



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION
Eighty-first Session**

Sub-committee on the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

(Report prepared by the fourth strategic planning sub-committee to the 81st Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission)

1. FOREWORD

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted its Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at its 42nd session in July 2019. In adopting the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, delegations noted that the real work lay ahead, in terms of developing and implementing a workplan for the implementation of its strategic goals and grasping the opportunities that would arrive for new and constructive ways of working.

2. None of us at that time could have foreseen the human losses, public health challenges and global disruption that would be caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has changed the world we live in, now and for the foreseeable future, and maybe for ever. The global food supply chains we all rely on have come under unprecedented and sustained pressure. So has Codex.

3. Codex and its working practices have undergone rapid transformation in response to the operational challenges associated with the pandemic, moving its entire meeting schedule onto virtual platforms and prioritizing the work to develop international, science-based food safety and quality standards that is at the core of its mission. The work on developing and implementing a workplan that was foreseen by CAC42 has continued in the background, led by Regional Co-ordinators, the Codex secretariat and other Codex actors, and overseen by successive strategic planning sub-committees.

4. The plan to consolidate this work into a single coherent workplan for implementation has been delayed but not abandoned. This report contains the implementation work plan and, from our current perspective a quarter of the way through the six-year period of the Strategic Plan, it also presents the progress achieved to date and the lessons which have been learnt through the process of implementation.

Recommendations

5. We commend this report and its recommendations to CCEXEC81, in fulfilment of the terms of reference of the Fourth Strategic Planning Sub-committee in relation to implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

6. CCEXEC82, with its membership refreshed following the elections scheduled for CAC44, should consider whether the tracking of implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 should be a standing item on its agenda, and whether this activity should be supported by a further strategic planning sub-committee.

7. A substantive discussion of implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 should take place at CAC45 as part of the first biennial review of the Plan, informed by this report and any discussion by CCEXEC.

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENT AND PROGRESS

2.1 Regional planning and implementation

8. During the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at CAC42, delegations noted the development of the plan had been an exemplary process in terms of transparency and inclusiveness which had included informal consultations with and discussions in informal meetings of the FAO/WHO Regional Co-ordinating Committees. The focus on transparency and inclusiveness has continued through the process of developing and delivering an implementation workplan. The agenda for each of the FAO/WHO Regional Co-ordinating Committees that met between September and November 2019 included a workshop session to start the development of a regional implementation plan focusing on priority activities to be undertaken in 2020 and 2021. The Codex Secretariat has supported the continued development and periodic review of each of these regional implementation plans. The current plans of each of the six regions are provided in Appendix I.

9. At its virtual meeting on 1 July 2021, the Sub-committee received presentations and written reports from each of the six Regional Co-ordinators, in which they indicated the major achievements and challenges in implementing the workplan in their region and the next steps they envisaged. These reports are provided in Appendix II.

10. There are common themes that emerge from these reports. There are common and shared challenges relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reprioritisation of work and resources within member countries. The transition to virtual working in Codex has been accompanied by increased levels of participation in Codex committees, webinars and other forums. While this is seen as a positive development, it has also had significant impacts on the workloads of the Codex Secretariat and also of Codex teams within member countries. Several regions are planning training in the use of online forums or other similar activities to strengthen their ability to work collaboratively in online forums.

11. The Sub-committee also heard of the achievements in building capacity at the national and regional levels in many regions, including through Codex Trust Fund projects, technical cooperation and other support mechanisms. Events and activities to mark World Food Safety Day also continued in 2020 and 2021 at national and regional levels.

12. Taken together, the reports and presentations from Regional Co-ordinators demonstrate an impressive range of activities that have been undertaken and are planned in order to deliver the Strategic Plan outcomes that have been prioritised in each region.

Recommendations

13. The agenda for each of the FAO/WHO Regional Co-ordinating Committees, due to meet in 2022, should include:

- the review of the relevant regional implementation plan for 2020 and 2021; and
- the development of regional implementation plans focusing on priority activities to be undertaken in 2022 and 2023.

2.2 Actions led by the Codex Secretariat

14. In the elaboration of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the Codex Secretariat, while having a supporting role in all aspects of implementation, was specifically identified as having a primary role in the implementation of Goal 3 - *Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards* and Goal 5 - *Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals*. The activities to be undertaken by the Codex Secretariat to support implementation of these goals were discussed at the physical meeting of the Third Strategic Planning Sub-committee in February 2020.

15. At its virtual meeting on 1 July 2021, the Sub-committee received an updated report from the Codex Secretariat on its contribution to Strategic Goals 3 and 5. This report included the tables of activities presented in February 2020, revised in light of discussion by the Third Strategic Planning Sub-committee, with progress updated against each of the activities. These tables are provided in Appendix III.

16. Goal 3 represents a new area of work under the Codex Strategic Plan. The communications workplan of the Codex Secretariat and the Regional Co-ordinating Committees have an important role to play in the implementation of objectives 1 and 2 of Strategic Goal 3 that aim to raise awareness and enable the understanding and application of Codex standards.

17. Information on use and impact of Codex standards is critical in understanding the value of Codex work. While objective 3 of Strategic Goal 3 is therefore important, the Third Strategic Planning Sub-committee recognised that activities to support its implementation needed further consideration and planning. A discussion paper on monitoring the use of Codex standards¹ was presented by France at CCGP32. Following that meeting, and considering the insights that the CCGP32 discussion provided, the Codex Secretariat together with FAO and WHO have further discussed how to approach this area of work. Planning is underway with the FAO and WHO Evaluation units for work on a potential mechanism to assess the use and impact of Codex Standards. The Codex Secretariat is also tracking relevant experience of other international organizations, including OIE and the WTO SPS committee.

18. Activities to support implementation of Goal 5 build on previous activities and lessons learnt during the implementation of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, as recently reported². The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the manner in which certain activities planned under Goal 5 could be implemented and a number of physical workshops had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, the goal of many of these activities was still achieved primarily through virtual events, which have included events to update and prepare Members and observers for virtual meetings, outreach with the regional co-ordinators to ensure Members were kept up to date and had channels through which to voice their concerns, and development of guidance on participation in virtual Codex Committees. The Sub-committee noted that the provision of virtual means to engage in Codex work has led to increased registration by both Members and observers for Codex committees. This is positive in terms of increasing involvement in and understanding of Codex work among the broader Codex membership. However, more time and analysis will be needed to understand how effective such participation is and how it impacts the development of Codex standards, for example in terms of quality and/or timeliness. Monitoring of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 will be carried out on a biennial basis with the first monitoring report presented in 2022 (see [Add. 1](#)). Timeliness of documents will be one of the items covered in the monitoring report.

19. Another activity supporting implementation of Strategic Goal 5 is the renewal of the IT systems of Codex, in collaboration with the Digitalization and Informatics Division of FAO (CSI), adopting recent technology to better manage and protect data, and increasing integration among the various IT systems and tools used by Codex.

20. The Sub-committee noted the assessment of the Codex secretariat that each of the activities it described was on track.

Recommendations:

21. The Codex Secretariat should report annually to CCEXEC on further progress in the delivery of activities to support implementation of Strategic Goals 3 and 5, and in particular its continuing work to develop a mechanism to measure the use and impact of Codex standards.

2.3 Food safety actions and strategy development by FAO and WHO

22. The Codex Alimentarius Commission receives, at each of its meetings, reports from FAO and WHO on scientific support and associated budgetary provision³, capacity development activities⁴ and other matters relevant to Codex, in addition to an annual report from the Codex Trust Fund. The next reports will be made available in advance of CAC44 in November 2021. Together, these reports demonstrate the contribution that the parent bodies are making to delivery of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 outcomes.

23. At its meeting on 1 July 2021, the Sub-committee received presentations from FAO and WHO on the work being undertaken in each organisation to develop their respective food safety strategies.

24. The development of a new food safety strategy by FAO is in response to a request by the 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture in September-October 2020. The Sub-committee heard that the strategy development process was at an early stage, with consultation on an early draft taking

¹ CX/GP 21/32/7 Available at 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_07e.pdf

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

³ FAO/WHO Scientific Support to Codex: Report on Activities, Budgetary and Financial Matters CAC/44 INF/2 Available [here](#).

⁴ FAO and WHO Capacity Development Activities - CAC/44 INF/1 Available [here](#).

place across FAO and WHO, including with Codex and Regional Food Safety Officers. This draft consisted of a structured, annotated outline for the strategy and identified four strategic outcome areas:

- intergovernmental and intersectoral co-ordination of food safety governance is reinforced at all levels;
- sound science and evidence are provided as the foundation for food safety decision-making;
- food control systems have been further strengthened; and
- public and private stakeholders are collaborating to ensure resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

25. The revision by WHO of its global food safety strategy is in response to a request from its member countries in World Health Assembly resolution 73.5 on strengthening food safety. The revised strategy will be submitted to the 75th session of the World Health Assembly in 2022. The Sub-committee heard that the strategy development process was in a phase of analysis, consultation and drafting which included ongoing web consultations. This process has identified five strategic priorities:

- infrastructure – strengthen national food controls;
- forward-looking – identify and respond to food safety challenges resulting from the transformation and global changes in food systems;
- evidence-based – increase the use of food chain information, scientific evidence and risk assessment in making risk management decisions;
- people-centred – strengthen stakeholder engagement and risk communication;
- cost-effective – promote food safety as an essential component in domestic and international trade.

26. The Sub-committee heard that, although the food safety strategies of each of FAO and WHO were being developed separately, recognising their separate governance structures, mechanisms were in place for frequent communication between the respective strategy development teams, in addition to formal consultation.

27. The presentations from each of FAO and WHO also set out how their proposed strategic outcome areas and strategic priorities respectively mapped onto the five strategic goals of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025. These maps are included in Appendix IV of this report.

28. The Sub-committee at its meeting on 1 July 2021 also received an update from the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat on preparations for the scheduled mid-term evaluation of CTF2, which will provide an independent external assessment of the ability and effectiveness of the Codex Trust Fund to deliver its mandate and best support its beneficiaries. The preparation of terms of reference for the review was at an early stage, in preparation for their discussion with the Advisory Group of the Codex Trust Fund in the second half of 2021. The terms of reference would also seek to address the fundamental issues identified in discussions with regions and member countries regarding the reduced number of applications to the Codex Trust Fund in the latest round, including the barriers to inclusive participation that are being experienced in our new working environment. The Codex Trust Fund Secretariat then intends to seek expressions of interest for the review, which it currently anticipates would be completed by the middle of 2022. The review would then inform discussions and decisions on any amendments to the project document for the Codex Trust Fund that defines its mandate and its operations.

Recommendations:

29. That CCEXEC81 recommends to CAC44 that FAO and WHO member countries urge the two organisations to maintain and maximise co-ordination in the development and subsequent implementation of their respective food safety strategies.⁵

⁵ WHA73.5 requests that the Director-General of WHO explores with the Director-General of FAO a method for coordinating the two agencies' strategic efforts on food safety, and provides a report on this proposed method to the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly, and through Director-General of FAO to FAO's governing bodies, as appropriate.

30. A future meeting of CCEXEC should discuss the output of the mid-term evaluation of CTF2 and assess any implications for the delivery of the Codex Strategic Plan outcomes, to inform discussions within existing Codex Trust Fund governance structures on any amendments to its project document.

	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.

	<p>of all Codex Members</p>	<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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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>

	<p>3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards</p>	<p>3.2.1 Promote coordination among relevant authorities</p>	<p>To promote communication channels enabling improved coordination among relevant authorities</p>	<p>Member countries</p>	<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. 	<p>By CCNASWP 16 in 2022</p>	<p>Test and apply use of new technologies to develop stronger communication and coordination channels within the region.</p>
<p>4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process</p>	<p>4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member Countries.</p>	<p>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</p>	<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 	<p>Regional coordinator/ Member countries/ FAO/WHO</p>	<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 	<p>a) and b) 2nd quarter and 3rd quarter (recorded sessions available on the website)</p>	<p>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</p>

		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	Improved participation in Codex standard development processes. 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 or 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 2.1.2 Establish an expert working group to address critical and	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

		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 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	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 10% increase in participation in Codex work by Members from the region by 2021	Reports on participation by the Codex Secretariat
	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 aspects such facilitating the visa process.	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 participation and possible funding	Statistics on EWG, OCS and Committee meeting participation

					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 Countries⁶ⁱ 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 countries^{7l} 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 Leon, 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	<p>On Track:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Preliminary work is underway for an FAO Case study which will consider Codex pesticide MRLs and tea.</p> <p>A narrative case study on the GPFH in Thailand is in publication and a second one on Codex animal feed texts is under preparation.</p> <p>Funding is being secured through a project funded by the Republic of Korea to develop other case studies.</p>
	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	<p>On Track:</p> <p>The Codex Secretariat</p>

	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

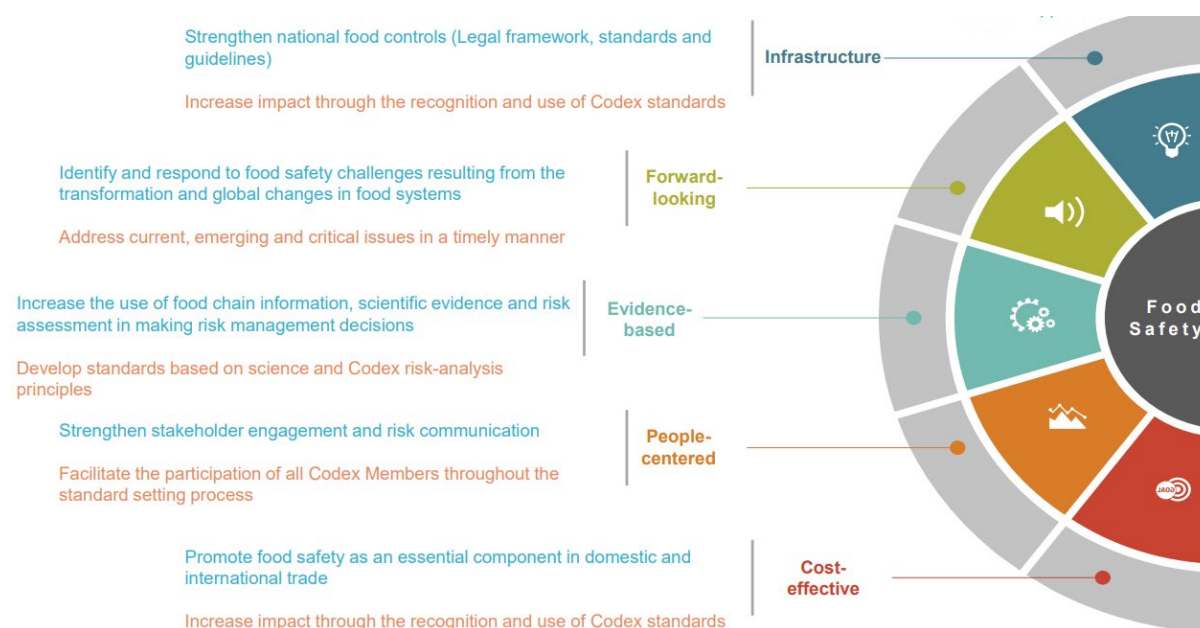
							handbook.
		Review mechanism to obtain feedback from Codex Membership	The view of the Membership on changes made is critical to ongoing improvement of our guidance and tools	Codex Secretariat	Meeting participant feedback opportunities (e.g. survey, mentimeter, sli.do etc) have been provided after each 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