

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

42nd Session

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FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund

Fourth Progress Report

(January-June 2019)

A. INTRODUCTION

This is the fourth Progress Report on the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) and covers the first six months of 2019.

B. TECHNICAL SECTION

Support to Round 1 countries

Project implementation continued in the four countries being supported from Round 1. Activities carried out or planned activities in 2019 include the following:

Ghana

- Training and consultation meetings for technical subcommittee members.
- Journalist awareness training.
- Strengthening national capacity in determining compliance with standards, in particular with regards to contaminants.

Kyrgyzstan

- Development of five procedural documents for the national Codex Contact Point.
- Revision of the document pertaining to the analysis of legislation in the Kyrgyz Republic for compliance with the requirements of Codex document.
- Development of the Kyrgyz Codex web site.

Madagascar

- Train members of priority committees in risk evaluation.
- Strengthening capacities or refresher training in:
 - Codex procedures, preparation for participation (electronic or in-person);
 - Developing new proposals;
 - Codex standards as basis for national regulations;
 - Best practices for NCC rules of procedure.
- Review and improvement of NCC rules of procedure.
- Raising awareness of Codex among decision-makers in ministries and competent authorities.
- Participation in priority Codex committees, CAC and CCAFRICA

Senegal

- Carry out a national awareness campaign through a Codex day focusing on aflatoxins to alert stakeholders to the need to apply a set of preventive practices to control aflatoxins (activity planned in 2018 and implemented in January 2019).
- Coordinate and monitor NCC activities. The NCC has organized meetings to harmonize national positions on specific issues addressed by CAC and its subsidiary bodies.
- Support participation in the work of CAC and its subsidiary bodies, specifically by preparing delegates to attend CCGP31 and CCcF13.
- Help to develop and promote the wider use of standards for fisheries and peanut products, specifically by supporting meetings of the Senegalese Standardization Association to transcribe standards in priority sectors (activity planned in 2018, currently in progress).
- Organize a workshop to validate the consultant's study on the inventory of Senegalese standards for various local products and to assess the gap in relation to Codex standards.
- Support for the Senegalese Standardization Association to transcribe and validate standards in priority sectors.

The following mentoring/partnering/coaching activities are planned for 2019:

- Discussions are taking place between Senegal and France on possible partnership activities to strengthen Codex activities in Senegal drawing on France's experience in areas that may include Codex work procedures, harmonization with Codex standards, data generation and collection and collaboration with other Codex members in proactive and strategic networks.

The Codex Trust Fund expresses its sincere appreciation for the in-kind support from donors and Codex member countries in the above activities.

Support to Round 2 countries

Two countries from Round 2 began implementation in the last quarter of 2018 (Burkina Faso and Honduras) while other countries from Round 2 began implementation in the first quarter of 2019 or will begin implementation in the second quarter. An example of activities that have begun or are planned for 2019 in project countries are outlined below.

Burkina Faso

- Develop advocacy tools in favour of the work of Codex Alimentarius and the NCC, which should underpin awareness-raising among political and administrative decision-makers, the private sector, and technical and financial partners regarding the importance of full compliance with Codex Alimentarius activities and the need to support the NCC.
- Develop and disseminate the manual of procedures for the work and operation of the NCC and the CCP.
- Conduct a national advocacy campaign aimed at the highest-level authorities and political decision-makers to raise awareness of and maintain the profile of Codex and the NCC.
- Carry out advocacy for the NCC among technical and financial partners involved in food safety in Burkina-Faso.
- Organize a national Codex day every year, focusing on the priority food sector (cereals) and the key stakeholders (ministries, consumers, industry/producers, NGOs).
- Develop and disseminate the manual of procedures for the work and operation of the NCC and the CCP.
- Train members of the NCC in the use of the FAO/WHO Codex training manual.
- Strengthen the operational capacity of NCC experts to participate in Codex work, including in FAO/WHO joint expert bodies.

Cabo Verde

- Review of the decree-law establishing the National Codex Committee.
- First steps in reviewing technical documentation on the management and operation of the NCC/CCP and development of other procedures necessary for the CCP, NCC and technical subcommittees.
- Organize bilateral meetings to share experience with other countries at technical committee meetings.
- Train members of the NCC, CCP and experts in Codex working and operational procedures.

North Macedonia

- Drafting of a guideline (rules for establishment of a CCP office) with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and priority tasks, including effective data management and access.
- Set up a criteria and model of a functional national Codex structure.
- Develop an internal procedure defining obligations of the members of the Codex structure (government officials, academia, scientific community, private sector), selected on the basis of the scope of its competencies.
- Professional staff engaged in the office of the CCP trained on agreed tasks and responsibilities, including to work actively on communication and coordination between the government, scientific community and private sector.

Guinea

- Develop, replicate and disseminate advocacy tools.
- Conduct advocacy and awareness-raising sessions with various stakeholders (sectoral ministries important for Codex, policy makers, technical and financial partners, business leaders, civil society) to ensure that Codex work is taken into account at national level.
- Support the operation of the NCC and subcommittees in technical meetings, consultation mechanisms and preparations to participate in meetings of priority committees, and in selecting delegates for Codex meetings.
- Strengthen the capacity of the NCC group of scientific experts and laboratories to participate and contribute effectively to the work of the priority committees and the work of FAO/WHO joint expert bodies.
- Support participation in the work of the Codex Commission and its priority committees.

Honduras

- Conduct biweekly work meetings for 4 months to develop the procedural manual for the Codex Contact Point.
- Training of the Honduran Standards Organization in good standardization practices and management of committees, for members of specific subcommittees.
- Start a pilot project with one of the prioritized subcommittees to validate the documentary system and communication mechanism.
- Develop a communication procedure to share and disseminate information sent by the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO, through the Contact Point, to the members of the NCC, subcommittee coordinators and other interested parties.
- Develop a specific work plan for the activities of the Codex Contact Point.
- Development of procedures, forms (documentary system) and a communication mechanism.
- Drafting and signing of collaboration agreements with academia, production sectors and industry.
- Involvement of the NCC in drafting the Safe Food Act.

Mali

- One-day workshop to present and launch the project.
- Develop NCC procedure manual and review list of members of the NCC working groups.
- Training on the structure and operation of Codex.
- Training on risk analysis and the scientific basis of Codex for members of the NCC, technical subcommittees and technical experts.
- Collaborate with stakeholders in agri-food sectors (universities and research institutions, technical services, laboratories, consumers) to develop a data collection programme.
- Round table on the importance of Codex for the national economy, with input from representatives of national Codex bodies, aimed at decision-makers from the ministerial sectors involved in Codex activities.

Rwanda

- One-day workshop to launch the project.
- Collection of information from fellow countries having functioning national Codex committees and existing legal document on Codex in Rwanda.
- Development of draft ministerial order defining the structure and functioning of the NCC and CCP.
- Development of a national Codex procedural manual.
- Training for NCC and sub-committee members and selected subject matter experts on risk analysis and the scientific basis of Codex work.

Group project – Bhutan, India, Nepal

- Inception workshop and project launch in India.
- Training of Codex officials (Bhutan and Nepal) on the function and management of Codex work (to be undertaken at the Codex office in India).
- In-country trainings (Bhutan and Nepal) of NCC members and relevant stakeholders on implementation of Codex procedural manual and other Codex activities.
- (Bhutan) Study visit to a well-established Codex office in Asia for technical experts and experts from relevant agencies to understand the Codex standard-setting process.
- (India) Advocacy workshop to increase awareness and knowledge of Codex for decision makers.
- In-country trainings (Bhutan and Nepal) for capacity-building on standard-setting procedures and process review and feedback related to the work of CCFICS (Bhutan) and CCFICS and CCFH (Nepal).

❖ Challenges:

- Time necessary to finalize summary project documents. Following on from the 2018 Annual Report, the Steering Committee adopted a time table which sets the deadline for finalization of summary project documents from Round 3 at 12 July 2019 (two and a half months after the announcement of applications that will be supported from Round 3). The choice of 12 July is to allow FAO and WHO project leads and other FAO/WHO staff to use the opportunity of the CAC to work with Round 3 countries.

✚ Results from Round 3 “Call for Applications”

Recommendations of the Technical Review Group (TRG) were sent to the CTF Steering Committee in March 2019. The Steering Committee deliberated at their 37th meeting which took place in three sessions between on 25 March, 1 and 5 April 2019 and decided that eight single country applications plus one group application would be supported from Round 3 applications. Countries to be supported from Round 3 were announced on 29 April 2019 at the opening session of CCCF13 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The countries that will be supported, and the organization which will take the lead in supporting the projects are as follows:

- Benin - WHO
- Bolivia - WHO
- Côte d'Ivoire - WHO
- Cuba - FAO
- Gambia - FAO
- Malawi - WHO
- Nigeria – FAO
- Turkmenistan - FAO
- Group project – Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda (lead country) – FAO. Support to the group project may involve a progressive and step-wise approach to ensure that the countries involved get the appropriate support at the suitable time.

These countries/group of countries have been contacted by the lead FAO or WHO officer who has been designated to lead the project for the country/group of countries.

Steps are being taken to move from the application to the development of a summary project document that will serve as a roadmap for implementation in phases and monitoring of project progress. Upon receipt of the complete summary project document, the first tranche of funds will be released to the country/group of countries.

All countries that applied to CTF in Round 3 will receive written feedback from the CTF Secretariat based on the assessment of the TRG. The written feedback is meant to assist countries in improving their applications should the country/group of countries decide to revise and re-submit in a subsequent application round. Assistance can also be sought from FAO and WHO regional food safety officers.

In the decision-making process for Round 2, the CTF Steering Committee identified that the criteria currently being used¹ and additional criteria provided in the prioritization scoring table² might need to be expanded to allow for effective and efficient decision-making. As a result, the Steering Committee modified the criteria that could be used if needed for future decision-making as needed. The criteria consist of the following:

- Length of Codex membership;
- Population size;
- Presence or absence of synergistic or overlapping support;
- Number of Codex meetings attended in the past 3 years;
- Strength of national food control system;
- Recent or prospective accession to WTO.

Communication activities

- Documentation and videos on the Codex Trust Fund were made available for delegates to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and WHO food safety booths at the International Food Safety Conference (Addis Ababa, February 2019) and the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade (Geneva, April 2019).
- Projects accepted for funding from Round 3 were officially announced at the opening session of the CCCF13 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia and a web story was made available on the Codex Alimentarius Commission website <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1192216/>
- Written feedback was provided to all applicant countries/groups of countries that had applied in Round 3.
- A model partnership one-pager was developed to enhance donor visibility. Similar on-line flyers are being developed for other major CTF donors.
- The CTF website was updated and migrated to Sitefinity with new functionalities. The CTF website continues to serve as the primary communication tool with CTF stakeholders.
- CTF continues to promote the CTF Community website which serves as a platform where CTF-supported countries can share knowledge, tips, experiences and materials developed aimed at strengthening engagement in Codex activities at national, regional and global levels. We encourage all Codex member countries to sign up for the CTF Community website at <https://workspace.who.int/sites/CodexTrustFund/Community/SitePages/Welcome.aspx>.
- The CTF Community Library was updated with documents and material produced in project countries. The aim of the library is to share these documents and materials as widely as possible with Codex members for inspiration and for adaptation and use in their own countries.
- The CTF Secretariat is preparing the second edition of the popular Country Support Project Report. This document, first prepared in 2017, highlights activities in countries being supported by the Codex Trust Fund and lessons learned during implementation. A full colour formatted version with photos from countries will be prepared in English, with text only versions in French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian. The document will be disseminated widely at CAC42

Monitoring and Evaluation of CTF2

See document CX/CAC 19/42/17 Add.2 containing the monitoring of CTF2.

¹ see Annex 2 of CX/CAC 19/42/17

² see Annex 6 of the CTF Founding Project Document https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/food-standard/CTF2ProjectDocument.pdf?ua=1

C. FINANCIAL SECTION

2019-2020 Financial Projections

The balance of funds carried forward from 2018 to 2019 was US\$ 2,585,228. Contributions that have been recorded as received in WHO and FAO during the period from 1 January to 15 May 2019 and contributions expected between June and December 2019 (based on firm written pledges or completed paperwork for contributions) appear in Table 2 below. The estimated available funds for 2019 will total approximately US\$ 3,802,931.

Table 2
Contributions received 1 January-30 April 2018 and expected May- December 2019

Donor	Amount expected/received	Amount expected/received	Agreement period FAO & WHO ³
	(in contribution currency)	(in US\$)	
India	US\$ 65,000	65,000	2019 (WHO)
Japan	US\$ 46,643	46,643	2019 (FAO)
Malaysia	US\$ 10,000	10,000	2019 (WHO)
Netherlands	EUR 400,000	424,628	2019 (WHO)
New Zealand	NZ\$ 25,000	16,982	2019 (WHO)
UK	GBP 500,000	654,450	2019-2021 ⁴ (WHO)
Total approximate funds received or expected		1,217,703	

The Steering Committee at its 36th meeting held by teleconference on 8 March 2019 established a provisional budget at US\$ 1,667,076 for the Codex Trust Fund for 2019. The breakdown of expected expenditures for 2019 appears below.

Expected expenditures may be modified as a function of funding available and/or decisions of the Steering Committee to revise budgetary lines:

- \$449,000 for staff and administrative costs of the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat;
- \$1,218,076 for costs associated with implementing projects in countries (including direct financial support to country projects) and delivering the programme;
- \$0 for costs associated with monitoring and evaluation.

Final expenditures in 2019 will reflect the pace at which new countries being supported from Round 3 come on line, as well as the speed of implementation in countries from Round 2. It is expected that 3 out of 4 Round 1 countries should complete their projects by 31 December 2019. 2019 will be the first year of implementation for most Round 2 countries. It is hoped that 50% of Round 3 countries will have begun implementation before the end of 2019. FAO and WHO are working closely with countries to ensure acceleration of implementation and project management according to established and agreed timelines in summary project documents as a way of reducing the risk of underspending on direct financial support to country projects in 2019.

³ Organization mentioned in brackets indicates organization to whom contribution for CTF was made.

⁴ This contribution is to be used over a 30-month period.