Countries and Codex Secretariat	Increased awareness on the value of Codex standards	Published stories
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Activities to be implemented in the CCEURO region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

PRIORITY GOAL	PRIORITY OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2021	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE OR LEAD PARTY	EXPECTED OUTPUT BY 2021	REPORTING MECHANISM/
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	1.1.1 Collect more specific information on country's current , emerging and critical issues using and refining existing mechanisms. 1.1.2 Create a repository of available information on food fraud, including contact details and explanatory guidelines on submission of information.	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country To make available to Codex stakeholders information on food fraud examples and on relevant authorities	Regional Coordinator/ FAO/ WHO/ Members/ Codex Secretariat	Compiled list of issues and needs of Member countries A functioning repository available on the Codex website (e.g. regional webpage)	Survey questionnaires Report on repository status (to relevant CAC subsidiary bodies)
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues	1.2.1 Use current prioritization information available from Codex committees.	Current procedures for evaluating and prioritizing emerging issues could be used (and enhanced by the RC as appropriate) to assess and prioritize needs of the region	Members/ Regional Coordinator	Prioritized needs will be established	Report of the coordinator (e.g. under the Agenda Item on Codex work relevant to the region)
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk	2.2 Promote the submission and use of	2.2.1 To select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies' calls for data a topic for a	This will maximise the provision and use of data by the region of the selected topic. It will also allow the identification of problems and barriers to data submission that	Members/ Regional Coordinator/ FAO/ WHO	Shared learning on how to optimise future data submission	Report on the pilot to CCEURO32 with lessons learned

<p>based principles</p>	<p>globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards</p>	<p>pilot of a co-ordinated approach by the European region.</p>	<p>may exist in different countries of the region</p>			
	<p>2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice</p>	<p>2.3.1 To contribute to the drafting of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety, as proposed in the letter from Member States of the EU and others to DG WHO¹.</p> <p>2.3.2 To communicate within countries and to Geneva-based missions to ensure adoption of a World Health Assembly resolution in 2020 on food safety.</p>	<p>To incorporate within the World Health Assembly resolution a mechanism to ensure sufficient and sustainable funding for science from WHO</p>	<p>Members</p>	<p>A WHO commitment to sufficient and sustainable funding from its core budget</p>	<p>As part of the WHO report to CAC43 in July 2020</p>

Activities to be implemented in the CCLAC region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	1.1.1 Circulate the survey to identify emerging issues in the region, in a timely manner and well in advance of CCLAC22.	It is important to follow up on the issues prioritized at CCLAC meetings and make efficient use of this agenda item, and to inform the Committee with proposals for prioritization and follow-up actions.	CCLAC Coordinator and Codex Secretariat based on results obtained at CCLAC meetings, specifically on the agenda item known as <i>Food safety and quality situation in the countries of the region: current and emerging issues in the region.</i>	80% of Members have contributed to the report on emerging food safety and quality issues in the region.	Documents circulated to members via Circular letters, document corresponding to the presentation of the topic at the CCLAC meeting.
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Prioritize at most two of the identified issues of common interest to the region and determine their follow-up activities.	The identified issues should be prioritized, so as to address them in a timely and efficient manner.	CCLAC Coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	Action plan for follow-up on two priority areas is developed and presented to CCLAC22 and Members for follow-up.	Report to CCLAC22 with identified issues and proposed activities.
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles	2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk-analysis principles.	2.1.1 Conduct activities to support better understanding of scientific advisory groups and risk analysis in Codex by conducting an on-line course or use of other training tools such as video-conferencing or face-to-face workshops.	Improve the understanding of the use of scientific advice and help to facilitate the sharing of information among experts and risk assessors in the Region.	CCLAC Coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	All members have participated in a webinar on scientific advice and the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Programme on the provision of scientific advice.	Report to CCLAC22.
		2.1.2 Raise concerns at all levels of the Codex Alimentarius, from Commodity Committees and General Committees to the Commission and CCEXEC, where there is a	Codex standards are a reference for those countries that face difficulties in carrying out many of the evaluations and analyses needed to	All CCLAC member countries, led by the CCLAC Coordinator.	Member countries have reiterated the importance of science in the Codex standards	CCLAC21 reports on coordinated positions held at Codex plenary meetings and

		proposal to stop or impede the progress of scientifically sound standards.	establish food safety and quality regulations. They also reflect the commitment of Codex Members to multilateral and international food trade. All of the above is based on science as a neutral, objective, predictable and evidence-based language.		setting process as noted in relevant Committee reports.	appropriate use of regional positions contained in the CCLAC reports.
	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.2.1 Identify, promote, and support, to the extent possible, technical databases and networks in the region.	Building networks contributes to the consolidation, strengthening and expansion of the existing professional capacity in the region and serves as an input for the participants of the various committees.	Focal points of member countries, Regional Coordinator, Member Countries.	Regional networks are identified and strengthened to promote and facilitate data collection	Report to CCLAC22.
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice	2.3.1. Make arrangements to ensure that delegates attending FAO/WHO governing body meetings are aware of the work carried out by the expert bodies.	Concrete support from FAO and WHO is needed to further generate scientific advice to Codex. FAO and WHO carry out their work on the basis of requests from their Members, which are formally conveyed during meetings of their highest coordinating bodies, the World Health Assembly for WHO and the Conference for FAO.	Regional Coordinator, Member Countries.	At FAO/WHO governing body meetings, CCLAC members stressed the importance of Codex work and the need for scientific advice for its proper functioning.	FAO and WHO meeting reports.
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member Countries	4.1.1. Support the implementation of the diagnostic tool developed by FAO and WHO (Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes) to identify strengths, challenges and opportunities for national Codex structures.	The diagnostic tool is very useful to evaluate the degree of development of the national structure and to identify action measures (project formulation, development of procedures, among others) consistent with its conditions and capacities, which contributes to the efficiency and sustainability of the structure.	Member countries and the Codex Secretariat and CCLAC Coordinator as support and follow-up.	25% of Members in the region have implemented and reported on the use of the Diagnostic Tool by CCLAC22.	Report to CCLAC by the countries that have implemented the tool.
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation	4.2.1 Strengthen the Region's participation in Codex electronic platforms (OCS and EWG Forum) so that they can play their role in	The Codex electronic tools are a great opportunity to become involved in the decision-making	Member countries.	10% increase in participation of Members in the	Reports from countries on use of these tools.

	of all Codex Members	<p>contributing to inclusiveness in Codex discussions.</p>	<p>process even when it is not possible to attend the plenary sessions, and also to speed up the progress of standards and to examine issues in greater depth between meetings. However, there is still a need for more countries of the Region to use these tools.</p>		<p>region in EWG and/or in use of the OCS.</p>	
		<p>4.2.2 Development of South-South and triangular cooperation in the Latin American and Caribbean region.</p>	<p>South-South and triangular cooperation has been used by the Region for years and, in addition to technically strengthening national structures, it serves to politically strengthen Codex at national level and to build networks that allow effective articulation during plenary meetings. The support received from Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) through its twinning programmes is noteworthy.</p>	<p>Member countries, Regional Coordinator, IICA, FAO, PAHO/WHO.</p>	<p>25% of the Members of the region have implemented and notified South-South Cooperation activities to strengthen participation in Codex and the use of Codex standards.</p>	<p>Report to CCLAC22 on South-South and triangular cooperation activities carried out.</p>

Activities to be implemented in the CCNASWP region in 2020-2021 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism	Timeline	Implementation
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Improving the linkages with the Codex Secretariat through the CCP in member countries	The Codex Secretariat holds a wealth of expertise and corporate knowledge that cuts across all codex committees and regions. This activity will allow the NASWP region to avail of this resource to improve participation of Member Countries in the region on the work of Codex	Codex Secretariat/ Regional coordinator/ Member countries/ FAO/WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing development of Codex participation expertise. All member countries have established a generic email address and have systematic communication with the Codex Secretariat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments lodged on the online commenting system. Member countries to provide a status report through the RCC 	a) 4th quarter 2020 b) 2x year	a) see activity "a" in 4.1.2. b) Codex secretariat to check and update contacts
		1.2.2 Pacific Islands countries establishing or participating in relevant discussion groups or EWGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide countries the opportunity to influence standards, particularly so that standards be globally representative. To identify and coordinate the needs and emerging issues in the region, specifically among the 	Regional Coordinator/ Member countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Islands views and needs reflected in finalised Codex standards Pacific Island discussion group established on critical and emerging issues (eg. proposal for development of a regional standard for galip nut) 	a) An increase in the number of global or regional standards that are reflective of Pacific Island member needs. b) Member countries to provide a status report through the RCC	a) and b) End of 2021 (before CCNASWP 16)	a) To promote the Pacific Island participation in the EWG on noni fruit juice b) Establish a Pacific Island discussion group on critical and emerging issues

			Pacific Island countries					
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-based principles	2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles	2.1.1 Hosting a regional workshop with support from FAO and WHO on the use of expert scientific advice in the development of Codex standards	To enhance awareness and understanding by Member countries of the relevance of expert scientific advice from FAO and WHO in the development of Codex standards of interest to the region.	Regional coordinator/ Member countries/ FAO/WHO Codex secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional workshop on expert scientific advice is held with the following tentative content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide an overview of FAO-WHO bodies and processes for scientific advice ○ Work plan for Noni for the generation of data (Scopoletin) ○ Galip nut (<i>Canarium spp.</i>) as a case study on the proposal to develop a new regional standard and the type of information needed ○ Case study on the regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage as adopted by CAC43 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports at the CAC on Matters arising from WHO and FAO. • RCC and host country to report on outcomes of activities. 	Virtually in March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO • WHO • Codex Secretariat
	2.2 Promote the submission and use of representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	2.2.1 Developing and implementing a work plan to generate relevant data to elaborate Codex standard, specifically referring to scopoletin in the regional standard for fermented noni fruit juice	A work plan is required for instance for Noni for the Noni countries in the region that includes tasks on the generation of data (Scopoletin). All required tasks for the work plan are to be designed by the experts before that activities started.	Regional Coordinator/ Member countries/ Tonga and Samoa FAO/WHO Codex secretariat	Work plan established to support collection of relevant data on scopoletin for evaluation by JECFA (as above).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report from the JECFA meeting on the safety assessment for scopoletin. • RCC in consultation with Member countries 		

	<p>2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Promote sustainable funding for scientific advice for use by Codex</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding is being sought to enable timely food related scientific research and investigation which underpins the development of Codex standards. • Political support is needed to promote sustainable funding for scientific advice. 	<p>Member countries to influence their WHO representatives as appropriate/ Regional coordinator/ FAO/WHO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment for sustainable funding for scientific advice from WHO is achieved. • Continuous awareness by NCC to ensure Codex work is fully supported at the National level. Ensure line ministries that are member to the NCC allocate a budget to support Codex work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports at the CAC on Matters arising from WHO and FAO. • FAO/WHO – Codex Secretariat 		
<p>3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards</p>	<p>3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</p>	<p>3.1.1. Conduct targeted activities (e.g virtual sessions) that increases understanding of Codex standards within governments and among national stakeholders</p>	<p>Providing support for implementation of Codex standards at the national level is necessary to achieve and improve food safety and trade outcomes.</p>	<p>Member countries that have adopted Codex standards as their national standards Regional coordinator/ Member countries with support from parent bodies / FAO/WHO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities organized and conducted that raise awareness of Codex; Member countries, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (link to communications plan). • Priority standards for implementation in the region, including standards on which potential case studies on and impact could be developed on the coming years, have been identified • Raise awareness among decision makers • Training materials developed to support implementation of these standards in the region 	<p>Through the RCC.</p>	<p>By CCNASWP 16 in 2022</p>	<p>Priorities to be identified based on country / regional food safety or trade priorities/strategies</p> <p>Develop training materials (and identify implementation activities) in collaboration with FAO, WHO and other interested partners</p>

	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards	3.2.1 Promote coordination among relevant authorities	To promote communication channels enabling improved coordination among relevant authorities	Member countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved participation in Codex standard development processes. Improved coordination among relevant authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthening national codex committees and contact points which then enables a coordinated view to be presented at Codex committee and Commission levels Member countries report to RCC. 	By CCNASWP 16 in 2022	Test and apply use of new technologies to develop stronger communication and coordination channels within the region.
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member Countries.	4.1.1 Strengthening the National Codex Committee (NCC) through training sessions including virtual sessions that promote the use of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To more efficiently navigate Codex processes and provide consolidated input into Codex texts of relevance, so that needs and emerging issues relevant to the region are identified. NCCs play an important role in management of Codex activities at the national level and securing high level recognition for Codex at the national level 	Regional coordinator/ Member countries/ FAO/WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved participation in Codex standard development processes. Funding opportunities for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for capacity building activities with FAO and WHO, including submission of application(s) to the Codex Trust Fund. All members in the region have established or reactivated NCCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments lodged on the online commenting system. Reports at the CAC on Matters arising from WHO and FAO. Member countries reporting through the regional coordinator 	a) and b) 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter (recorded sessions available on the website)	a) convening a virtual training session on the use of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes b) CTF application workshop

		4.1.2 Improving the performance of the CCPs by assigning qualified staff to that position; providing sufficient funding and resources	Having a designated CCP and providing adequate training are essential to supporting effective day to day management and operation of Codex activities at the national level and to efficiently navigating Codex processes and providing consolidated input into Codex texts of relevance, so that needs and emerging issues relevant to the region are identified.	Member countries/ NCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved participation in Codex standard development processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear identification and assignment of qualified national staff to the role of CCP in member countries in the region, and use of best practices such as use of generic CCP email accounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments lodged on the online commenting system. Member countries to provide a status report through the RCC 	a) 4th quarter 2020 b) and c) as and when Codex meetings are scheduled	a) RCC with FAO and WHO support to approach Codex national authorities/institutions to update/ identify/ nominate NCC b) Participation in virtual Codex meetings by CCPs c) Regional CCP meetings and electronic communications prior to major Codex meetings
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ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE CCNE REGION IN 2020-2021 TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
Goal 2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles	2.1.1 Collect recent scientific information on monitoring of contaminants in food Member countries in the region e.g. mycotoxin	The project documents, standards and comments should be based on scientific evidence and data from the Member countries	Member countries (CCPs), Regional Coordinator	Report on available data on specific contaminants in the region Technical advisory group to exchange scientific data from	Report of activities undertaken prepared by the Coordinator to CCNE11

		2.1.2 Establish an expert working group to address critical and emerging issues discussed in Codex Committees			the region established	
		2.1.3 Work with regional organizations to source funding to support expert meetings in the region to develop national and regional positions				
Goal 3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	3.1.1. Organizing awareness raising programmes on the importance of Codex on a periodic basis targeting different levels from decision-makers to all stakeholders	Weak level of commitment and lack of knowledge among decision makers and stakeholders Lack of knowledge of national Codex teams on the working mechanisms of the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Contact Points (CCPs) National Codex Committees FAO WHO regional and country offices	Increase in level of participation and contribution in different Codex committees Achieve a national commitment to Codex Alimentarius as a reference for food safety and quality standards Harmonization between national standards and regulations against Codex texts initiated	Biannual survey reported to CCNE
Goal 4: Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.1. Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries	4.1.1 Use available tools (FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool) to assess national Codex structures	To ensure members know the working mechanisms in countries and have a strong Codex infrastructure in countries (i.e. to prepare national positions, develop national policies regarding Codex, have a strong and well-functioning CCP etc.)	FAO and WHO with the Regional Coordinator and Member countries	25% of Members from the region applied FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool	Reports on participation by the Codex Secretariat
		4.1.2 Increase the number of and access to training sessions on the working procedures of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies, based on available guidelines and tools in Arabic				
	4.2 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.	4.2.1 Establish a list of countries that have difficulties to participate in Codex work and try to identify some parties/organizations to support their participation (virtually and physically), and assist in related	Improve participation of developing countries, especially those facing particular challenges	Host country secretariats, Codex Secretariat, Other Members in the region, Regional Coordinator	List of countries requiring support, processes to assist in visa (e.g. requesting invitation letters). Workshop on virtual	Statistics on EWG, OCS and Committee meeting participation

		aspects such facilitating the visa process.			participation and possible funding sources to support physical participation identified	
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Appendix II: Reports from Regional Co-ordinators on the major achievements and challenges in implementing the workplan in their regions and the next steps they envisage.

Introduction

During the last round of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees, each committee, either during its session, or in the months immediately afterwards (through an EWG) developed a workplan of regional activities to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. The regional workplans focussed on goals as prioritized by each of the regions. Since the plans were developed, and before implementation could begin in earnest, the COVID19 pandemic struck. This has extensively changed the way that work can be conducted, and activities implemented. Also, in five of the regions new coordinators have been appointed since the plans were developed and therefore there was a transition between the previous and current coordinators. Nevertheless, the coordinators in each of the regions have worked to ensure that efforts were made in each of the regions to ensure that those areas prioritized by the coordinating committees received attention. For the purposes of this report each of the coordinators addressed the following questions as a means of highlighting both progress and challenges since the workplans were developed.

1. What were the major achievements in your region since January 2020? Looking at the regional work plan, where did the region make substantial progress? what results were achieved?
2. What were the major challenges that your Region faced in the implementation of the work plan? What were the reasons for the delay in progress? Which objectives/expected outputs had to be postponed and why?
3. What are the next steps that your Region envisages to implement the work plan? Are there any specific activities that will take place to achieve the set results? What are the major achievements expected by the end of the biennium?

The overviews developed by each of the Regional Coordinators are based on the information available at the time of preparation and should be viewed as preliminary in nature, in order to give a sense of the achievements as well as challenges faced and plans moving forward.

CCAFRICA

Implementation of the regional workplan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

For the past 18 months, the region has registered significant achievements in an effort to implement the activities to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan (2020-2025). Key highlights include:

- Training offered to over 10 Countries⁶ by the Codex Secretariat on Codex Tools such as the electronic working group platform (e-forum) and Online Commenting System (OCS) to enhance the skill and knowledge of stakeholders in the region to better engage and participate in the Codex activities
- Support to initiate pilots in five countries⁷ for the implementation of integrated surveillance on ESBL-producing *Escherichia coli* using a “One Health” approach as part of the efforts of building capacity for integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in foodborne bacteria
- Strengthening capacity in the work of the Codex including advocacy and sensitization of policymakers through the implementation of Codex Trust Fund projects in countries that have ongoing projects. This has resulted in the elaboration of national Codex procedural manuals (Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, Mali, and Cote d’Ivoire) to guide the effective management of codex work at the national level; an inventory and gap analysis of national food standards and identification of challenges on effective use of standards (Burkina Faso and Guinea); a work proposal for the elaboration of national food standards based on Codex standards for four staples and the training of stakeholders on the effective use of standards (Burkina Faso); elaboration of capacity building project to address gaps on the effective use of Codex standards (Senegal); sensitization of different stakeholders including policy makers to Codex

⁶ Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar and Malawi

⁷ Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe

standards (Cote d'Ivoire); redefinition of priority committees, formulation of national positions, preparation for sessions as well as the use of online Codex tools (Madagascar).

- Efforts to strengthen national food control systems using the FAO/WHO Food Control System have been made through a number of technical cooperation projects in Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Niger, Sierra Leone to assess the status of food systems including development and use of the Codex standards. Support was provided to African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities for the development of the continental food safety strategy and the operationalization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- National events held across the region in over 15 countries⁸ in celebration of World Food Safety Day (WFSD) in 2020 and 2021 as one of the efforts to raise awareness and the profile of Food Safety in the region. A Regional event co-organized by the WHO, FAO, CCAFRICA and WFP in June 2021 was used as a platform to further raise the importance of Codex standards.

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

The delay in rolling out planned activities as provided in the work plan could be attributed to the heavy calendar of activities in late 2020 to mid-2021 as almost all activities turned to virtual means as a mode of delivery. With the desire to keep abreast with a lot of ongoing developments, a number of activities could not be undertaken as envisaged. The impacts created by the COVID-19 pandemic continue to manifest as several countries slow down on activities and refocus resources.

As a result of the unanticipated delays, a number of objectives/expected outputs had to be postponed including the process of identification of needs and emerging issues in the region which was supposed to be undertaken through a regional survey. Limited interventions have also been undertaken with regard to intentional promotion targeting the priority areas for the region (aflatoxins, pesticide residues, AMR). Whereas there have been isolated awareness initiatives to promote use of Codex standards by a number of countries most especially those with running CTF projects, the events need to be increased leveraging on the use of virtual tools. Sensitization of the policy makers to influence the food regulatory environment has equally not taken root in the region outside of selected countries that have had a number of events. The area of support to industries to comply with regulations needs additional analysis in order to design appropriate specific activities that could be pursued in the region.

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan

In order to effectively implement the activities in the work plan to achieve the expected results, the following will be undertaken:

- Convene an informal regional meeting for Africa within 2021 to focus on a range of aspects including but not limited to implementation of activities identified in the work plan to support the Codex Strategic Plan, work in EWGs in the region, CTF and status of FAO and WHO Capacity development initiatives and Food Safety strategies
- Engage the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO to launch regional survey to identify emerging food safety issues and needs including issues related to national food control systems within 2021
- Coordinate two regional (RECs) webinars on Codex online tools to enhance skills and knowledge in order to improve engagement of member states in the Codex processes by December 2021
- Enhance advocacy through strengthened collaboration with African Union, African Organization for Standardization, Regional Economic Communities and African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat
- Convene one regional webinar to create awareness on priority issues for the region by October 2021 in order to enhance effective participation in the ongoing work under CCCF, CCPR and TFAMR
- Liaise with FAO/WHO to conduct a virtual session to increase awareness of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool and foster implementation in the region by November 2021

⁸ Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Ghana, South Africa, Benin, Nigeria, Rwanda, Morocco and Botswana

- Leverage on the ongoing work in the region on development of guidelines for supporting the development of harmonized food laws for the CCAFRICA region to engage policy makers and key stakeholders in Food Safety
- Hold one on one virtual sessions with all members of the region to discuss constraints, challenges and opportunities by December 2021 taking into consideration the regions level of participation in Codex virtual sessions held between September 2020

CCASIA

Implementation of the regional workplan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

- a. A Mechanism is under discussion to achieve priority objective 1.1 (Identify needs and emerging issues) and 1.2 (Prioritize needs and emerging issues) in the work plan

According to the response to the circular letter and the discussion in CCASIA20, a list of critical and emerging food safety issues for CCASIA has been provided. Based on the list and the Codex working principles, *Prioritization of the Issues and Needs at the CCASIA Regional Level* has been drafted by CCASIA Secretariat and will be sent to the regional members and ask for their input.

- b. Technical support and scientific advice have been provided to regional members to achieve priority objective 2.1 (Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles)

WHO provided technical support to the Indonesian FDA to organize virtual workshop on ASEAN capacity building on rapid response during a food safety emergency. WHO has coordinated with the INFOSAN Secretariat and FAO to facilitate two series of online workshops for ASEAN Member States in 2020. FAO has organized the regional food safety conference for Asia and the Pacific virtually in November 2020. A webinar on Food Safety in the “new normal” was organized to celebrate the World Food Safety Day in June 2021 and attracted nearly 1,000 participants. The webinar highlighted the food safety activities from the UN organizations, and the shared responsibilities to ensure food safety for all stakeholders during the pandemic.

Several new activities on food safety have been carried out, e.g., Food safety poster, photo and video competition for the young generation 2020 initiated by the FAO regional office. These activities have improved the understanding of food safety, as well as the involvement of the whole of society. Several scientific reports, brochures and other materials have become available online to help the member countries to improve their technical capacity.

- c. Activities have been organized to achieve priority goal 3 (increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards)

A series of virtual webinars were organized on Codex Committee’s functions with involvement of Codex Committee chairpersons under a public private partnership programme and arrangements were made to provide free access for all Member States. Policy advocacy and awareness have been created through webinars on chemical contaminants in food and the need of generating data and information on chemical contaminants in food and risk mitigation measures have been highlighted.

- d. Funds have been provided in a sustainable way to achieve the priority goal 4 to promote engagement in Codex work

The Codex Trust Fund (CTF) in the CCASIA region has made big progress. The CTF group project (Bhutan, India and Nepal) activities have been partially implemented in 2020-21 despite the COVID-19 pandemic and reassignment of staff members. Bhutan was able to implement some activities even in 2020 whereas India and Nepal are trying to implement project activities. FAO and WHO facilitated submission of a group application by Myanmar on the behalf of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to the Codex Trust Fund which was approved in 2020. Maldives and Timor-Leste were able to submit robust applications to the Codex Trust Fund, which were approved, and technical support has been provided to submit a summary project document.

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

Firstly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an adverse impact in implementing planned activities due to repurposing of staffs and lockdown. Non-COVID-19 activities were put on hold and only virtual meetings, webinars and workshops were launched considering restriction of movement and the lockdown situation.

In addition, for CCASIA, to maintain efficient and effective communication is a challenge, since there is currently no single communication tool that can be available in every CCASIA member country. Email could be one option, but compared with other social media channels, e.g., WeChat, Twitter, etc. it is not as convenient. In addition, the response rate to the email, and the participation of member countries to the regional workshops in preparation to the Codex committees is below expectations.

Last but not the least, the tight schedule of Codex virtual meetings, webinars and workshops have taken up more time and energy of Codex offices in each member country, and since everybody is busy preparing for or attending virtual meetings, less resources can be allocated to other Codex work.

With regard to CTF, there were a series of face-to-face meetings proposed under the Codex Trust Fund project which were rescheduled or postponed from time to time. Many activities were reprogrammed, or resources reallocated, such as resources for participation in Codex Committee meetings with an increased focus on in-country-based activities. There was a transfer of focal points or responsible officers, and virtual meetings were organized to update and agree on reprogramming of planned activities and Member States are trying to achieve all targets by end of 2021.

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan

In order to better allocate the resources, and respond to the needs of the regional members, the criteria for prioritization of CCASIA regional Codex work will be circulated and comments sought from the member countries. According to the response, an updated list of critical and emerging food safety issues for CCASIA, as well as the refined prioritization criteria, will be available soon. Several approaches are under discussion to improve the communication efficiency and effectiveness and help to achieve better coordination among the CCASIA member countries.

With regard to the CTF programme, member states, namely Bhutan, India and Nepal, having a Codex Trust Fund group project in South Asia ongoing until the end of 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously hampered project implementation. They have reprogrammed activities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and they are trying their best to carry out planned activities such as face-to-face meetings during open window periods (silent periods between COVID-19 waves) taking precautionary measures against COVID-19. If the COVID-19 pandemic continues to hamper implementation of CTF project activities, the group CTF project will be extended by six months in 2022 and intercountry workshops will be organized to review the project and document good practices so that other group CTF project may benefit from lessons learnt. Champions of the first ever approved CTF group project will share their experience during a CTF / Diagnostic Tool webinar (CCASIA/CCNASWP) to be organized in July 2021 and their expertise will be utilized to support CTF projects in future.

There is a growing concern of AMR as a food safety issue in the Asia-Pacific region. A webinar on Codex work on rational use of antibiotics in food animals and integrated surveillance of AMR has been planned under FAO/OIE/WHO partnership in last quarter of 2021 with involvement of Codex Secretariat and Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR.

CCEURO

Implementation the Regional Plan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

Under the Strategic Goal 1 – Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner and objective 1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues, CCEURO agreed to create a repository of available information on food fraud, including contact details and explanatory guidelines on submission of information. A repository of contact persons for food fraud (hereinafter- CPFF) in member countries of the European region, as well as links to the authority bodies where CPFF are located has been created in 2020 and is accessible via the CCEURO regional webpages on the Codex Alimentarius website⁹.

Over past 18 months, the region has seen some significant achievements in an effort to implement the activities to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan (2020-2025). Key highlights include:

- Increasing participation rate of ex-Soviet countries in regional informal meetings, pre-session meetings and webinars
- Creation of communication channels in WhatsApp & Telegram to increase information exchange within the region
- Two post-Soviet countries (AZ, KAZ) became FAO / WHO Trust Fund grant holders in 2020.

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/codex-regions/cceuro/about/food-fraud/en/>

- Preparation of a co-hosting arrangement with the Federal Republic of Germany for the implementation of the 32nd session of CCEURO in 2022.
- Launch of a series of webinars for post-Soviet countries on Codex issues and the role of interagency coordination (Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus)
- CCEURO support for the UN Food Systems Summit, 2021 - participation in the Independent Dialogue "Different Courses - One Goal" of the International Union of NGOs "Eurasian Peoples' Assembly", May 18, 2021.
- Numerous translations of strategic Codex documents into Russian

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

Due to the global challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, CCEURO32 was postponed to 2022. The new preliminary dates for convening the meeting are 16-20 May, in Berlin, The Federal Republic of Germany.

Within the framework of the CCEURO work plan to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the pandemic has led to delays but some progress has been made or plans are in place to facilitate progression.

Priority Goal 1 – Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner

Priority objective 1.1. Identify needs and emerging issues

Activities for the period 2020-2021 1.1.1. Collect more specific information on country's current, emerging and critical issues using and refining existing mechanisms.

The questionnaire regarding countries' current, emerging and critical issues will be circulated among the CCEURO members in 4th quarter of 2021. Therefore, we will be able to collect more specific information on countries' current, emerging and critical issues in consultation with FAO and WHO by using and refining existing mechanisms.

Priority Goal 2- Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles.

Priority objective 2.2 promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards.

Activities for the period 2020-2021 2.2.1. To select from FAO and WHO scientific expert bodies calls for data a topic for a pilot of a co-ordinated approach by the European region.

The reason of delay: Prior to selecting a suitable candidate call for data to pilot a coordinated regional submission we decided to analyze the data provided by the member countries of the region for 2020 and the first half of 2021. An analysis of the responses from more than 80% of countries in the region revealed:

1. Regular submission of data from EU member states takes place from EFSA, incl. data from some non-EU countries.
2. Gaps were identified in the collection and receiving various data from industry, as they are the owners of the data, in particular on pesticide residues.
3. In most post-Soviet countries the main reason for not providing data is a lack of understanding of the necessary requirements for data generation in response to a specific request. Often there is a discrepancy between methodological approaches and/or lack of equipment needed to identify certain indicators of food safety.

Thus, the analysis of the data obtained indicates some difficulties that may arise in identifying a pilot topic based on the data for subsequent coordinated regional submission to the FAO / WHO expert committee. Further discussion in the frame of the CCEURO32 is needed to decide how to proceed on the activity.

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan?

A preliminary discussion on how to proceed with the implementation of activity 2.2.1 is planned to take place in the frame of an informal, virtual CCEURO meeting in September 2021.

The main priorities for CCEURO remain as follows:

- AMR
- Zilpatherol hydrochloride
- Food fraud
- Contaminants and food additives
- Climate change

Major achievements expected by the end of biennium:

- Enhancement of the level of engagement of post-soviet countries in Codex work.
- Strengthening cooperation in a new virtual environment.
- Activation of the region in terms of electronic commerce.

CCLAC

Implementation of the regional workplan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

ACT 2.1.2 Raise concerns at all levels of the Codex Alimentarius, from Commodity Committees and General Committees to the Commission and CCEXEC, where there is a proposal to stop or impede the progress of scientifically sound standards.

- CCEXEC80: An opportunity was presented to express the region's concern that some international organizations were making recommendations, for example on food labeling, without taking into account Codex standards or ongoing Codex work.

ACT. 2.2.1 Identify, promote, and support, to the extent possible, technical databases and networks in the region.

- CCCF14: Exchange of information and data between the countries of the region for the establishment of MLs for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products. As well as, for the work of the Code of Practice to mitigate cadmium in cocoa.

ACT 4.2.1 Strengthen the Region's participation in Codex electronic platforms (OCS and EWG Forum) so that they can play their role in contributing to inclusiveness in Codex discussions.

- Chile as Regional Coordinator in 2020, began a series of trainings for each interested country on the use of Codex electronic platforms (EWG, OCS, Forum).
- Within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Trust Fund (CTF) project, Guatemala and El Salvador, are the most recent successful applicants (with CTF projects already ongoing in Honduras and Bolivia) from the region. In line with Goal 4 of the Codex Strategic Plan the project will focus on the development of capacities for the strengthening and effective management of the Codex Contact Points, the National Codex Commission and the national Codex mirror committees.
- The CTF project will allow El Salvador and Guatemala to increase interregional cooperation, achieve significant progress in the consolidation of their National Codex Programs and strengthen the technical capacities of the members of the National Codex Committees, technical committees and interested parties that, as a result of this support, are expected to participate effectively in the process of elaboration of standards and related texts of the Codex Alimentarius.
- The activities to be financed are aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of food safety aspects of the members that make up the national structure of the Codex Alimentarius in both countries, who through this project will achieve a better inter-institutional interrelation between themselves, a better application and interpretation of the international standards of the Codex Alimentarius, will strengthen their knowledge and capacity to participate in the Codex Alimentarius and also in the creation of standards related to food, enabling a benefit for the population through the application and creation of national regulation appropriate to the current times.

ACT 4.2.2: Development of South-South and triangular cooperation in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

- Celebration of World Food Safety Day 2021, with a regional event organized by CCLAC and International and Regional Organizations (FAO, PAHO/WHO, OIRSA, IICA).
- Organization of national events to strengthen internal capacities with the support of some Member Countries as twinning cooperation.
- Development of projects to strengthen National Committees of Member Countries through the Codex Trust Fund.

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

The COVID-19 pandemic and its spread has had an unforeseen impact on all the activities that were programmed in the context of the Codex Alimentarius in each country. Some activities that were planned to be carried out in person had to be postponed, and others were carried out virtually.

Undoubtedly, virtuality has been the main challenge due to the increase in the workload that the attention and active participation in some EWG and Webinars represents for the National Committees and the coordinators of the respective technical committees. In the same sense, some issues have been delayed due to the difficulty in communication and coordination with other countries led by EWG.

However, in order to take advantage of the benefits offered by virtuality and as long as this work methodology is maintained, the countries have set the objective of increasing participation in Committees in which they had never participated, or such participation was greatly reduced due to costs. It represents for governments to increase the number of delegates in virtual sessions in order to have technical support during the debates.

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan?

- i. Meetings with FAO, PAHO/WHO to review the development of the global survey and adaptation for the region (Act. 1.1.1 y 1.2.1).
- ii. Lead a meeting with regional and international organizations to identify, prioritize and promote technical support networks for the CCLAC region (Act 2.2.1).
- iii. Continue with the work planned for the fulfilment of the Regional Plan.

CCNASWP

Implementation of the regional workplan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

2020 was an unfavourable year not only in the North America and Southwest Pacific region but globally. COVID-19 took its toll on people's lives and greatly impacted countries' economy.

The current pandemic has allowed Codex members to meet through virtual platforms and Fiji through these challenges have continued to actively participate in Codex Work. Since January 2020 till to-date, Fiji has made some significant progress work in alignment with the regional work plan. Major achievements include the following:

- i. Completion of the CCNASWP Regional Workplan development through an EWG.
- ii. The successful assignment of a Codex Contact Point (CCP) through the office of the Chief Economist of the Ministry of Agriculture of Fiji to support their role of Regional coordinator and establishment of a generic email address for communication.
- iii. The contact list for each member has been updated.
- iv. Strengthening of the National Codex Committee (NCC) and increased participation of its members in various Codex meetings and activities, including the observance of World Food Safety Day which was organized through the Regional Coordinator office.

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

There were some major setbacks faced in the implementation of the work plan:

- i. Due to COVID-19, meetings and discussions are now conducted on a virtual platform. Facilitating a virtual meeting is difficult due to key stakeholder's schedule, internet access etc. In addition, the regional physical meeting has had to be postponed, likely to early 2023.
- ii. Furthermore, with the current global pandemic the mechanisms available to facilitate the handing-over of the Regional Coordinator position were limited and there were initial communication challenges with the Codex Secretariat.
- iii. Lack of technical and financial support to hold meetings and awareness activities.

- iv. Lack of scientific data availability to support regional standard setting work and continue with Codex research work.

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan?

Planned Activities for the remaining months of 2021 are as follows:

- i. Fiji will be hosting CCNASWP regional meetings, on a virtual platform due to the current global pandemic, COVID-19. An informal Regional Meeting will be organized in the last quarter of 2021.
- ii. An informal regional meeting is scheduled to be held in 14 October, 2021. The meeting will be the first for Fiji to chair and a platform for all country members to share and update, on challenges and the way forward for the region in Codex work.
- iii. Fiji has been considered for Codex Trust Fund Round 5 application process. The submission has been made with just signature of the application by WHO pending, due to change in staff.
- iv. Implementation of the Kava standard e.g. inspection of imported Kava consignment to ensure it is noble and safe for consumption.
- v. Submission of Scopoletin test results to GEMS database through the Regional Coordinator.

CCNE

Implementation of the regional workplan - major achievements in the region since January 2020

- Holding the informal virtual meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Near East
- Holding meetings with the countries in the region to address the latest developments in order to activate the role of the contact point and to enhance the contributions in Codex activities,
- Holding meetings with other regions to improve communication (Europe, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean)
- Activities related to World Food Safety Day and to promote celebration at the regional level
- Creation of two EWGs for the Maamoul project and alignment of the standard of food additives
- Participation in the virtual workshop organized by the Codex secretariat for the new Regional Coordinators
- Participation in the virtual workshop organized by the Codex Secretariat regarding the role of the regional coordinator in the Executive Committee,
- Activating a WhatsApp group between countries in the region, according to the communication plan of Codex,
- Enabling sustainable participation of national Codex member countries through workshop and side by side consultation
- Classifying the General subject committees and commodity committees' interest by country members
- Updating all contact details of the region contact points
- Questionnaire for the strategic plan of the region to hear the members' views and work on improvement in line with members' needs and expectations
- Survey seeking the members opinion about the most appropriate means of communication to use and work on improving and developing them in line with members' needs and expectations,
- Submission of a request to the Codex secretariat to hold a webinar for the region member countries called "Codex ABC" for those members that have recently joined the local Codex teams or members that would like to review their knowledge of Codex and its mechanisms.
- Increase in the level of engagement of the member countries
- Launched a webinar for CTF eligible countries with FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) to explain the CTF concept, give an overview of the relevant documents and share country experience and challenges on CTF application.
- Launched a workshop presented by the Codex Contact Points (CCP) of Egypt and CCP of Saudi Arabia, to the member countries in order to share their experience on Establishing National Committees to Develop the Capacity of Codex Structures at the National Levels

Major challenges that the Region faced in the implementation of the work plan

- Financial matters
- Absence of National Codex Committees in some member countries.
- Increasing the commitment level of Codex Contact Points

Next steps that the Region envisages to implement the work plan?

- Promoting effective participation of international delegations to proceedings of the Codex, the international food standard setting body, in a manner that is consistent with Codex values and principles.
- Advancing and acting collaboratively towards enhancing the capacity of Codex teams in member countries, such that they are able to prepare for, offer meaningful comments and participate in discussions related to advancing key Codex standards in progression through the step process.
- Encouraging the development of communities of practice at the regional and sub-regional levels, to propagate best practices in the preparation for and contribution to Codex proceedings.
- Development and dissemination of sustainable resources associated with productive participation in Codex proceedings and strengthen their use consistently by Codex delegations in the region.
- Strengthening the scientific role of member countries, and more support for training sessions.
- Launch a webinar for eligible countries for CTF to address the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) guidance on the preparation of robust applications for CTF support

Appendix III: Progress report on activities undertaken by the Codex Secretariat that contribute to Strategic Goals 3 and 5.

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism	Progress/Comments
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex Standards	3.1 Raise awareness of Codex standards	Codex communication's work plan Regional Communication workplans	The primary purpose of Codex Communications is to ensure the visibility of Codex work, that everyone can access the standards and any other relevant information relevant to Codex and also facilitate communications with and among Codex members and potential users of Codex standards. Increasing visibility of Codex online is a key aspects of this and WFSD provides an annual opportunity to focus on food	Codex Secretariat	Showcasing Codex work in the context of the SDGs. Updating the presentation of Codex standards to increase usability and also make them more widely accessible through FAO and WHO Outreach to stakeholders in particular through WFSD	Secretariat report on communications World Food Safety Day report ¹⁰	On Track Codex and the SDGs published here The Fish Code has been published in a new format available here The secretariat promoted Codex through participation in a range of WFSD virtual events and engaging with many stakeholders. Details of events are online here .

¹⁰ Available at <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1438259/>

			safety and the role of Codex and engage with a broad audience.				
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation / application of Codex standards	Development of stories/case-studies on the use of Codex standards	In order to promote engagement in Codex work, to illustrate to stakeholders the potential benefits to Codex standards as well as identify challenges to their use and where possible how these were overcome, development of case studies and narrative stories on use of Codex standards are considered beneficial. These can be developed by the Codex Secretariat, FAO, WHO or others	Codex Secretariat, FAO	2-3 stories/case studies on use of standards published online	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track: FAO have published a case study on Codex pesticide MRLs and rice available here , which has been presented in several Codex fora and well received by Members. Preliminary work is underway for an FAO Case study which will consider Codex pesticide MRLs and tea. A narrative case study on the GPFH in Thailand is in publication and a second one on Codex animal feed texts is under preparation. Funding is being secured through a project funded by the Republic of Korea to develop other case studies.
	3.3 Recognise and promote	Development of a tool to measure	Assessing the use and impact	Codex Secretariat	Progress on the development of a	Secretariat report on	On Track: The Codex Secretariat

	the impact of Codex standards	the impact of Codex Standards (Updated following CCEXEC78 and CCGP32)	of Codex Standards allows to better demonstrate their importance and illustrate the benefits in adopting them. It also allows to identify challenges to their use and how to overcome them		mechanism to measure impact of Codex Standards	progress annually	has engaged the FAO and WHO evaluation units to assist in the development of a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex Standards. A paper on the challenges and lessons learned in monitoring the use and impact of codex standards was prepared by the Codex Secretariat. Based on this, the FAO and WHO evaluation units are preparing Terms of Reference for a study to develop a mechanism to measure the use and impact of Codex standards.
5 Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals	5.1 Develop and maintain efficient and effective work management practices and systems	Strengthen the critical review process to improve standards monitoring and development	An effective critical review process is fundamental to an efficient standards setting process	Codex Secretariat with the CCEXEC	CCEXEC is implementing a new approach to the critical review. Building on the approach of the critical review, restructuring of the CAC agenda and documents on standards setting work on a committee by	CCEXEC reports	On Track The Structure of the critical review papers has been updated. With virtual working mechanisms the critical review documentation is being prepared after each committee with a view to making it available earlier, in instalments, for CCEXEC review.

					committee basis.		The CAC agenda was restructured for CAC43 Building on this, for CAC44 the related CAC documents are being prepared by committee following the same chronological order as the critical review to make it more user-friendly, the issues more easily accessible by having all per committee together, and the publication/translation more speedy.
		Upgrade the Codex IT infrastructure to improve the user experience, increase the efficiency of the Secretariat and enable harvesting of data for performance monitoring and analysis (participation, timeliness etc.)	While the Codex Secretariat continue to develop the existing IT tools to support Codex work, feedback form both external and internal users highlight the need for further improvements to enhance efficiency and ensure that data that would contribute to monitoring of the	Codex Secretariat	User requirements defined Upgrade commissioned – Contract with external provider signed	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track The Codex Secretariat has engaged with the IT services division of FAO to review its IT infrastructure. Discussions are underway for a renewal of the Codex IT infrastructure with the aim of enhancing user experience and achieving better integration between the different services being provided to Members and Observers, also

			implementation of the Strategic plan can be more easily collected				considering the increase in virtual meetings. Through this project, Codex will also align to the latest FAO policies in terms of data security and management.
		Assess benefits and where cost effective, implement machine translation in Codex to facilitate multilingual discussions and expedite the availability of documents/reports	Language continues to be highlighted as a barrier to participation in Codex work such as EWG etc.	Codex Secretariat	Systems piloted and recommendations made for future use	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track Google translate was introduced into the online forum and enables the user to automatically translate comments in the forum to one of the official languages of Codex. The feature was added to forum when it was used to complete the discussions on CCLAC.
		Improve awareness and visibility of the procedures for review of Codex standards and provide guidance to facilitate their application. Identify approaches by which Members may be actively prompted to	While there is a lot of ongoing work in Codex on standards revision the mechanisms by which such work is undertaken and the procedures to follow are not easily accessible. This can present a challenge for Members that want to propose a	Codex Secretariat	Guidance available online on application of procedures for revision of Codex Standards Approach to promote revision of older standards in place	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track The Codex Secretariat continues to work with the Codex Subsidiary bodies on their work management processes which included revision of Standards. A paper on the issue of revisions and amendments to Codex texts was presented to CCGP32 by the Codex

		<p>review older standards in particular</p> <p>(Revised following CCEXEC78)</p>	<p>revision. This is a particular issue for standards that were developed by a committee that has since been adjourned sine die.</p> <p>Having standards dating back over 20 years does not reflect an active Standards development programme</p>				<p>Secretary to raise awareness on the current processes and consider how they could be further improved.</p> <p>The Codex Secretariat will next prepare a document indicating the amendments to the Guide to the Procedure for the Amendment and Revision of Codex Standards and Related Texts, recommended by the Secretariat including examples for the different changes and workflows, and the version</p>
		<p>Develop a handbook for delegates to support effective participation in Codex meetings</p> <p>(Added following CCEXEC78)</p>	<p>Effective time management and decision making by codex is the responsibility of all participants. For new delegates in particular it is important that they have access to information on how to effectively participate in advance of Codex meetings so that it can guide their</p>	Codex Secretariat	Handbook available online	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	<p>On Track</p> <p>In light of the pandemic the preparation for guidance to delegates has focussed on the participation in virtual meetings. The information for delegates webpage has been updated, guidance and infographics provided in all Codex languages.</p>

			preparations as well as actual participation				
		Revise online training modules for codex delegates (Added following CCEXEC78)		FAO, Codex Secretariat	Module on participation in Codex meetings revised and published	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track Two modules of the online training on Codex have been updates and are on track to go online in the coming months. Work is underway to update the other modules with a year end target. Work is also ongoing in collaboration with the FAO regional office to develop a module for coordinating committees which in due course could be adapted for other regions.
	5.2 Enhance the capacities of committees and working group chairpersons, regional coordinator and host country secretariats to support the work of Codex	Provide a forum for host secretariats to meet, share experiences and increase their knowledge on roles and responsibilities of host secretariats	Having a kind of community of practice from which to learn and share experience, easy to access guidance and knowledge of available tools and how to use them is key improving capacity and efficiency. This	Codex Secretariat	Workshop for host secretariats implemented (2020)	Post workshop survey/feedback session	On Track Due to the pandemic it was not possible to convene any of the physical events indicated. However, these were replaced with virtual meetings. In 2020 a virtual meeting was convened with all host secretariats and two virtual meetings were convened with

			series of activities targets the structures and individuals that are fundamental to successful Codex meetings				Chairpersons, with a focus on adaptation to virtual working environments. Codex officer have also worked extensively with Committee and EWG chairpersons to ensure that work continued during the pandemic and to provide them with different tools to facilitate the work and enable outreach to the members such as through webinars, podcasts, video messages etc to the Members. Two virtual workshops were convened with the incoming coordinators in 2020.
		Provide a forum for Committee/task force chairpersons to meet, share experiences and increase their knowledge of tools and approaches to facilitate meetings		Codex Secretariat	Workshop for Chairpersons implemented (2021)	Post workshop survey/feedback session	
		Convene a		Codex	Incoming regional	Post workshop	

		workshop to facilitate hand over from outgoing regional coordinators and incoming coordinators (2020)		Secretariat	coordinators are familiar with their roles and responsibilities and prepared to effectively implement their new role	survey/feedback session	
		Finalise guidance for host secretariats (2020)		Codex Secretariat	Guidance for host secretariats available online	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	This guidance has been put on hold due to the pandemic. However, draft guidance in relation to the role of host secretariats for virtual meetings was developed. Following the experience of the past year the guidance for host secretariats will now be revisited with a view to including guidance also on the different scenarios encountered in the past year.
		Handbook for Chairpersons is updated		Codex Secretariat	Version 2 of the handbook available online	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	The Handbook has not yet been updated, rather the focus has been on working with chairpersons to address the new challenges faced in chairing a meeting virtually. This experience will feed into a revision of the

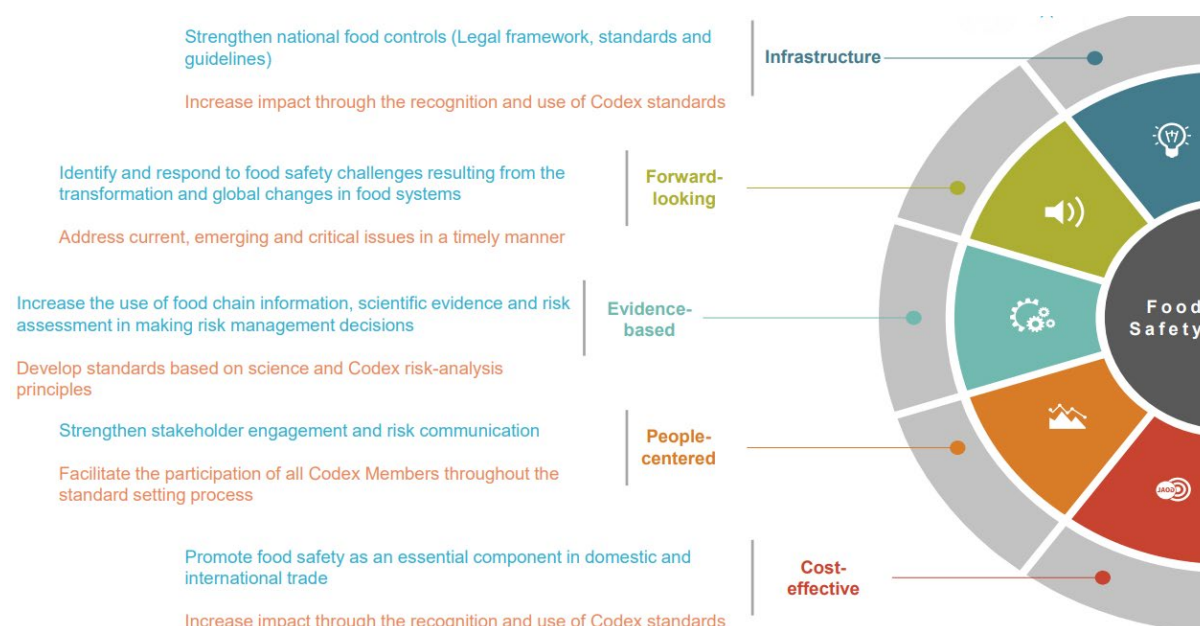
							handbook.
		Review mechanism to obtain feedback from Codex Membership	The view of the Membership on changes made is critical to ongoing improvement of our guidance and tools	Codex Secretariat	Meeting participant feedback opportunities (e.g. survey, mentimeter, sli.do etc) have been provided after each meeting, comments reviewed and specific issues identified for consideration in the subsequent biennial workplan	Secretariat report on progress to implementation the SP	On Track Surveys have been revised and sent to members and Observers after all Committees to get their feedback in particular on the virtual working mechanisms, challenges and benefits. Many of the webinars have included mentimeter surveys relevant to the particular topics with the data from these surveys being feedback to the Chairpersons and host secretariats as appropriate. The data is reviewed by the secretariat and used to direct efforts of continuous improvement within the secretariat activities.

Appendix IV: Mapping FAO and WHO also set out how their proposed strategic outcome areas and strategic priorities onto the five Strategic Goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Mapping linkages between the new FAO Food Safety Strategy and the Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025

Codex Goals for 2020-2025	FAO Food Safety Strategy 2022-2031
Goal 1 Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	Strategic Outcome areas (SOAs) 1, 2, 3, & 4
Goal 2 Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles	Strategic Outcome areas 1 & 2
Goal 3 Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	Strategic Outcome areas 1, 2, 3 & 4
Goal 4 Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	Strategic Outcome areas 1, 2 & 3
Goal 5 Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals	Participation of Codex Secretariat in the process of the new FAO FS Strategy development

Mapping linkages between the new WHO Food Safety Strategy and the Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025



*WHO Strategic Priorities are listed first and the related Codex Strategic Plan Goal is listed immediately beneath