**INTRODUCTION**

The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund-2 (CTF2) aims to support developing and transition economy countries in strengthening their capacity to engage more effectively in Codex work. Now in its eighth year of operation, more than 50 Codex Member States have benefitted from CTF2 support so far.

This side event will provide an update of the work of the CTF2 and will bring perspectives of CTF2 beneficiary countries in the region. The event will also introduce the CTF2 project output repository, which provides access to relevant resource material and products that have been officially shared by CTF2 beneficiary countries to serve as examples and inspiration to countries aiming to develop similar products to strengthen the core components of their national Codex systems.

**Objectives**

- Provide an update of the status and work of the Codex Trust Fund
- Introduce the CTF2 project output repository
- Share perspectives of advanced CTF2 beneficiary countries

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**PROGRAMME**

**Moderator: FAO/WHO**

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<td><strong>PERSPECTIVES FROM CTF2 BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Delegates from Kazakhstan and North Macedonia</td>
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INTRODUCTION

Codex food standards are set by the collective decision of the Member Countries. The decision making is based on scientific data and evidence submitted by countries to the FAO/WHO scientific evaluation committees including JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR, JEMNU or issue-specific committees. Countries are given the opportunity to contribute through the Open Calls for Data issued prior to the expert committee meeting. Furthermore, at Codex sessions countries need to have national positions prepared with suitable data and evidence as they contribute to the development of Codex texts.

The more data and evidence submitted to both processes, the stronger the food standards are. Data can be obtained from national data sources, including academic, scientific research results, laboratory tests, food inspection results, and/or trade statistics. However, collecting scientific data and evidence for submission to FAO/WHO scientific evaluation committees has so far been a challenge for some countries due to limited know-how and awareness about how to submit, overlooking the importance of data, lack of data generation or limited interaction with the potential data sources.

FAO and WHO invite the Members of CCEURO to discuss the challenges and good practices on how to maximize the national potentials in the region to contribute to the global food standard setting work through submission of scientific data and evidence.

PROGRAMME

10:30 - 10:35  WELCOME
Mary Kenny, Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
Peter Sousa Hoejskov, Technical Officer for Food Safety and Zoonotic Diseases, WHO Regional Office for Europe

10:35 - 11:05  THE ROLE ON EVIDENCE AND DATA IN STANDARDS SETTING WORK
Importance of data and evidence in Codex standard setting work
Raj Rajaksekar, Vice-chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO/WHO expert committees providing science to Codex standard setting
Moez Sanaa, Head of Unit, Standards and Scientific Advice/Nutrition and Food Safety Department/HEP Division, WHO HQ

11:05 - 11:40  EXPERIENCES OF COUNTRIES IN GATHERING AND GENERATING THE EVIDENCE
PANEL DISCUSSION
Sally Hoffer, Manager Safe and Sustainable Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; the Netherlands
Betül Vazgeçer, Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Türkiye
Eva Scharfenberg, Head of Data Analysis and Reporting Unit, German Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety; Germany

REFLECTION ON THE PANEL DISCUSSION
Hilde Kruse, Senior Food Standards Officer, the Codex Secretariat

11:40 - 11:55  OPEN DISCUSSION ON CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Plenary

11:55 - 12:00  CLOSING REMARKS
FAO/WHO