



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-fifth Session

#### PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF 2022 SURVEY ON THE USE AND IMPACT OF CODEX TEXTS

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The 42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC42) adopted the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as proposed by the 77th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC77). Goal 3 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards” has three objectives, of which objective 3.3 “Recognise and promote the impact of Codex standards” includes as an outcome “Having a mechanism/tool to measure the impact of Codex standards developed and piloted”.

1.2 The Secretariat, in collaboration with FAO and WHO evaluation offices, started work on developing a mechanism to measure the use and impact of Codex standards in 2021. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to provide data about the use and impact of Codex texts was developed with a view to obtaining information that can help Members and Observers better understand the impact, or potential for impact, of Codex texts. The first phase of the development of the mechanism focused on data gathering and analysis.

1.3 Following the data gathering and analysis step, several options to build the mechanism were analysed and the M&E framework was further refined. Based on the results of the analysis of the options, recommendations were made on the way forward. CCEXEC81 endorsed the proposed approach<sup>1</sup> to building the mechanism, and one recommendation was to undertake a pilot of a re-designed member survey in 2022 with the preliminary results being reported at CCEXEC83 and CAC45.

### 2. SURVEY PILOT APPROACH

2.1 The survey purpose was to examine the reach, usefulness, and use of a sample of Codex texts as estimates for their impact. The survey scope involves Codex texts, either in print or electronic media, produced by CAC from 2015 to 2020, and was aimed at the member state audience most familiar with Codex texts to help provide input into this process.

2.2 The Codex texts selected in this first pilot are:

- CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019);
- CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020);
- CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018); and
- CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015).

2.3 A three years' cycle is envisaged whereas the use and impact of the same Codex Texts will be measured in three years to check progress. Therefore in 2023 another four Codex texts will be assessed.

2.4 The Secretariat launched the survey on 20 September 2022 with a deadline of 22 October 2022, later postponed to 4 November 2022 to accommodate several Members' requests for additional time to complete the survey. The survey consists of about 20 succinct questions on the reach, usefulness and use of Codex texts, and responses are managed with confidentiality. The information gathered from the survey will be reported at the aggregate level, and individual member responses will not be attributed in any report.

### 3. PRELIMINARY SURVEY FINDINGS

#### Demographics and Participation

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<sup>1</sup> CX/EXEC 22/82/8

There were 97 responses from Members, as outlined in the table below, for an overall survey response rate of 51%:

CODEX Region	Number of Members	Number of Member Survey Responses	Response Rate
CCAFRICA	49	18	37%
CCASIA	24	11	46%
CCEURO	52	34	65%
CCLAC	33	13	39%
CCNASWP	14	13	92%
CCNE	17	8	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>51%</b>

### Select Codex Text Analysis

3.2 A sample of four Codex texts was selected for in-depth analysis. Members were asked to select the Codex texts that their country was most familiar with. As outlined in the table below, more than 75% of members chose to respond to survey questions related to CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020) and to CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018). The Survey questions for CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015) had the fewest survey respondents with 47 out of 97 members choosing to reply to those questions.

Codex Text	Number of Member Survey Responses	Response Rate (out of 97)
CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)	72	74%
CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)	85	88%
CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)	78	80%
CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)	47	48%
Unfamiliar with any of the selected Codex Text	4	>1%

3.3 In general, Members from all regions are found to have good familiarity with the selected Codex texts and are able to provide feedback on the reach, usefulness, use of each. Appendix A provides additional information on the survey results for each selected Codex Text.

3.4 Of the Codex texts included in the survey, Members are mostly satisfied with the use and impact of CXS 193-1995: *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (2019), CXC 1-1969: *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (2020), and CXS 1-1985: *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (2018). Member responses to CXG 9-1987: *General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods* (2015) are muted on the use and impact of this Codex text and the level of satisfactions is neutral.

### General Codex Text Findings

3.5 Codex texts are found extremely or mostly useful by Members, with CCEURO Region having some neutral 'somewhat useful' responses. Members commented that they found Codex texts to be most useful when new knowledge is gained in the country and the texts can be used as a standard baseline. There was more satisfaction expressed for new knowledge gained from the African Region, the North America and South West Pacific Region and the Near East Region.

3.6 Regions generally are pleased with all features of Codex texts, with slightly less satisfaction regarding dissemination methods. Across the African Region, the European Region and the Latin America and Caribbean Region, the average response to stakeholder dissemination of Codex texts were 'fair'. Members view Codex texts as being slightly more credible and authoritative than timely.

3.7 The African Region had strong consensus that Codex texts are used to support the harmonization of member state food control systems, as opposed to other Regions largely responding 'mostly'. This was also reflected in helping increase stakeholder awareness of food safety and quality issues and evidence-based interventions and recommendations, as well as helping inform and update food safety and quality training and education. There was less consensus across regions that Codex texts were used in countries' food control systems to help improve Members' commodity trade.

3.8 The primary barriers impeding the use of Codex texts by region are:

- African Region: Lack of Resources, and Challenges to Catch up with Changes in Codex Texts.
- Asian Region: Lack of Basic National Food Safety Laws, Language Issues, and Lack of Awareness of Codex Provisions by National Stakeholders.
- European Region: Duration of Codex Text Development, and Duration of National Implementation process.
- Latin America and Caribbean Region: Language Issues.
- North America and South West Pacific Region: Lack of Basic National Food Safety Laws, Challenges to Catch up with Changes in Codex Texts, and Lack of Awareness of Codex Provisions by National Stakeholders.
- Near East Region: Language Issues, and Challenges to Catch up with Changes in Codex Texts.

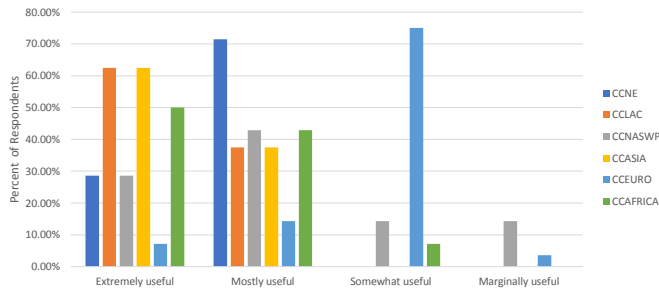
#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 Codex Members are mostly satisfied or very satisfied with the reach, usefulness, and use of Codex texts, with only some being neutral or dissatisfied. There were not any significant regional differences related to satisfaction.

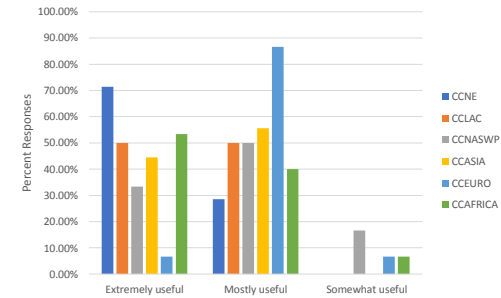
**Appendix A: Survey Results for Select Codex Texts**

**a) To what extent does the Codex text meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?**

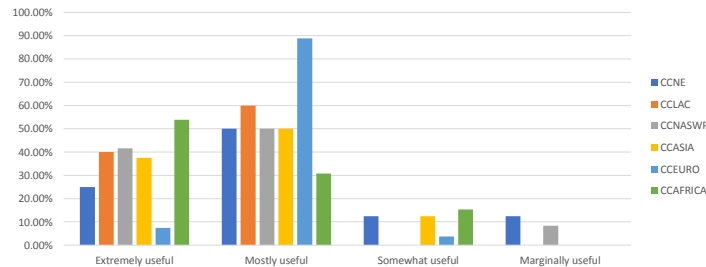
**7a. To what extent does the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)* meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?**



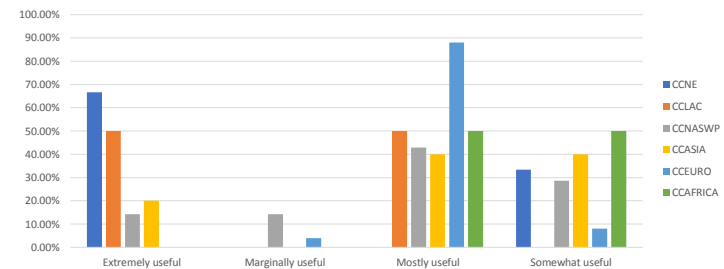
**8a. To what extent does the Codex text *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)* meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?**



**9a. To what extent does the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)* meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?**

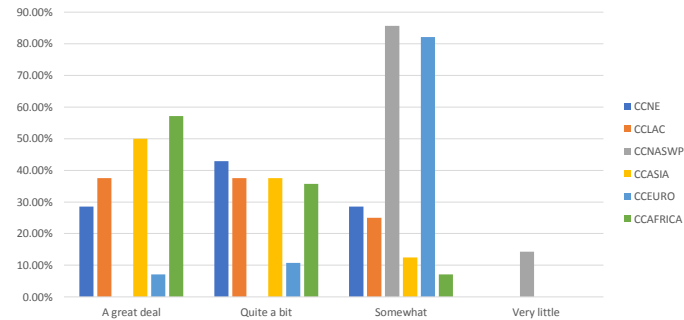


**10a. To what extent does the Codex text entitled *CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)* meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?**

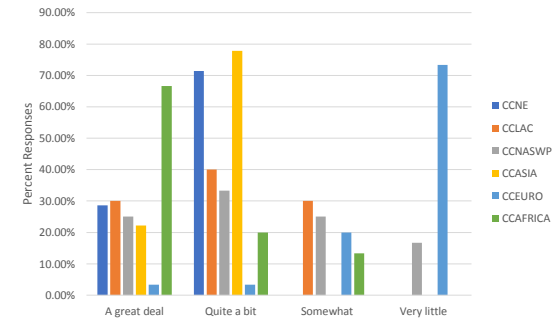


b) To what degree has your country gained additional knowledge from the Codex text?

**7b. To what degree has your country gained additional knowledge from the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)*?**



**8b. To what degree has your country gained additional knowledge from the Codex text entitled *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)*?**

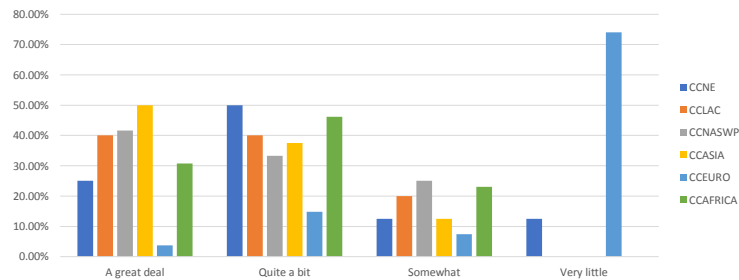


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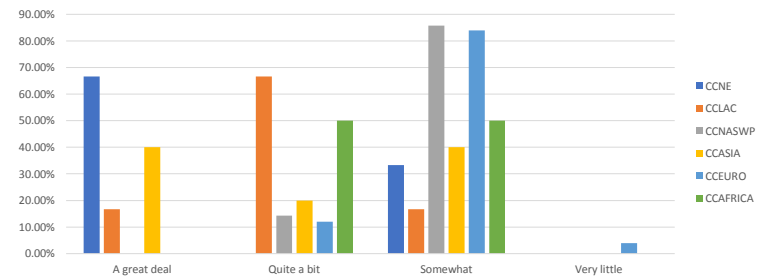


CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

**9b. To what degree has your country gained additional knowledge from the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)*?**



**10b. To what degree has your country gained additional knowledge from the Codex text entitled *CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)*?**



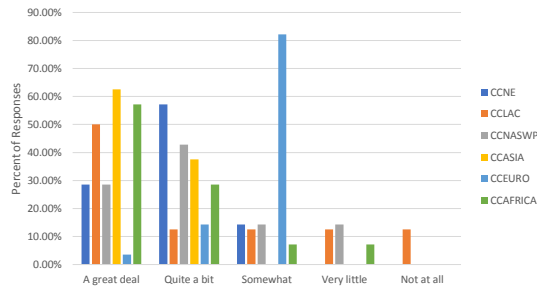
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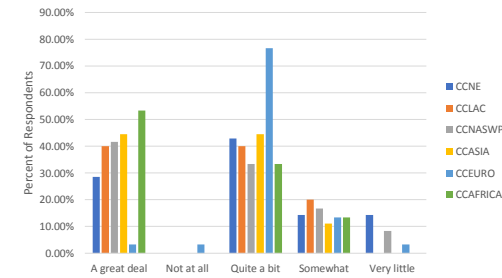
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

**c) To what extent has the Codex text been used as a baseline to inform your country's food legislation, policies, regulations, programs and/or practices?**

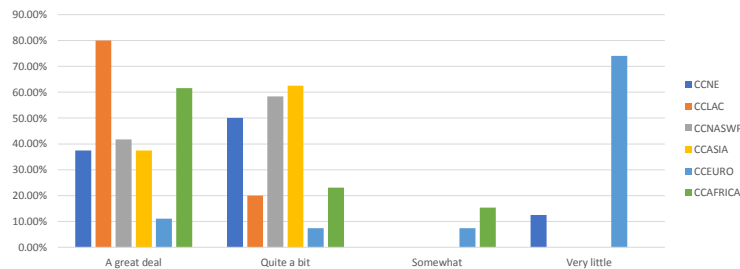
**7c. To what extent has the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)* been used as a baseline to inform your country's food legislation, policies, regulations, programs and/or practices?**



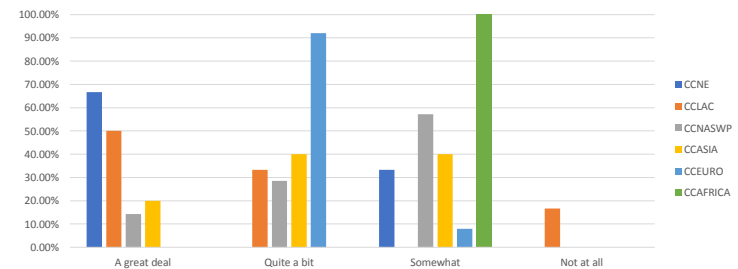
**8c. To what extent has the Codex text entitled *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)* been used as a baseline to inform your country's food legislation, policies, regulations, programs and/or practices?**



**9c. To what extent has the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)* been used as a baseline to inform your country's food legislation, policies, regulations, programs and/or practices?**

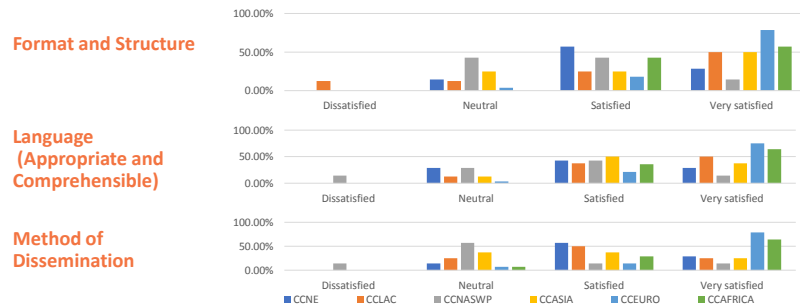


**10c. To what extent has the Codex text *CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)* been used as a baseline to inform your country's food legislation, policies, regulations, programs and/or practices?**

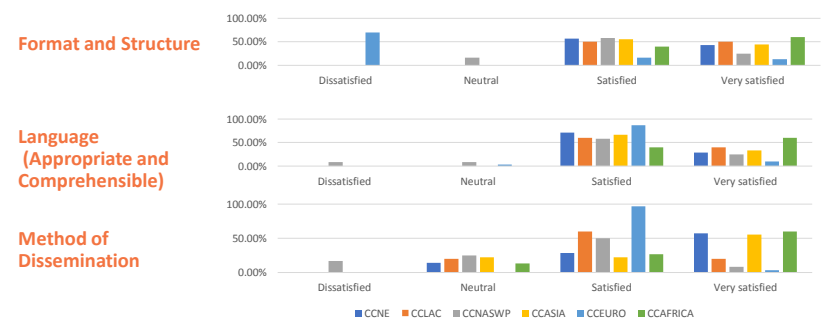


**d) Rank your country's level of satisfaction with these Codex text features (1. Format and Structure, 2. Language (Appropriate and Comprehensive), 3. Method of Dissemination)?**

**7d. Please rank your country's level of satisfaction with the following features of the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)*.**



**8d. Please rank your country's level of satisfaction with the following features of the Codex text entitled *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)*.**

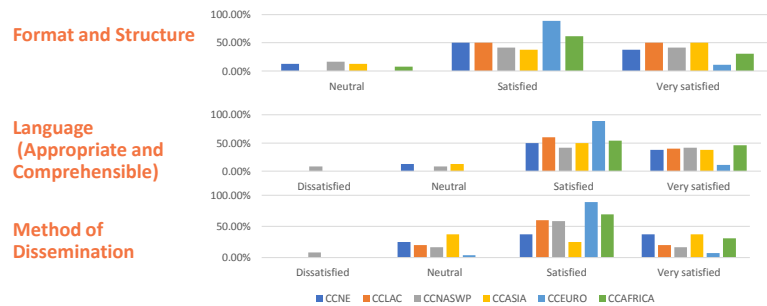


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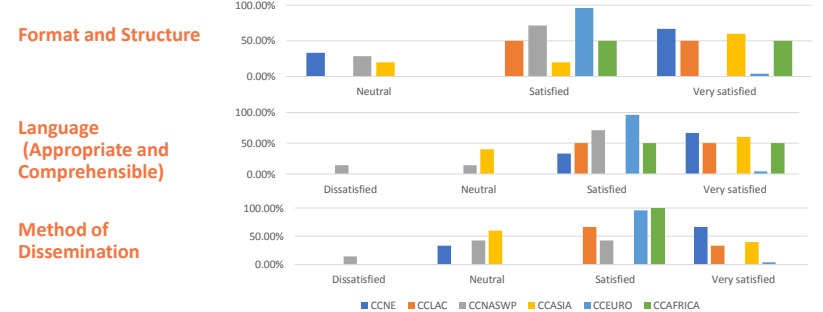


CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

**9d. Please rank your country's level of satisfaction with the following features of the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)*.**



**10d. Please rank your country's level of satisfaction with the following features of the Codex text entitled *CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)*.**



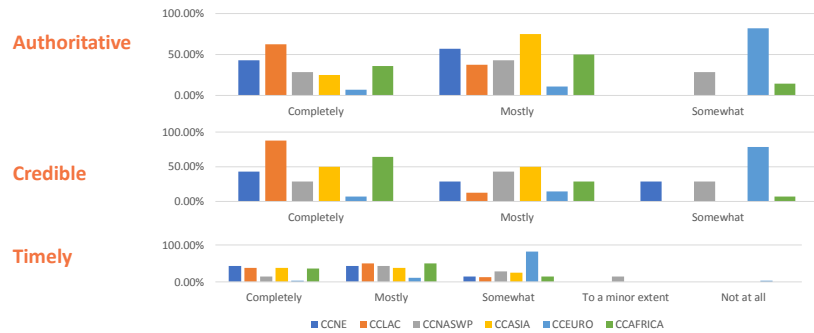
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



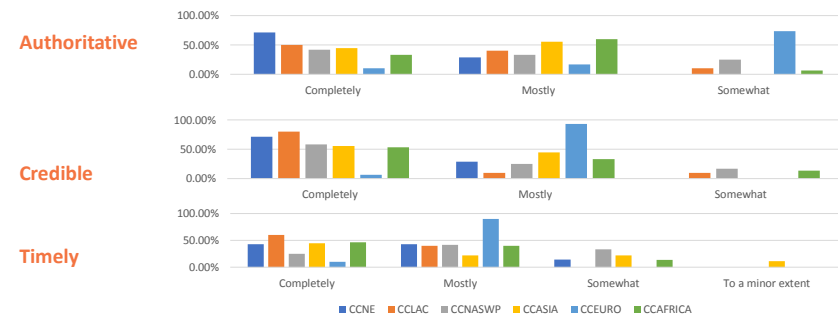
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

e) Rank the degree that your country recognizes the Codex text as being: 1) Authoritative, 2) Credible, 3) Timely?

7. e) Please rank the degree that your country recognizes the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)* as being:



8. e) Please rank the degree that your country recognizes the Codex text entitled *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)* as being:

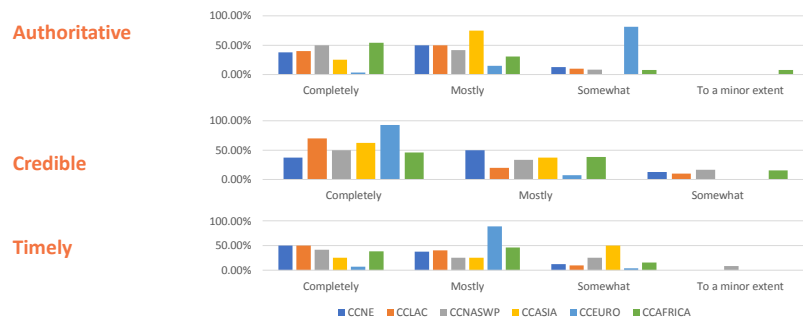


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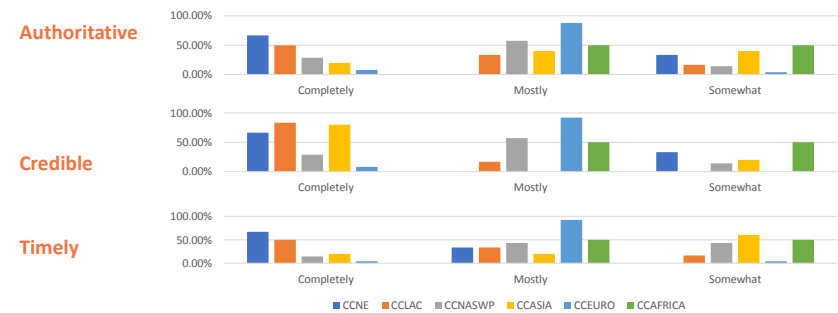


CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

9. e) Please rank the degree that your country recognizes the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)* as being:



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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



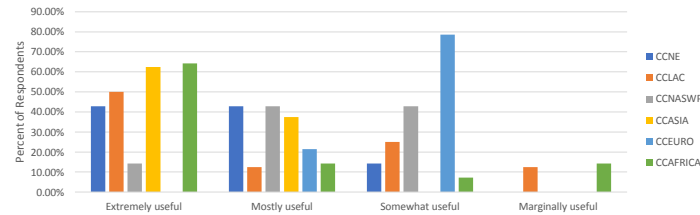
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**f) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text been used to support National Food Control Systems**

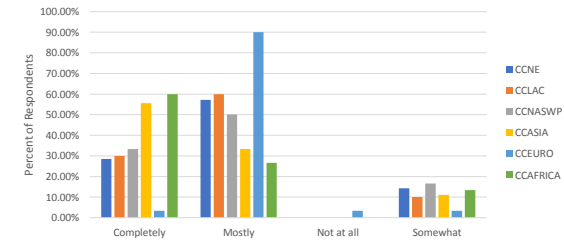
7. f) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)* been incorporated into your country's practices / procedures for the following interventions:

*Used to support National Food Control Systems*



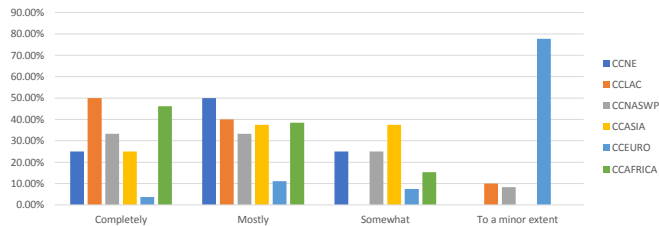
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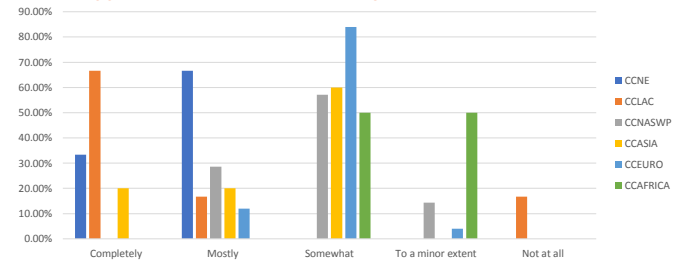
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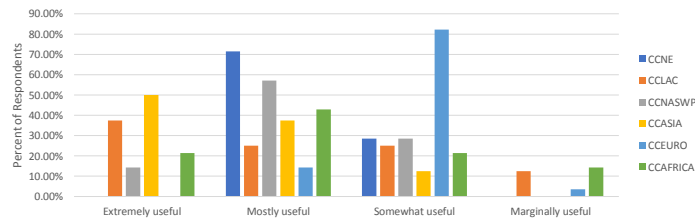
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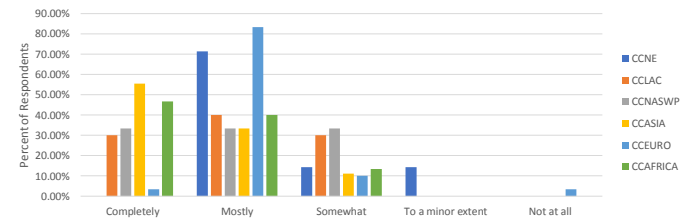


**g) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text been used to help increase stakeholder awareness of food safety and quality issues and evidence-based interventions and recommendations?**

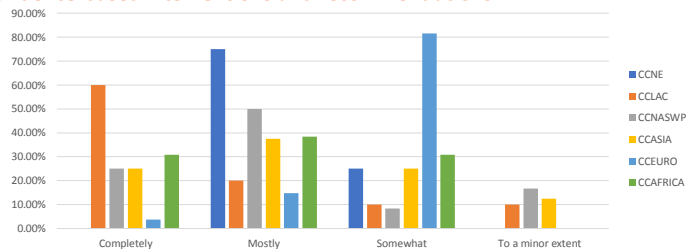
**7. f) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text entitled CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019) been incorporated into your country's practices / procedures for the following interventions:**  
*Helped increase stakeholder awareness of food safety and quality issues and evidence-based interventions and recommendations*



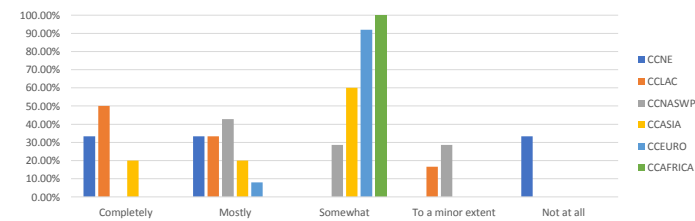
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**9. f) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018) been incorporated into your country's practices / procedures for the following interventions:**  
*Helped increase stakeholder awareness of food safety and quality issues and evidence-based interventions and recommendations*

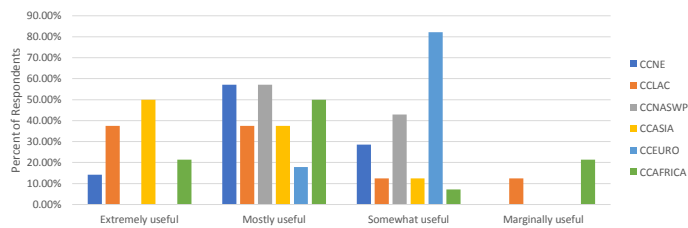


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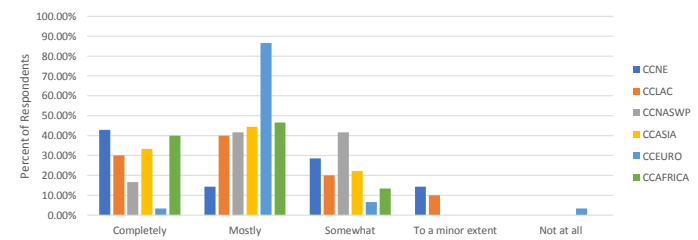


**h) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text been used to inform and update food safety and quality training and educational programs and related tools?**

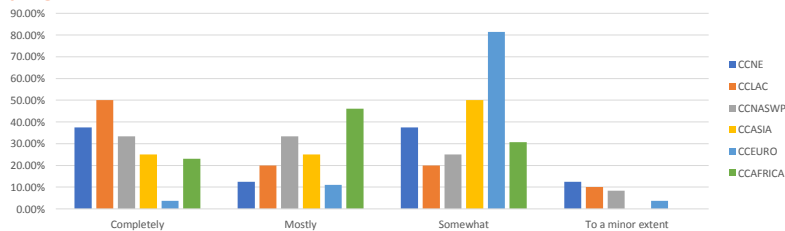
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*Used to inform and to update food safety and quality training and educational programs and related tools***



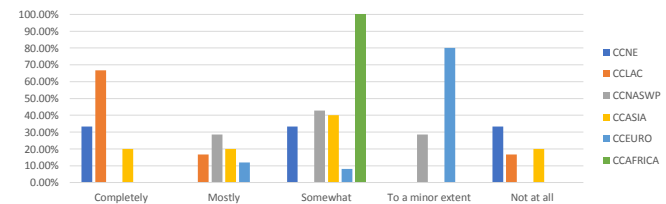
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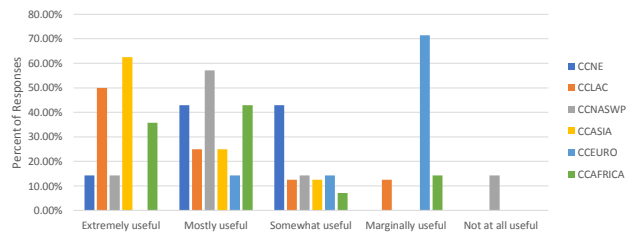
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*Used to inform and to update food safety and quality training and educational programs and related tools***



**i) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text helped improve member state commodity trade (internal and exports)?**

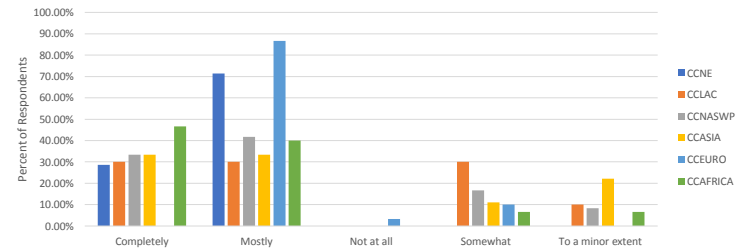
**7. f) Regarding the use and impact of Codex Texts, to what degree has the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)* been incorporated into your country's practices / procedures for the following interventions:**

*Helped improve member state commodity trade (internal and exports)*



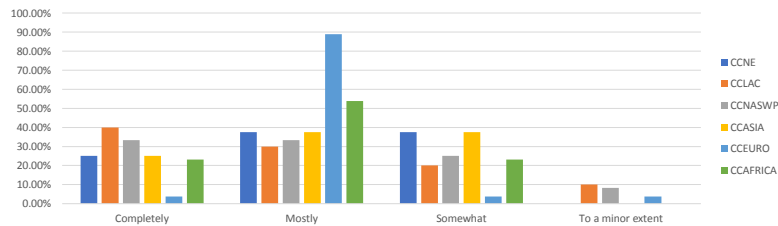
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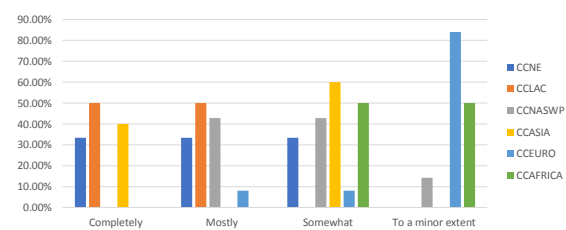
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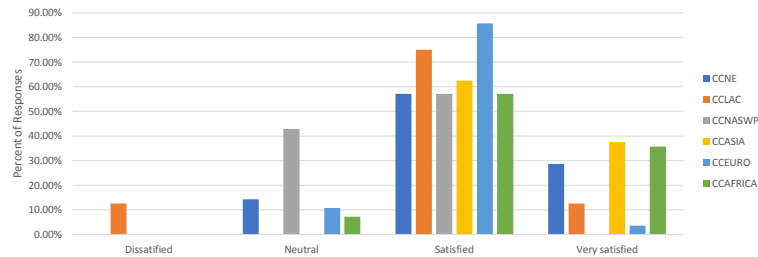
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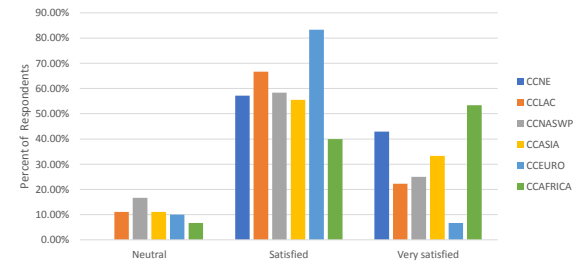


j) What is your country's level of satisfaction with the Codex text?

7. g) What is your country's level of satisfaction with the Codex text entitled *CXS 193-1995: General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (2019)*?



8. g) What is your country's level of satisfaction with the Codex text entitled *CXC 1-1969: General Principles of Food Hygiene (2020)*?

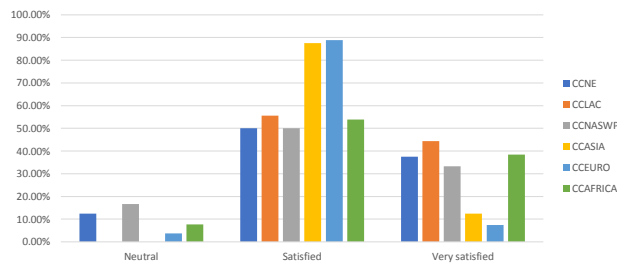


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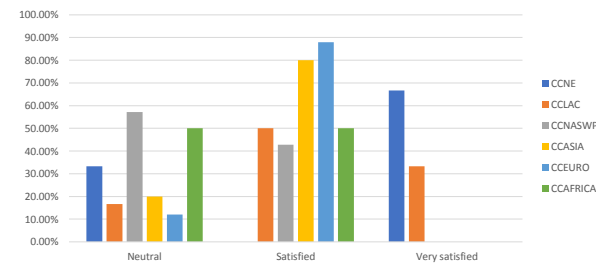


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9. g) What is your country's level of satisfaction with the Codex text entitled *CXS 1-1985: General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (2018)*?



10. g) What is your country's level of satisfaction with the Codex text entitled *CXG 9-1987: General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (2015)* meet your country's priority food safety and quality needs?



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