

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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REP22/AFRICA

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

45th Session

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REPORT OF THE 24th SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Virtual

5 – 9 and 13 September 2022

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SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Code	Step	Para(s)
Members/ CCEXEC 83/ CAC45	Comments/ Adoption	Draft Standard for dried meat	N07-2016	8	40, App III
		Proposed Draft guidelines for developing harmonised food safety legislation for the CCAFRICA region	N01-2020	5/8	67, App IV
		Proposed revisions to Section 7.2, 7.3 and 6.2 (Labelling of non-retail containers) of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Regional Standard for unrefined Shea Butter</i> (CXS 325R-2017); - <i>Regional Standard for fermented cooked cassava based products</i> (CXS 334R-2020); - <i>Regional Standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum spp</i> (CXS 335R-2020). 	-	-	24 (iv), App II
CAC45	Action	Appointment of the Regional Coordinator for Africa			91
CCMAS CCFL	Endorsement/ Information	Relevant sections of the proposed draft standard for dried meat			40 (ii)
CCFL	Information	Revision to the relevant labelling sections for non-retail containers in the <i>regional Standard for unrefined Shea Butter</i> (CXS 325R-2017); <i>regional Standard for fermented cooked cassava-based products</i> (CXS 334R-2020); and the <i>regional Standard for fresh leaves of gnetum spp</i> (CXS 335R-2020)			24 (vi) App II
Coordinator and Members	Action	Removal of the Agenda Item from CCAFRICA Agenda Paper			70
FAO/WHO and Members	Action and Information	<u>Keynote address- The new food safety strategy for Africa CCAFRICA24:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recognized the unique opportunity Codex texts presented for the continent to raise food safety standards; - noted the important role of partners and other institutions in supporting countries in being able to deliver safe food not only for the African continent but for other trading partners and - called on its Members to continue to collaborate across the region and also with FAO and WHO to raise the profile of food safety at the policy level, noting the need to seek synergies between the new food safety strategy for Africa, and those of FAO and WHO. 			16
Coordinator and Members	Action and Information	<u>Codex@60 and ongoing discussions in CCEXEC CCAFRICA24:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. encouraged Members and Observers, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex and to engage high level political support for Codex work at a national level and to consider convening a regional event to mark the 60th anniversary; ii. encouraged Members and Observers to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC (i.e. the operationalization of the Statement of Principles (SoP); the future of Codex; new food sources and 			24 (i), (ii) & 89 (v)

SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Code	Step	Para(s)
		production systems, and monitoring the use of Codex standards) through the Coordinator;			
CAC,CCEXEC Members and CTF Secretariat	Information	<p><u>Codex work relevant to the region</u></p> <p>CCAFRICA24 agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. support ongoing work in various Codex Committee that is of relevance to the region. ii. confirm that the areas identified in the paper were the key priority areas for CCAFRICA, and that the list was not exhaustive; iii. encourage members to continue participating in the various EWGs, in particular those focusing on new areas or emerging issues; iv. encourage the 14 eligible members from the region to take advantages of the support offered by CTF2, and to submit their applications to round 7. 			75
FAO/WHO and Members	Action and Information	<p><u>Food quality and safety situation in countries of the Region: Current and emerging issues</u></p> <p><u>CCAFRICA24:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FBOs and the need for continuous support from FAO and WHO to build capacity on food safety and quality in the region; - noted the significant repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine on food security in the region due to the important reliance of many African countries on staple food imports from Ukraine and/or the Russian Federation; - noted the information on the establishment of the food safety strategies globally and in the Africa region and called for enhanced coordination of the already existing cooperation; - recognized the effort of FAO and WHO in the region towards supporting the establishment and/or strengthening of national food control systems and further recognized the support provided through the CTF. 			81
Members	Action and Information	<p><u>Implementation of the Codex strategic plan 2020-2025 by CCAFRICA</u></p> <p><u>CCAFRICA24:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. recognized the progress made in implementing the Regional Work Plan 2020-2022 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the regional communications work plan; ii. endorsed the communications work plan for 2022-2024 as presented (Appendix VI); iii. endorsed the regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix VII); iv. confirmed that the existing Codex communication channels were still relevant and encouraged members to ensure formal communications from the Codex-L were appropriately distributed at national level; and 			89

SUMMARY AND STATUS OF WORK

Responsible Party	Purpose	Text/Topic	Code	Step	Para(s)
		v. recognized the efforts being made by Members towards celebrating Codex@60 and WFSD and encouraged all members in the region to start planning to ensure these opportunities could be effectively used to promote engagement in food safety and secure policy and political commitment to Codex and food safety.			
Senegal and Interested members	Drafting	Prepare and submit discussion papers and project documents for new work on the development of a standard for kethiakh; and new work on the development of a standard for tiacry.			96

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFSA	African Food Safety Agency
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
BTSF	Better Training for Safer Food
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCAFRICA	FAO/WHO coordinating Committee for Africa
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFA	Codex Committee on Food Additives
CCFL	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
CCMAS	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CCPR	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues
CL	Circular letter
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRD	Conference room document
CTF	Codex Trust Fund
CXG¹	Codex Guidelines
CXS²	Codex Standard
EWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBOs	Food Business Operators
FSSA	Food Safety Strategy for Africa
GSFA	General Standard on Food Additives
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MOH	Ministry of Health
MTIC	Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives
NFCS	National Food Control Systems
SoP	Statement of Principles
SPS	Sanitary and PhytoSanitary
UNBS	Uganda National Bureau of Standards
vWG	Virtual Working Group
WFSD	World Food Safety Day
WG	Working Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

¹ CXG is the new designation for Codex Guidelines (i.e. CAC/GL)

² CXS is the new designation for Codex Standards (i.e. CODEXSTAN)

INTRODUCTION

1. The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa held its 24th Session (CCAFRICA24) online, from 5 to 9 September with report adoption on 13 September 2022, at the kind invitation of the Government of Uganda. Mr Hakim Mufumbiro Baligeya, Principal Standards Officer, Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda, chaired the meeting. The Session was attended by 34 Member Countries, 14 Observer Organizations and eight Member Countries and one Member Organization from outside the Region. The list of participants is contained in Appendix I.

OPENING OF THE SESSION³

2. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Muhanga Mugisha, State Minister for Primary Healthcare at the Ministry of Health (MoH), Uganda, addressed CCAFRICA24 highlighting that having a safe food supply translated into a vibrant, healthy, and productive human resource, leading to economic productivity. She called for improving healthier diets through the provision of basic knowledge on food safety and nutrition. She stressed the importance of the work on harmonization of principles for food safety legislation being discussed in CCAFRICA24 in strengthening food safety and contributing to the realization of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). She noted that the adoption and implementation of global and regional standards, codes of practice and guidelines enhanced the national food safety framework.
3. Hon. Ms. Harriet Ntabazi, State Minister for Trade at the Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), Uganda, welcomed the participants recalling how Codex standards played a critical role in ensuring fair practices in food trade, so that products and services could freely circulate without having to undergo extensive conformity assessment. She concluded her intervention by calling on the region to promote regional and international trade and to support its members by speaking with one voice and one language.
4. Dr Bayo Fatunmbi, WHO Uganda, Cluster Lead, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, Mr Antonio Querido, FAO Representative to Uganda, Mr Steve Wearne, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Dr Allan Azegele, Vice-Chairperson of CAC, Mr David Livingstone Ebiru, Executive Director, UNBS, Mr Charles Musekuura, Board Chair, UNBS and Ms Sarah Cahill, Senior Food Standards Officer, Codex Secretariat, also addressed the Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)⁴

5. CCAFRICA24 adopted the agenda with the following additions, under Agenda Item 11 (Other Business):
 - Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for kethiakh;
 - Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for tiacry.
6. CCAFRICA24 also agreed to establish an in-session virtual Working Group (vWG), open to all Members and Observers, chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Senegal and Morocco and working in English and French, to further discuss Agenda Item 5, Draft Guidelines for Developing Harmonized Food Safety Legislation for the CCAFRICA Region, taking into account written comments received in document CX/AFRICA 22/24/5 Add.1 and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the plenary.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE NEW FOOD SAFETY STRATEGY FOR AFRICA⁵ (Agenda Item 2)

7. The Representative of WHO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced this item, recalling the role of the keynote address to stimulate discussion and information sharing on a topical issue of interest to the region related to food safety and Codex work.
8. The keynote address was delivered by Mr John Oppong-Otoo, on behalf of Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa, the Director of Agriculture and Rural Development, African Union Commission (AUC).
9. Mr John Oppong-Otoo highlighted that the goal of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (FSSA) was to improve public health, food and nutrition security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth in Africa. The FSSA also sought to strengthen the capacity of African Union (AU) Member States to manage food safety risks through implementation of six (6) strategic objectives viz:
 - i. strengthening food safety policy, legal and institutional frameworks;
 - ii. strengthening the human and infrastructure capacity for food control systems;
 - iii. promoting food safety culture, evidence-based advocacy, communication, information and knowledge;

³ CRD01 (opening speeches)

⁴ CRD08 (Senegal), CRD09 (Senegal)

⁵ CX/AFRICA 22/24/2

- iv. facilitating trade and market access at national, regional, continental and global levels;
 - v. strengthening research, innovation, technology development and transfer; and
 - vi. establishing and strengthening coordination mechanisms and enhancing cooperation and investments
10. Under the FSSA, the role of CCAFRICA was expected to include promotion of the use of Codex standards to manage food safety risks, facilitate cooperation and mutual exchange of information on regulatory initiatives and coordination between AU, FAO and WHO.
11. He reported that in order to fully realise the six strategic objectives identified above, the following areas also needed to be addressed: Continuous improvement of national food control systems; adopting a One Health approach; development of capacities of food business operators (FBOs); and sustained investment in the generation, analysis and use of scientific data.

Discussion

12. CCAFRICA24:
- Noted that the priority strategies of the FSSA for implementation should aim at strengthening: the human capacity in the areas of risk assessment and risk management; the National Food Control Systems (NFCS) to detect and prevent food borne illnesses; and consumer awareness with a view to creating a food safety culture within the population.
 - Stressed that to raise the profile of food safety and the importance of the work of Codex, the gathering of data and information on the socio-economic development agenda of a country should include aspects related food safety and trade.
 - Recognised that coordination between AU and partners such as FAO and WHO to harmonize approaches to providing technical support to countries within the region would greatly assist Members to leverage opportunities provided by collaboration, including the required resources.
 - Called for dissemination of the FAO/WHO guidelines for the establishment of National Food Control Systems, increased research in food safety and training on risk assessment, and investment in advocacy.
13. The Representative of FAO highlighted some of the ways to prioritize investment in food safety:
- Continuation and improvement of the collaboration among the development partners involved in food safety was needed. The Representative noted that FAO and WHO were already working together on many issues, including scientific advice, assessment and strengthening of national food controls systems, and support to countries to improve their participation in the activities of Codex and that this needed to be extended. Such collaboration would help in mobilizing resources and investment for food safety.
 - At the country level, there was need to extend collaboration beyond the usual government ministries responsible for health and agriculture to other ministerial departments such as trade, economy and finance;
 - Resource mobilization to support the assessment and strengthening of national food control systems was key and should involve the private sector.
 - Finally, this needed to be put in the context of the AfCFTA, the FSSA, and the food safety strategies at global level by FAO and WHO. In the coming years, AfCFTA would be the driver for the prioritization of investment in food safety.
14. The Representative of WHO pointed out that streamlining of capacity development activities and related interventions by the multiple partners was crucial to maximizing resources and for greater impact. She stressed that the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment tool was one of the ways for achieving this, as it provided guidance to countries in conducting a comprehensive participatory evaluation at the national level, which supported the elaboration of a national strategic plan and setting policy. This process can facilitate the development of a collective vision and common views among the development agencies and partners on who can contribute where, in line with each partners' comparative advantage.
15. In responding to questions and observations from Members, the keynote speaker addressed the role of the African Food Safety Agency (AFSA) as a continental body to provide guidance on food safety, and the third leg of the triad of AU bodies providing support on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues. The Agency aims to facilitate coordination among Members, provide recommendations on good practices, support harmonization of food safety measures and work with partners to develop food safety in the region. He also informed the Committee that the statutes of the AFSA, necessary for its launch, were currently being prepared.

In terms of working with partners, he highlighted an ongoing assessment of national food control systems in the COMESA region, which would lead to a review and possible revision of food safety policies and strategies. He further highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and peer learning, including the provision of mechanisms to ensure Members could continuously interact on issues related to food control systems and legislation. In relation to Codex, he noted that Africa would continue to work with the rest of the world in applying international (Codex) standards and that countries were committed to achieving that goal.

Conclusion

16. CCAFRICA24:

- i. thanked the keynote speaker, Mr John Oppong-Otoo for setting the context and highlighting how the FSSA complemented the global food safety strategies established by FAO and WHO;
- ii. recognized the unique opportunity Codex texts presented for the continent to raise food safety standards;
- iii. noted the important role of partners and other institutions in supporting countries in being able to deliver safe food not only for the African continent but for other trading partners; and
- iv. called on its Members to continue to collaborate across the region and also with FAO and WHO to raise the profile of food safety at the policy level, noting the need to seek synergies between the new FSSA, and those of FAO and WHO.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES (Agenda Item 3)⁶

Matters for Information

17. CCAFRICA24 took note of the matters for information provided in document CX/AFRICA 22/24/3 and noted the additional information presented and/or made comments as follows:

60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

18. CCAFRICA24 noted the plans underway by the Codex Secretariat to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex@60) including: an event in June 2023 to celebrate World Food Safety Day (WFSD), noting that the central theme of WFSD 2023 would be standards; the publication of the CODEX magazine in 2023, dedicated to the 60th anniversary, to include articles on the history of the committees, and some of the key standards that Codex has developed over the past 60 years among others; and an update of the design of Codex texts and the way they are referenced to ensure they are fit for purpose and digitally robust for the next 60 years. The Secretariat also recalled some of the proposals made by the 82nd Session of the Executive Committee of CAC (CCEXEC82) to celebrate Codex@60 ranging from the products that could be developed, the types of initiatives that could be implemented at national level and high-level events to confirm political support for Codex (which were already underway in two regions). Engagement to celebrate Codex@60 was highlighted as a unique opportunity for the region and it was agreed that further discussion on specific potential activities would be considered under Item 9.

Use of Codex Standards

19. CCAFRICA24 noted the additional information provided by the Codex Secretariat on the work underway to develop a mechanism to monitor the use and impact of Codex standards, in particular the upcoming launch of a new survey on use and impact of Codex standards scheduled for 20 September 2022. While encouraging all Members to attend the launch webinar⁷ of the survey and to prepare to respond, it was noted that the format and structure of the survey had been designed to take into consideration, among other factors, the experience gained through previous surveys on the use of Codex texts implemented in conjunction with the coordinating committees.

Ongoing work in CCEXEC

20. In recalling the ongoing work in the sub-committees of the CCEXEC, the Vice-chairperson of the Commission expressed appreciation to the regional coordinators for their commitment to this work and encouraged Members in the region to actively contribute to the ongoing work of the CCEXEC whenever opportunities arose. An observer in commending the ongoing work, highlighted the importance of maintaining a focus on critical and emerging issues so as to ensure Codex focused its efforts on developing pertinent standards for the

⁶ CX/AFRICA 22/24/3; CRD03 (Botswana)

⁷ Register for the launch of the survey at <https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsdO-ggDsqHNDB2wb79W-6cY1LMWdKI5ja>

current regional and global contexts and the need to effectively use existing Codex resources when embarking on areas of work related to new foods and production systems.

Matters for Action

Adoption of the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods and consequential amendments to the Procedural Manual

21. In response to the request of CAC44 to review the labelling provisions for non-retail containers in existing texts and texts under development in order to align with the newly adopted *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021), CCAFRICA24 considered the proposed revision presented by the Codex Secretariat for the labelling provisions of non-retail containers in the *Regional standard for unrefined shea butter* (CXS 325R-2017), the *Regional standard for fermented cooked cassava based products* (CXS 334R-2020) and the *Regional standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum spp.* (CXS 335R-2020) and proposed amendments to these standards as presented in Appendix II
22. Consideration of the provisions related to non-retail containers in the draft Standard for dried meat were addressed under Item 4.

Methods of analysis for provisions in the draft Standard for dried meat

23. CCAFRICA24 noted that the request of the 41st Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS41) on this issue would be considered under Item 4.

Conclusions

24. CCAFRICA24:

- i. noted the information provided in the relevant paragraphs;
- ii. encouraged Members and Observers, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, to plan and implement activities to build awareness of Codex, to engage high level political support for Codex work at a national level and to consider convening a regional event to mark the 60th anniversary;
- iii. encouraged Members and Observers to actively engage in opportunities to contribute to the discussions in CCEXEC (i.e. the operationalization of the Statement of Principles (SoP); the future of Codex; new food sources and production systems, and monitoring the use of Codex standards) through the Coordinator;
- iv. agreed to:
 - forward to CAC45, the revised labelling provisions for non-retail containers in the *Regional standard for unrefined shea butter* (CXS 325R-2017), the *Regional standard for fermented cooked cassava based products* (CXS 334R-2020) and the *Regional standard for fresh leaves of Gnetum spp.* (CXS 335R-2020) to CAC45 for approval (Appendix II) and;
 - inform the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) about the above-mentioned amendments; and
- v. agreed to consider the recommendations in paragraph 12 of the report of CCMAS41 (REP21/MAS) under agenda item 4.

DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR DRIED MEAT (Agenda Item 4)⁸

25. Kenya, the Co-Chair of the EWG, introduced document CX/AFRICA 22/24/4, and gave a general background to the work of the EWG, noting that its main focus was to consider outstanding issues. The Co-Chairs had also considered the comments in reply to CL 2022/04/OCS-AFRICA and prepared an updated version of the draft standard as contained in CRD05.
26. CCAFRICA24 agreed to hold discussions based on CRD05, noted the proposed editorial corrections and changes and made decisions as outlined in the following paragraphs:

⁸ CX/AFRICA 22/24/4; CX/AFRICA 22/24/4Add.1; CRD04 (Morocco); CRD05 (Update on the Draft Regional Standard for dried meat by the Co-Chairs of the EWG); CRD06 (Tanzania); CRD07 (Burundi); CRD11(Uganda)

Scope

27. CCAFRICA24 agreed to endorse:

- The inclusion of “pig” among the category of animals from which dried meat may be obtained;
- The association of footnote 1, i.e. “As approved by the national legislation in different jurisdictions” to the category of animals “farmed game” and consequentially deleted the word “farmed” with a view to make this category broader than farmed game.

Description

28. CCAFRICA24 endorsed:

- the inclusion of the various forms into which raw meat can be cut i.e. chunks; pieces or strips during preparation of during production of dried meat; and
- the replacement of the term “clean” with the proper technical term “hygienically prepared”.

Essential ingredients

29. CCAFRICA24 endorsed the deletion of the word “lean” from the section noting that not all dried meat products were prepared from raw lean meat, and further agreed to a clarification of the text to indicate that raw meat used for processing should be from a “single animal source” (one type of animal). The phrase “free from objectionable odours, foreign bodies, dirt and sign of rot” was also deleted.

Essential quality factors

30. CCAFRICA24 endorsed the editorial changes made to the section i.e.

“The ingredients shall be of good quality and fit for human consumption and shall conform to respective Codex standards where applicable”.

Contaminants

31. CCAFRICA24 endorsed the inclusion of the requirements for the maximum residue limits for both veterinary drug residues and pesticide residues.

Quality factors

32. CCAFRICA24 considered the outstanding values in square brackets, in Table 1 – Quality Requirements as follows:

- *Moisture content* – deleted the minimum value for moisture and set the maximum value at 35% m/m noting that, at this level, it is recommended to prevent quality deterioration (during storage) arising from enzymatic and microbiological spoilage. It was also pointed out that water activity is more important in terms of guaranteeing health ($a_w < 0.85$) and its control guarantees product quality and safety, while the water content depends on the type of product as well as the origin of the raw material.
- *Ash content* – set the value at 8% (m/m noting that this percentage was related to both the protein content percentage and the salt content percent).
- *Crude protein* – reviewed the values, set the minimum at 20% m/m and deleted the maximum value of 48% m/m.
- *Edible salt* – deleted the maximum value of 13% m/m and set the both the minimum and maximum values at GMP noting that not all products have added salt;

Food additives

33. The Codex Secretariat informed CCAFRICA24 that the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) had endorsed the food additives provisions, and that the proposed list of food additives had a one-to-one relationship with those in the *General Standard for Food Additives* (GSFA) (CXS 192–1995). As a consequence, a standardised text that makes reference to the GSFA was inserted to replace the list of food additives.

Hygiene

34. CCAFRICA24 endorsed the proposal to include the *Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat* (CXG 78-2011) and *Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal Salmonella spp. in Beef and Pork Meat* (CXG 87-2016), noting the importance of minimizing *Salmonella* in the raw meat used in these products so as to reduce the risk of *Salmonella* in dried meat.

Methods of Analysis

35. The Codex Secretariat informed CCAFRICA24 that CCMAS41 had only endorsed two methods i.e. the Method for Determination of Ash Content (ISO 936) and the Method for the Determination of Water Activity (ISO 18787) and that all other methods will have to be referred back to CCMAS for endorsement. The Committee was further informed that once all the methods have been endorsed by CCMAS, they would be transferred into the Codex Standard for Methods of Analysis (CXS 234-1999) and a general reference to CXS 234-1999 would be inserted into the standard.
36. Taking account of the feedback provided by CCMAS41 contained in document CX/AFRICA 22/24/2, CCAFRICA24:
- endorsed the proposals in CRD05 and retyped the method ISO 1841-1 to Type III instead of Type II, and agreed to the nitrogen conversion factor of 6.25 as proposed in CRD11; and
 - aligned the format for presentation of the methods in the Table to that of CXS 234-1999 as proposed in CRD11
37. CCAFRICA24 also agreed to the new section 9.2 on sampling.

Packaging and labelling

38. CCAFRICA24 agreed to revise the section on Non-Retail containers to align with the recently adopted *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021). CCAFRICA24 further noted the clarification from the Codex Secretariat that the labelling provisions as agreed at its previous session (CAFRICA23) had been endorsed by CCFL and any changes to the section would require endorsement and therefore agreed to retain the remaining labelling provisions as endorsed by CCFL.

Transportation and storage

39. The section on transportation and storage was deleted from the draft standard, noting that the requirements therein were already covered under the section on hygiene.

Conclusion

40. CCAFRICA24 agreed to forward:
- i. the draft regional standard for dried meat to CAC45 for final adoption at Step 8 (Appendix III); and
 - ii. the provision for labelling of Non-Retail Containers (7.2) and methods of analysis (Section 8.1 except the provisions for ash and water activity) to CCFL and CCMAS for information and endorsement, respectively.

PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING HARMONIZED FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION FOR THE CCAFRICA REGION (Agenda Item 5)⁹

41. Kenya, Chair of the EWG, speaking also on behalf of the Co-chairs, Morocco, and Senegal, on the draft guidelines for developing harmonized food safety legislation for the CCAFRICA region, introduced the item, recalled the terms of reference for the work, which had been approved by CAC42, and expressed appreciation to Members and Observers for their contributions. She provided an overview of the efforts made since CCAFRICA23 to draft and revise the guidelines based on several rounds of consultation within the EWG. She further outlined the work undertaken by the Co-chairs of the EWG to revise the guidelines, as presented in CRD03, to take into account the comments received (CX/AFRICA 22/24/05 Add1) in response to CL 2022/02/OCS-AFRICA. Finally, she recalled that CCAFRICA24 had established an in-session vWG to consider the comments received and the proposal of the Co-chairs in CRD03, noted that the vWG had addressed several outstanding issues for which recommendations were made in CRD13, together with a further revision of the guidelines, and proposed that CCAFRICA24 use this version as the basis for its deliberations.
42. Morocco and Senegal, Co-chairs to the EWG also expressed appreciation to Members and Observers for the support provided while undertaking this crucial work that was expected to have a positive impact on the regulatory processes of various countries in the region and encouraged CCAFRICA to expeditiously finalise the guidelines.
43. Noting the recommendation of the EWG Chair and Co-chairs to consider advancement of the guidelines, CCAFRICA24 agreed to consider the revised guidelines contained in CRD13 paragraph by paragraph.

⁹ CX/AFRICA 22/24/5; CX/AFRICA 22/24/05 Add1; CRD03 (Update of the proposed draft guidelines for developing harmonized food legislation by the EWG Co-Chairs); CRD07 (Burundi); CRD13 (Report of the virtual in-session working group on the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Developing Harmonized Food Safety Legislation for the CCAFRICA Region)

44. CCAFRICA agreed with the revisions in CRD13 and in addition to editorial corrections, amendments for flexibility, clarity, completeness, and consistency, CCAFRICA24 made the following comments and decisions.

Section 1 – Introduction

45. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the revisions as proposed in CRD13.

Section 2- Scope

46. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the proposal to harmonize how the guidelines were referred to and changed “this Guideline” to “these guidelines” in the Scope and throughout the text.
47. One Member questioned whether regulations should also not be referred to in the scope but with the clarification that the definition for legislation in section 4 incorporated regulations, it was agreed such an addition to the scope was not necessary.
48. Another Member raised a concern regarding the clarity of the scope and whether it accurately reflected the content of the guidelines. CCAFRICA24 thus further reviewed the scope after completing its review of the guidelines and confirmed it was appropriate, and apart from the revision to “these guidelines” agreed with the text as proposed in CRD13.

Section 3- Purpose

49. CCAFRICA24 agreed to include “risk-based” in addition to “science-based” in the first bullet to reflect the reality that both science and risk are considered in food control and to be consistent with the *Codex Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013)*.
50. One Member questioned whether the purpose should refer to food safety and quality legislation rather than food safety legislation alone. The EWG Chair clarified that the terms of the reference for the work specifically referred to food safety legislation but noted that this would also include quality when it also pertained to food safety although would not necessarily include broader aspects of food quality. In this context, it was agreed to retain reference to food safety legislation in the purpose.
51. The third bullet was revised to refer to “intra-African and international” food trade for clarity.

Section 4-Definitions

52. The definitions were agreed as proposed in CRD13, noting that many of the definitions had been derived from existing Codex texts.

Section 5 – Principles

53. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the introductory text to the principles as proposed in CRD13.

Principle 1

54. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the proposed text in CRD13 with the deletion of “top/” as unnecessary.

Principle 2

55. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the principle as proposed.

Principle 3

56. CCAFRICA24 extensively discussed the level of detail that should be included in this principle and whether it should be kept at a higher level or more general level, i.e., whether to include the text that defines the roles and responsibilities or not. However, for clarity and ease of understanding, it was agreed that it was important to provide some examples of the roles and responsibilities of some key stakeholders without trying to be fully exhaustive. To add clarity, the following addition was made to the chapeau text: “*including but not limited to the following, government, FBOs, consumers, academia, and research. Examples of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders may include the following:*”
57. Comments on and revisions to the sub-bullets (a) and (b) under Principle 3 were made as follows.
- a. The existing text was replaced with the following to provide further clarity: “*The food business operators at all stages of the food chain under their control shall ensure that foods satisfy the requirements of food legislation which are relevant to their activities and shall verify that such requirements are met.*” Concerning a proposal to include the term “primary producers” in addition to “Food Business Operators (FBO),” it was clarified that reference to FBOs included primary producers in line with the definition in section 4.
- b. A proposal to include enforcement as one of the responsibilities of government was considered but following clarification from the EWG Chair that the second part of the bullet, which referred to verification, was also intended to encompass enforcement, it was agreed to retain the text as proposed.

Principle 4

58. The title was changed to also incorporate risk-based in line with the amendment made to Section 3 – Purpose. The word “approach; was also added to clarify how science and risk are used in developing legislation i.e., “*Science and risk-based approach to legislation*”.
59. The first sentence of paragraph 12 was deleted noting that it was a repetition of the content covered under paragraph 11.

Principle 5

60. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the principle as proposed.

Principle 6

61. Questions were raised regarding the content of this principle and whether it was sufficiently explicit that equivalence was related to relations between trading partners, and the importance of recognition that, even though measures may be different, the key aspect was that they achieved an appropriate level of protection. To avoid confusion, it was agreed to remove the second sentence of the principle.

Principle 7

62. Following discussion on the relevance and clarity of this principle, it was acknowledged that the principle covered two important aspects; that food safety legislation should be developed in the context of a national policy framework and not in an ad hoc manner; and secondly that the national policy framework including the related legislation should be regularly reviewed. Noting that the focus of this principle was on policy more than legislation, it was agreed to revise the title for clarity to read “policy framework”.

Principle 8

63. It was discussed whether reference should be made to World Trade Organization (WTO) guidelines in addition to WTO principles but CCAFRICA24 agreed to retain the text as proposed in CRD13 as there were a range of different documents that supported application of WTO principles, and that the aim of the text was to highlight those most pertinent for all Members. This did not prevent Members from using other supporting WTO documents as appropriate. The only additional change was the revision of inter/intra African trade to be consistent with the changes made in Section 3 - Purpose.

Section 6 – Elements of Food Safety Legislation

64. CCAFRICA24 revised the first paragraph to clarify that drafting of food safety legislation should be consistent with the legal tradition of each member country, adding “national” before legal drafting and further clarifying to read “a member country of CCAFRICA”.
65. CCAFRICA24 agreed with the proposed elements of the food safety legislation, only noting that some translation issues needed to be addressed in the French version.

References

66. The Chairperson confirmed that now that the guidelines were finalized the references would be removed as they had only been included for the purposes of transparency during the drafting process.

Conclusion

67. Noting that all outstanding issues had been addressed and the importance of the guidelines for the region, CCAFRICA24 agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines to CAC45 for final adoption at step 5/8 (Appendix IV).

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STANDARD FOR FERMENTED NON-ALCOHOLIC CEREAL-BASED DRINKS (Agenda item 6)¹⁰

68. The Chairperson introduced the item recalling that a proposal for a regional standard on mahewu, a non-alcoholic drink made from maize and sorghum, had been presented by Eswatini at CCAFRICA22. He further recalled that the subsequent session, CCAFRICA23, was not able to consider the proposal as Eswatini was not present at the meeting.
69. CCAFRICA24 noted the agenda item could not be considered by CCAFRICA24 as the Member presenting the paper (Eswatini) was absent from the meeting.

¹⁰ CX/AFRICA 22/24/06

Conclusion

70. CCAFRICA24 agreed to remove the item from its Agenda, noting that any Member could propose its reintroduction at a future session.

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION (Agenda Item 7)¹¹

71. The Coordinator presented document CX/AFRICA 22/24/7 and highlighted aspects of Codex work of relevance to the region in particular the completed standards; the work of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF); and key ongoing work within the different Committees.
72. A Member acknowledged the support so far received from both the CTF for the training on the use of Codex web-tools and the Netherlands on twinning arrangements in preparation for the last session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). She also commended the efforts of the CCAFRICA Coordinator and AU in building capacity within the region.
73. Another Member encouraged Members to participate in the work of Codex Committees, and further requested the CTF to consider supporting Members from the region to attend CAC45 given the current economic challenges faced by countries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
74. The Codex Secretariat commended Members from the region that have committed resources towards Chairing and Co-chairing Electronic Working Groups (EWGs) and encouraged Members to participate in the work of the different Committees as identified in document CX/AFRICA 22/24/7 by the Coordinator.

Conclusion

75. CCAFRICA24 agreed to:
- i. support ongoing work in various Codex Committee that is of relevance to the region;
 - ii. confirm that the areas identified in the paper were the key priority areas for CCAFRICA, and that the list was not exhaustive;
 - iii. encourage Members to continue participating in the various EWGs, in particular those focusing on new areas or emerging issues; and
 - iv. encourage the 14 eligible Members from the region to take advantages of the support offered by CTF2, and to submit their applications to round 7.

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY SITUATION IN THE REGION (Agenda item 8)¹²

76. The Representative of FAO, speaking on behalf of FAO and WHO, introduced the item, highlighting that the COVID-19 pandemic had presented unprecedented challenges to both FBOs and competent authorities in the region to continue conducting routine food control functions and activities in accordance with national regulations and international recommendations. He also mentioned other current and emerging issues in the region, including, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the challenges posed by the conflict in Ukraine, with its consequences on food security and food safety in the African region.
77. The Representative also noted that food safety had gained prominence in the region due to the adoption of the food safety strategies of FAO, WHO and the AU, and to the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). He concluded by reporting on the results of the FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool and presenting activities of CTF projects and INFOSAN in the region.
78. The Representative of WHO stressed that the three strategies: the FSSA, the WHO Global Food Safety Strategy, and the New Strategic priorities of the FAO aimed at improving food safety in the region and that their implementation will however require political commitment from countries for increased resources to enable the strengthening of national food control systems.
79. CCAFRICA24 thanked the Representatives and noted the information provided.
80. One observer organization welcomed the work carried out by FAO and WHO in the region, highlighting the need to coordinate all efforts to eliminate food safety risks and to strengthen the activities of the different institutions that operate in the field of food safety including capacity building and awareness creation for increased investment.

¹¹ CX/AFRICA 22/24/07; CRD08 (Senegal)

¹² CX/AFRICA 22/24/8, CRD08 (Senegal)

Conclusion

81. CCAFRICA24:

- noted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on FBOs and the need for continuous support from FAO and WHO to build capacity on food safety and quality in the region;
- noted the significant repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine on food security in the region due to the important reliance of many African countries on staple food imports from Ukraine and/or the Russian Federation;
- noted the information on the establishment of the food safety strategies globally and in the Africa region and called for enhanced coordination of the already existing cooperation; and
- recognized the effort of FAO and WHO in the region towards supporting the establishment and/or strengthening of national food control systems and further recognized the support provided through the CTF.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 BY CCAFRICA (Agenda Item 9)¹³

82. The Coordinator presented the working document (CX/AFRICA 22/24/09) highlighting the efforts that had been made to implement the regional work plan despite the challenges such as those posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and noted that a pragmatic approach had been taken to achieve delivery. While not all activities had been achieved as planned, he noted satisfactory progress had been made under each of the three priority goals i.e., Goal 1 (Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner); Goal 3 (Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards) and Goal 4 (Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process). He presented some examples of achievements under each of the priority goals including; the efforts to promote engagement in priority technical areas such as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and aflatoxins under goal 1; efforts to raise awareness on Codex texts key to managing challenges to food safety during the pandemic, such as those related to hygiene and import and export certification and inspection under Goal 3; and regional online training events to support more effective participation in Codex work under Goal 4.

83. The Codex Secretariat presented the progress that had been made in the implementation of the regional communications work plan, which specifically supports Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and commended the excellent work of the region in this regard. He noted that there was still scope for improvement with currently only about half of the countries in the region active in supporting the communications work plan and presented the outcome of the survey undertaken among Members in the region to measure progress in implementing the plan (Appendix V). In terms of communication approaches in the region, email was highlighted as the most used tool, but some challenges in information sent through the formal Codex email channels reaching the relevant institutions and people in member countries were noted. The Codex Secretariat highlighted the importance of ensuring Members provide the most up to date contact details for their Codex contact point (CCP) to the Codex Secretariat and the key role of the CCP in disseminating information at the national level.

Discussion

84. Delegates applauded the progress made and the efforts of the Regional Coordinator in promoting work plan implementation despite the challenges faced and shared the following views and information:

- the value of the extensive training efforts to enhance Members' capacity, and the ongoing collaboration/ coordination between FAO, WHO and the AU with a view to maximize the benefits of Codex in the region;
- how the strategic plan also drove national level activities to contribute to its implementation and more effective participation in Codex;
- the importance of encouraging Members to generate data in the areas where standards were needed and engagement from the beginning of the standard setting process to improve ownership and use; and
- the availability of additional training on enhancing participation in Codex under the EU Better Training to Safer Food (BTSF) program to which all Members in the region had been invited and would take place in Addis Ababa from 10-14 October 2022.

¹³ CX/CAFRICA 22/24/9; CRD8 (Senegal); CRD10 (Codex Secretariat)

85. As follow-up to agenda item 3 and the recognition by CAC44 of Codex@60 being a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness and engagement in Codex work and food safety and quality, Members provided information on the various plans underway to celebrate the 60th anniversary and WFSD in 2023. These included:
- identifying and presenting a champion to promote food safety and use of Codex texts;
 - achieving high level political commitment with the aim of a key policy statement being issued in 2023;
 - engaging with food business operators to understand their challenges in terms of compliance with standards and providing guidance and education to support compliance;
 - holding media events which would engage key stakeholders and media campaigns that would reach out to relevant stakeholders;
 - holding workshops and related events that allowed amplification of food safety messaging and build interest in food safety and Codex standards;
 - advocating for more funding for Codex work and standards development at national level;
 - promoting regulator engagement with the public to share information on standards and food safety; and
 - organizing specific events such as a science day to share the background behind food safety.

Next steps

86. As the current strategic plan runs through to 2025, the Coordinator proposed to retain the focus on Goals 1, 3 and 4 and that the activities identified in the work plan be continued over the next two years. He further proposed that those areas such as a survey on emerging issues in the region, which had not been feasible in recent years, should be maintained as such information was important to planning and prioritization activities in the region.
87. In addition, it was proposed to include reference to how the region and its Members might mark Codex@60, with the plans underway in several member countries already well noted. The importance of early planning for the celebrations and striving for a concrete output were emphasized. It was also agreed to include reference to promotion of the survey on the use and impact of Codex standards (see para 19, item 3) in the region given that this could provide valuable insights on use of Codex texts in the region. Members were supportive of the approach proposed by the Regional Coordinator.
88. With regards to communication, while challenges were noted, particularly in relation to resources to implement activities and make progress that could then be shared, the value of a communications work plan with targets could motivate more countries in the region to share their experiences and progress was recognized.

Conclusion

89. CCAFRICA24:
- i. recognized the progress made in implementing the Regional Work Plan 2020-2022 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the regional communications work plan;
 - ii. endorsed the communications work plan for 2022-2024 as presented (Appendix VI);
 - iii. endorsed the regional work plan 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix VII);
 - iv. confirmed that the existing Codex communication channels were still relevant and encouraged Members to ensure formal communications from the Codex-L were appropriately distributed at national level; and
 - v. recognized the efforts being made by Members towards celebrating Codex@60 and WFSD and encouraged all Members in the region to start planning to ensure these opportunities could be effectively used to promote engagement in food safety and secure policy and political commitment to Codex and food safety.

NOMINATION OF THE COORDINATOR (Agenda Item 10)¹⁴

90. The Codex Secretariat introduced the item and recalled that Uganda had been appointed as Coordinator for Africa by CAC43, and having served for one term, was eligible for re-appointment.
91. CCAFRICA24 acknowledged the excellent work of Uganda and unanimously agreed to recommend CAC45 to reappoint Uganda for a second term as Coordinator for Africa.

¹⁴ CX/AFRICA 22/24/10; CRD06 (United Republic of Tanzania)

92. Uganda thanked the Members of CCAFRICA for their support and accepted the nomination.

OTHER BUSINESS (Agenda Item 11)¹⁵

- Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for kethiakh.
 - Proposal for new work on the development of a standard for tiacry.
93. Senegal briefly introduced the two proposals for new work in CRD09, and explained that the two products referred to, were produced and traded in the region especially in West Africa, and clarified that kethiakh was dried, boiled or grilled fish (sardinella, ethmalose); while tiacry was a cereal-based product.
94. The following issues were raised concerning the two project documents:
- Further information on producing and importing countries, along with the volumes of trade should be included.
 - Any gaps in the existing Codex Standards on fish that justified the development of a new standard should be clearly indicated; and their relationship to the proposed new standards, with particular attention to the *Codex Standard for Smoked Fish, Smoke-Flavoured Fish and Smoke-Dried Fish* (CXS 311-2013), outlined, and whether scientific advice would be required.
 - A description of the production process for kethiakh needed to be clearly elaborated.
 - Information on the existing national standards and regulations in the region being applied to both products, and the industry players in the region needed to be included.
95. CCAFRICA24 generally supported the proposals but also noted the need to ensure that the proposals were inclusive of similar products in different parts of the region. Several Members expressed their willingness to work with Senegal to further develop the proposals and in particular to define a clear scope for the new work. Senegal expressed their willingness to work with interested Members on this.
96. CCAFRICA24 requested Senegal to prepare and submit both a discussion paper and updated project document for each of the products, addressing the gaps/issues highlighted above, for consideration at its next session.
97. Following the proposal of a Member, CCAFRICA24 observed a minute of silence in honour and commemoration of the late Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 12)

98. CCAFRICA24 was informed that its 25th Session would be held in approximately two years' time and that more detailed arrangements would be communicated to Members following the appointment of the Coordinator by CAC45 and further to consultation with the Codex Secretariat.

¹⁵ CRD09 (Senegal)

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PROPOSED REVISION TO THE LABELLING PROVISIONS FOR NON RETAIL CONTAINERS**PART A - REGIONAL STANDARD FOR UNREFINED SHEA BUTTER****CXS 325R-2017****Adopted in 2017. Amended in 2020.**

New texts added are shown in **bold/underlined** font. Texts proposed for deletion are shown in ~~strikethrough~~.

PROPOSED REVISION TO SECTION 7.2 (NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS)**7. LABELLING****7.1 Name of the food**

The product shall be labelled in accordance with the provisions of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985). Furthermore, each container shall be marked with a label containing the following information:

- (a) Name of the product and grade – to be consistent with table 1
- (b) Name and address of the manufacturer and/or the trademark
- (c) Country of origin
- (d) Net weight in kg
- (e) Date of manufacture
- (f) Product shelf life
- (g) Production lot number or code
- (h) Storage instructions.

7.2 Labelling of non-retail containers

~~The information required by this Standard and by Section 4 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, the net weight of the product, date of manufacture, the production lot number as well as the name and address of the manufacturer, the packer, the distributor and/or importer shall appear on the container.~~

~~However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, and/or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.~~

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Container of Foods (CXS 346-2021).

PART B - REGIONAL STANDARD FOR FERMENTED COOKED CASSAVA-BASED PRODUCTS**CXS 334R-2020****Adopted in 2020.**

New texts added are shown in **bold/underlined** font. Texts proposed for deletion are shown in ~~strike through~~.

PROPOSED REVISION TO SECTION 7.3 (NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS)**7. LABELLING**

In addition to the provisions of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985), the specific provisions below apply.

7.1 Product Name

The name of the products covered by this Standard is «Fermented cooked cassava-based products," followed by product specific or local name.

7.2 Location of Label

The label of products covered by this Standard should be placed on the secondary packaging.

7.3 Labelling of Non-Retail Container

~~The information required by this Standard and by Section 4 of the *General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, the net weight of the product, date of manufacture, the production lot number as well as the name and address of the manufacturer, the packer, the distributor and/or importer shall appear on the container.~~

~~However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, and/or importer may be replaced by an identification mark, provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.~~

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Container of Foods (CXS 346-2021).

PART C - REGIONAL STANDARD FOR FRESH LEAVES OF *GNETUM* spp.**CXS 335R-2020****Adopted in 2020.**

New texts added are shown in **bold/underlined** font. Texts proposed for deletion are shown in ~~strike through~~.

PROPOSED REVISION TO SECTION 6.2 (NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS)**6. LABELLING**

In addition to the provisions of the *General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods* (CXS 1-1985), the specific provisions below apply.

6.1 Names of the produce

The name of the product covered by this Standard is "*Gnetum* spp. Leaves" followed by the local name as applicable¹⁶.

6.2 Non-Retail Containers

The labelling of non-retail containers should be in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Container of Foods (CXS 346-2021)*. In addition the following specific requirements shall apply:

Each package must bear the following particular in letter group on the same side legibly and indelibly marked and visible from the outside or in the document accompanying the shipment.

~~6.2.1 Identification~~

~~Name and address of exporter, packer and/or dispatcher identification code (optional)~~

~~6.2.2 Nature of produce~~

~~The name of the produce (*Gnetum* leaves spp.), if the contents are not visible from the outside. Name of the variety and or commercial type (optional)~~

~~6.2.31 Origin of produce~~

~~Country of origin and optionally, district where grown or national, regional, or local place name.~~

¹⁶ Examples of local names: Okok and Eru (Cameroon), Okazi and Afang (Nigeria), Fumbua (Democratic Republic of Congo)

DRAFT REGIONAL STANDARD FOR DRIED MEAT**(At Step 8)****1. SCOPE**

The standard covers dried meat obtained from cattle, pigs, camel, sheep, goat, poultry, donkey, horse and game¹⁷ intended for direct human consumption or for further processing.

2. DESCRIPTION

Dried meat products are a variety of dried, cured and/or smoked meat free from surface fat, bones, cartilage and tendons. They are typically made from raw meat which are cut into chunks, pieces or strips, and may be salted or spiced and then dried. The dried meat shall be hygienically prepared, uniformly cured, dried, cooked and/or smoked and the product shall meet the requirements of this standard. This description does not include edible offal.

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS**3.1 Essential Ingredients****3.1.1 Raw meat**

The raw meat used for processing shall be from single animal source (one type of meat) and its flavour shall be characteristic of that type. The raw materials from which the products are prepared shall be safe for human consumption.

The raw meat used for processing the product shall be obtained from animals that have passed the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by a competent authority.

3.2 Optional ingredients

These include curing agents consisting of food grade salt, spices and condiments and edible oil.

3.3 Essential Quality Factors

The ingredients shall be of good quality and fit for human consumption and shall conform to respective Codex standards where applicable.

3.3.1 Quality factors

The dried meat shall comply with the requirements as given in Table 1.

Table 1 —Physical and Chemical Requirements

Parameter	Requirement	
	Min	Max
Moisture content (% m/m), max	-	35
Water Activity (Aw), max	-	0.85
Crude fat (% m/m), max	-	25
Crude protein (% m/m), min	20	-
Edible Salt	GMP	GMP
Ash Content (% m/m)	-	8

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

Antioxidants, and Preservatives, used in accordance with the *General Standard for Food Additives* (CXS 192-1995) in food category 08.2. "Processed meat, poultry, and game products in whole pieces or cuts" and are acceptable for use in foods conforming to this Standard.

Use of flavouring substances should be consistent with the *Guidelines for the Use of Flavourings* (CAC/GL 66-2008).

¹⁷ As approved by the national legislation in different jurisdictions.

5. CONTAMINANTS

The products covered by this Standard shall comply with the maximum levels of the *General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed* (CXS193-1995) and the *maximum residue limits for pesticides* (CXL 2 – 2018) and/or *veterinary drugs* established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission”.

6. HYGIENE

6.1 It is recommended that the products covered by the provisions of this standard shall be prepared and handled in accordance with applicable sections of the *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXP 1-1969). The products should comply with any microbiological criteria established in accordance with the *Principles and Guidelines for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods* (CXG 21-1997) and *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CXC 58-2005), the *Principles and Guidelines for the conduct of Microbiological Risk Management (MRM)* (CXG 63-2007); and the *Code of Hygienic Practice for Low-Moisture Foods* (CXC 75-2015).

6.2 It is also recommended that animals should be slaughtered in accordance with the *Guidelines for the validation of food safety control measures* (CXG 69–2008); the *Guidelines for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella in Chicken Meat* (CXG 78-2011); the *Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal Salmonella spp. in Beef and Pork Meat* (CXG 87-2016) and where applicable, should be followed during the drying process.

7. PACKAGING AND LABELLING

7.1 Labelling

7.1.1 The products covered by the provisions of this Standard shall be labelled in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods* (CXS 1- 1985). In addition, the following specific provisions apply:

- Name of the product shall state the type of meat used, as appropriate and the local/common name¹⁸
- List of ingredients – the type of meat used shall be declared in the list of ingredients
- Best Before date.

Any additional labelling requirement, specifically pertaining to ingredients, shall comply with the requirements of relevant codes and standards.

7.1.2 Non-retail containers

The labelling of non-retail containers shall be in accordance with the *General Standard for the Labelling of Non-Retail Containers of Foods* (CXS 346-2021).

7.2 Packaging

The product shall be packaged in clean, hygienic, moisture-proof, and well-sealed food grade containers made from suitable materials that have no adverse effect on product properties. It may also be vacuum packaged.

8. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

8.1 Methods of Analysis¹⁹

Provision	Method	Principles	Type
Moisture Content	AOAC 950.46B	Gravimetry	I
Total Fat	ISO 1443	Gravimetry	I
Nitrogen*	ISO 937*	Titrimetry	II
Chloride as Sodium Chloride (≥ 1.0%)	ISO 1841-1	Volhard method	III
Chloride as Sodium Chloride (≥ 0.25%)	ISO 1841-2	Potentiometry	II
Ash	ISO 936	Gravimetry	I
Water Activity	ISO 18787	Electrometry	II
*nitrogen-to-protein conversion factor = 6.25			

¹⁸ Some examples of local names for dried meat: Aliya (Kenya); Khlii (Morocco); Kilishi (Nigeria, Cameroon, Burkina Faso); Odka (Somalia); Qwanta (Ethiopia); Segwapa (Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa), Kuna (Botswana); Mukalo (Uganda)

¹⁹ After adoption, the table containing the Methods of Analysis will be removed and replaced with the following Text, as per the requirements of the Procedural Manual:

“For checking the compliance with this standard, the methods of analysis and sampling contained in the Recommended Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CXS 234-1999) relevant to the provisions in this standard, shall be used.”

8.2 Sampling

Sampling shall be in accordance with the *Codex General Guidelines on Sampling* (CXG 50-2004).

APPENDIX IV**PROPOSED DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING HARMONIZED FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION
FOR THE CCAFRICA REGION****(STEP 5/8)****SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

- (i) Food safety is an essential component of sustainable development and contributes towards protection of public health, poverty reduction, food security, and safeguarding the environment. Food safety legislation in CCAFRICA member countries faces significant challenges including but not limited to, inadequately addressing current and emerging food safety issues, being fragmented in different government institutions and low investment for effective implementation. This may create lapses among food control enforcement agents and food business operators. Consequently, enforcement of food safety legislation has some difficulties, hence compromising efforts towards consumer protection against fraudulent practices and unsafe food products. Such enforcement challenges result in production and trade of substandard food products leading to rejections of products in the national, regional and international markets.
- (ii) Globalization of food trade compels governments to develop legislation that is aligned to regional and international standards that protect consumer health, ensure fair practices in food trade and promote integrated and innovative food safety systems.
- (iii) African governments are committed to promoting and boosting inter/intra-regional trade in agricultural commodities as emphasized in the Malabo Declaration commitment of June 2014. In this regard, it is important to harmonize food safety policies, standards and legislation as well as build the capacity of competent authorities and relevant stakeholders to ensure the protection of public health and facilitate fair practices in food trade. Food safety legislation varies among CCAFRICA member countries, and existing differences in regulatory frameworks can have negative impacts on regional and international food trade.
- (iv) Guidelines for developing harmonized food safety legislation for the CCAFRICA region, have been developed to provide guidance to CCAFRICA member countries on development and/or updating their food safety legislation. This will enable member countries to strengthen their food safety legislation and food control systems as well as develop harmonized policies, standards and legal frameworks.
- (v) These guidelines are developed in line with Codex texts and other relevant regional and international documents.
- (vi) These guidelines contribute to regulation of the food chain to assure food safety while facilitating fair practices in food trade.
- (vii) These guidelines serve as a basis for development of national or regional food safety legislation, to support Intra African and international trade as envisioned in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA, 2019) Agreement.
- (viii) These guidelines provide for the identification of stakeholders concerned with food safety and define their roles and responsibilities for effective implementation of harmonized food safety legislation.
- (ix) To attain a robust and effective food control system, there is a need for CCAFRICA member countries to invest in verification capabilities that provide the assurance of compliance to food safety legislation such as human resources, information and communication technologies (ICT) and laboratory infrastructure among others.
- (x) These guidelines should be used together with other existing Codex texts²⁰ and/or other relevant national, regional and internationally recognized documents.

SECTION 2 - SCOPE

1. The scope of these guidelines is to provide guidance to CCAFRICA member countries in developing or updating food safety legislation along the food chain including food traded nationally, regionally, and internationally.

²⁰ Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CXG 82-2013); General Principles of Food Hygiene (CXC 1-1969); Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CXG 20-1995); Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CXG 19-1995); Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016); Principles and Guidelines for Monitoring the Performance of National Food Control Systems (CXG 91-2017); Guidelines for Food Import Control Systems (CXG 47-2003).

SECTION 3 - PURPOSE

2. The purpose of these guidelines is to;
 - i. enable CCAFRICA member countries to develop harmonized food safety legislation in order to strengthen science and risk-based food control systems;
 - ii. provide the general concepts and principles governing food safety legislation that will lead to the establishment of well-coordinated national and regional food control systems; and
 - iii. promote an integrated approach to food safety along the entire food chain and facilitate intra-African and international food trade.

SECTION 4 - DEFINITIONS

3. The following definitions are included to establish a common understanding of the terms used in this document unless the context otherwise requires:
 - i. **Competent Authority** – the government authority or official body authorized by the government that is responsible for setting of regulatory food safety requirements and/ or for the organization of official controls including enforcement (CXC 1-1969).
 - ii. **Consumer** means persons and families purchasing and receiving food in order to meet their personal needs (CXS 1-1985).
 - iii. **Equivalence:** the capability of different inspection and certification systems to meet the same objectives (CXG 26-1997).
 - iv. **Food** means any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drink, chewing gum and any substance which has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of “food” but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs (Codex Procedural Manual).
 - v. **Food business:** means any undertaking, whether for profit or not, public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of production, processing and distribution of food²¹.
 - vi. **Food business operator (FBO):** The entity responsible for operating a business at any step of the food chain (CXC 1-1969).
 - vii. **Food chain:** Production to consumption continuum including, primary production (food-producing animals, plants/crops, feed), harvest/slaughter, packing, processing, storage, transport, and distribution to the point of consumption (CXC 61-2005).
 - viii. **Food control:** A mandatory regulatory activity of enforcement by national or local authorities to provide consumer protection and ensure that all food during production, handling, storage, processing and distribution are safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption; conform to food safety and quality requirements; and are honestly and accurately labelled as prescribed by the law²².
 - ix. **Food Control System** - the integration of a mandatory regulatory approach with preventive and educational strategies that protect the whole food chain²³.
 - x. **Food safety** is the assurance that food will not cause adverse health effects to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use (CXC 1-1969).
 - xi. **Legislation** includes acts, regulations, requirements or procedures, issued by public authorities, related to foods and covering the protection of public health, the protection of consumers and conditions of fair trading. (CXG 47-2003).
 - xii. **Official control** - any form of control that the competent authority performs for the verification of compliance with food law, including animal health and animal welfare rules²⁴.
 - xiii. **Requirements** are the criteria set down by the competent authorities relating to trade in foodstuffs covering the protection of public health, the protection of consumers and conditions of fair trading. (CXG 47-2003).
 - xiv. **Risk** - a function of the probability of an adverse health effect and the severity of that effect, consequential to a hazard (s) in food (Codex Procedural Manual: Definitions of Risk Analysis Terms

²¹ Food control system assessment tool, FAO/WHO 2019.

²² Food control system assessment tool, FAO/WHO 2019.

²³ Food control system assessment tool, FAO/WHO 2019

²⁴ Food control system assessment tool, FAO/WHO 2019

Related to Food Safety).

- xv. **Risk Analysis** - a process consisting of three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. (Codex Procedural Manual).
- xvi. **Risk assessment** means a scientifically based process consisting of the following steps: (i) hazard identification, (ii) hazard characterization, (iii) exposure assessment, and (iv) risk characterization. (Codex Procedural Manual).
- xvii. **Risk management** means the process, distinct from risk assessment, of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options. (Codex Procedural Manual).
- xviii. **Risk communication** means the interactive exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions, among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers, industry, the academic community and other interested parties, including the explanation of risk assessment findings and the basis of risk management decisions. (Codex Procedural Manual).

SECTION 5 – PRINCIPLES OF A FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION

- 4. In developing and/or updating food safety legislation, member countries should be guided by the principles in these Guidelines and by their legal drafting, practices, and be cognizant of the needs of the country.
- 5. It is recommended that the process of developing and /or updating a food safety legislation should be open to public consultation with all stakeholders while respecting legal requirements to protect confidential information as appropriate.
- 6. In cases where relevant scientific evidence is insufficient, a Member may provisionally adopt sanitary or phytosanitary measures on the basis of available pertinent information. Member countries should seek to obtain the scientific information necessary to reduce uncertainty and justify provisional measures.
- 7. A national food safety legislation should be based on the following principles:

PRINCIPLE 1 - PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS' HEALTH

- 8. Food safety legislation should have provisions for protecting the health of consumers as a primary priority.

PRINCIPLE 2 – THE FOOD CHAIN APPROACH

- 9. The food safety legislation should cover the entire food chain from primary production to consumption.

PRINCIPLE 3 - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 10. The administrative provisions of food safety legislation should clearly define roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders including but not limited to the following: governments, FBOs, consumers, academia and research. Examples of the roles and responsibilities may include the following:
 - a. The FBOs at all stages of the food chain under their control shall ensure that foods satisfy the requirements of food legislation which are relevant to their activities and shall verify that such requirements are met.
 - b. The government has the role and responsibility to establish and maintain up to date legal requirements and verify that food business operators comply with food safety legislation.
 - c. Consumers have a role and responsibility in managing food safety risks including products under their control and where appropriate they should be provided with information on how to achieve this.
 - d. Academic and research institutions have a role in contributing to a food safety legislation, as they are a source of expertise to support the risk based and scientific foundation of such a system.

PRINCIPLE 4 – SCIENCE AND RISK BASED APPROACH TO LEGISLATION

- 11. Food safety legislation should be informed by sound scientific evidence following the risk analysis approach.
- 12. The legislation should make provisions for collecting data, scientific information and evidence. In formulating legislation, there should be focus on a risk-based approach.⁷
- 13. Risk analysis should be applied consistently; open, transparent and documented; evaluated and reviewed as appropriate in the light of newly generated scientific data⁷

PRINCIPLE 5 - COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

14. The food safety legislation should provide for a mechanism for transparent and effective communication and coordination among the different institutions and organizations responsible for food safety along the food chain. Further, food safety legislation should have provisions to support food safety education, communication and training.

PRINCIPLE 6 – EQUIVALENCE⁸

15. The principle of equivalence should be provided for in the food safety legislation of CCAFRICA member countries. Mutual recognition, where applicable, should be applied to facilitate trade.

PRINCIPLE 7 - POLICY FRAMEWORK

16. Food safety legislation should be part of a robust national policy framework, and mechanisms for its regular review and updates should be provided for.

PRINCIPLE 8 - HARMONIZATION

17. When designing a food safety legislation, CCAFRICA member countries should aim at the harmonized approach to facilitate intra-African and international trade and protect consumer health.
18. When drafting/updating national food safety legislation, CCAFRICA member countries should consider relevant Codex texts as well as WTO principles, as appropriate.
19. In absence of specific national food safety regulations, Codex texts may be considered.

SECTION 6 – ELEMENTS OF FOOD SAFETY LEGISLATION

20. Food safety legislation should be consistent with the national legal drafting practices of a member country of CCAFRICA upon which all other regulatory instruments/ subsidiary legislation are based.
21. The regulatory instruments should be designed with the specific purpose of protection of consumer health and/or the promotion of fair practices in food trade.
22. The food safety legislation should have the following elements:

i. Title

The food safety legislation should have a title which reflects the scope and purpose of the proposed legislation.

Examples:

- a) *An Act or a legislation of Parliament to make provision for the management of food safety and for connected purposes*
- b) *Food safety Act/legislation on food safety*

ii. Citations/Introduction/preamble

The food safety legislation should contain an introductory statement that explains the purpose and implementation of the law.

Example: An Act of Parliament to make provision for the management of food safety matters.

iii. Interpretation of terms

It should provide a list of key terms and their definitions as used in the body of the legislation. The definitions should be aligned to internationally accepted texts as well as ensuring their clarity and without ambiguity.

iv. Objective of the food safety legislation

The legislation should state clear objectives including the role of risk analysis. The objectives should include ensuring the safety of food intended for human consumption, prevention and control of food-borne diseases, facilitation of food trade and contribution to the development of the agri-food sector/system.

Example: The objectives of this Act are to provide for —

- a) *management of safety of food of plant and animal origin including food-borne infections, contaminants, food-borne zoonoses and residues in food,*
- b) *establishment and regulation of facilities that process food,*
- c) *sanitary standards of food processing establishments.*

v. *Guiding principles*

The legislation should provide basic guidelines that will ensure the objectives of the law are achieved without introducing new challenges or conflict with existing legislation. The principles outlined in Section 5 may be considered as guiding principles in drafting the food safety legislation.

Other considerations may include, but not limited to integrity, impartiality, accountability, transparency fairness and conflict of interest especially in implementation of official food controls.

vi. *Enabling Provisions*

Depending on the country's legal practices, food safety legislation should define the nature and the limits of the powers to be exercised under it and designate the competent authorities in whom those powers are to be vested. The powers vested in the government or executive authority under these enabling provisions should relate to the formulation of rules for the implementation of the law and for the intervention of the authority in order to ensure that the laws and its accompanying regulations are being observed.

vii. *Administrative Provisions*

The legislation should contain a category of provisions that set up administrative structure(s) to carry out the activities necessary to enforce the law. For example, the law may establish single or multiple Food Safety Agency(ies); integrated food safety agency(ies) communication and coordination authority and/or any other appropriate agency.

viii. *Substantive Provisions*

The legislation should contain provisions relating to safety of food in the entire food chain. These include but are not limited to: risk based preventive approaches; food control requirements such as licensing, risk analysis, inspection, certification, monitoring and surveillance, hygiene requirements, prevention of fraudulent activities; food business operators' responsibilities, labelling, traceability and recall, import and export controls among others. The food safety legislation should make provision for a mechanism to facilitate performance of official controls e.g. fees, levies and charges for official control services rendered.

ix. *Enforcement Provisions*

The legislation should make provisions for ensuring compliance. This should include administrative actions, sanctions, seizure, inspection, prohibition and prosecution among others by enforcement agencies.

x. *Offences and fines*

The legislation should provide and list the specific offences it covers, either by reference or in the sections providing for fines and penalties.

xi. *Regulations*

The legislation should have provisions for the development of regulations and other measures to support its implementation. The regulations should be guided by objectives of the Act.

xii. *Miscellaneous provisions:*

The food safety legislation should make provisions for efficient implementation once the law comes into effect depending on the legal practice of the CCAFRICA member country. Such provisions may include *repeal, savings, transition, entry into force and consequential amendments*.

CCAFRICA24 SATISFACTION SURVEY ON REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

The survey received 14 responses from Members in the region and five from observer organizations in the region.

Members

Timeliness of Codex regional communications

[More Details](#)

● Excellent	7
● Good	6
● Fair	1
● Poor	0



Accessibility of Codex regional communications

[More Details](#)

Insights

● Excellent	6
● Good	8
● Fair	0
● Poor	0



Quality of Codex regional communications

[More Details](#)

Insights

● Excellent	6
● Good	8
● Fair	0
● Poor	0



Observers

Timeliness of Codex regional communications

[More Details](#)

● Excellent	2
● Good	3
● Fair	0
● Poor	0



Accessibility of Codex regional communications

[More Details](#)

● Excellent	3
● Good	2
● Fair	0
● Poor	0



Quality of Codex regional communications

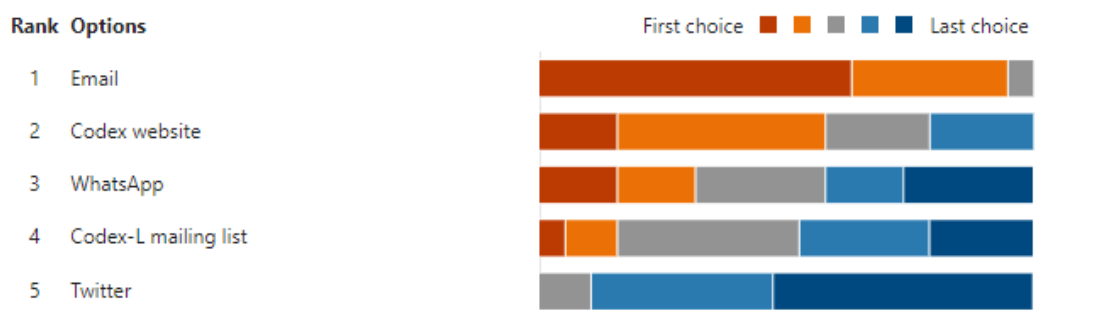
[More Details](#)

● Excellent	4
● Good	0
● Fair	1
● Poor	0



Combined Members and Observers

Rank the current Codex communication tools that are most accessible for you?



What other communication tools would increase accessibility?

- Facebook
- Activation site du CCAFRICA
- WhatsApp
- Codex Website
- Communication tools in place are effective
- social media
- Through National contact Point/ Agency
- These are sufficient
- Facebook possibly
- We should avoid cluttering communication tools as it would end up confusing members. The best and most effective is to ensure that Members share correct details of the CCP
- LinkedIn, Facebook
- Les réseaux sociaux: Instagram, ...
- Facebook
- Satisfied with what is in place
- Google notification
- Mobile text messages

Please provide any additional suggestions on how to further improve the timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications.

- Je trouve parfait les moyens utilisés, nous recevons toutes les informations en temps réel
- Improving the capacities of the Codex contact points of member countries
- Text to be more direct, concise and clear
- This is sufficient and efficient for us as Zambia
- Créer une Plateforme relative aux travaux du Codex au niveau régionale.
- To make follow up with contracting parties which are not very active
- Timelines and accessibility are okay, however, language interpretation during the session should be improved upon
- Phone calls

APPENDIX VI

CCAFRICA REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN 2022-2024

The table shows the objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCAFRICA Regional Communications Work plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”; in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards”.

Objectives	Activities	Targets	Indicators
<p>1. Reinforce and expand existing communication channels and establish clear additional channels as needed e.g., for specific work streams</p>	<p>1.1. Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and the Codex Secretariat (CS)</p> <p>1.2. Expand and strengthen existing simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. Regional. WhatsApp communications group)</p>	<p>By CCAFRICA25 80% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”</p>	<p>Number of survey responses rating regional communications “excellent” or “good”</p>
<p>2. Communicate the value of Codex engagement and use of standards in the region</p>	<p>2.1. Provide the CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region</p> <p>2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO</p> <p>2.3 Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects</p>	<p>By CAC46 10 news items from countries in the region published</p> <p>By CCAFRICA25 24 news items from countries in the region By CCAFRICA25</p> <p>50% of countries in the region have made a contribution to Codex news on the regional webpage</p>	<p>Number of CCAFRICA news stories published</p> <p>Number of countries who have made a published contribution</p>

CCAFRICA WORKPLAN 2022-2024 TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2024	Reporting mechanism	Approach
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	A regional survey to identify emerging food safety issues and needs including issues related to national food control systems, to be launched in Member Countries	A regional survey was conducted in 2017/18, which identified emerging food safety issues as aflatoxins, pesticide residues in foods and AMR. The response was 47% and there is need to upscale and have more input from members.	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator FAO, WHO Codex Secretariat	Report of identified gaps according to the FAO/WHO survey tool Increased response	Report to next session of CCAFRICA	A survey will be developed by FAO/WHO and the Codex secretariat to be implemented in early 2023 (aim to include elements in the survey that would better capture capacity needs among members – a bridge to implementation of the Food control systems Assessment Tool). Some additional information to support members in their completion of the survey may also be provided
	1.2. Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	Capacity development on food control systems at national level (strengthening surveillance/diagnosis) Creating awareness on identified issues e.g., Aflatoxin, pesticide residues, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - CCAFRICA23 report	Need to emphasize the gaps and priorities through committees and their working groups. This will ensure a timely Codex response. Initiate activities at regional level through formulation of new work proposals	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator	Increased effective participation in Codex committees / meetings / EWG to gain a better understanding of ongoing work particularly in priority areas Increased awareness of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool through the implementation of Webinar(s) on the tool	Biennial reporting of events	Promoting participation in ongoing Codex work in the priority areas (aflatoxins, pesticide residues, AMR) led by the Coordinator with support of the Codex Secretariat. Communication to be sent to all CCPs by CCAFRICA Coordinator in March 2023 requesting them to provide information on any events convened to allow for their collation. FAO/WHO in collaboration with CCAFRICA to undertake timed regional sessions in relation to the application of the FAO/WHO Food Control System assessment Tool

<p>3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards</p>	<p>3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</p>	<p>Develop Information education and communication (IEC) materials; Posters, brochures, fliers Hold workshops/ seminars/ meetings/media to educate on standards related to priority areas (see 1.2) with heavy focus on e.g., industries, institutions, government officers</p> <p>Codex @60</p>	<p>There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders These activities will contribute to raising awareness on Codex standards, thus contributing to the global use of Codex standards by different stakeholders as a reference for food safety and fair practices in food trade.</p> <p>To contribute to the ongoing celebrations for marking 60 years of Codex</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator</p>	<p>Increased awareness on codex standards</p> <p>Success regional stories in celebration of Codex@60</p>	<p>Event reports</p>	<p>It is important to link activities here with the Communications Plan adopted with CCAFRICA.</p> <p>Planned events would have to be of a virtual and physical mode to take care of the transition from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Coordinator to reach out to Members to encourage awareness raising activities at country level and/or indicate tools needed to support this.</p> <p>Members response to online survey in order to provide input to celebrate Codex@60</p>
	<p>3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards</p>	<p>Sensitize policy makers on codex standards, the requirements for their implementation and their value as a foundation to adopt/adapt codex standards in development of national food standards & regulations and application in food trade.</p> <p>Undertake sensitization events to support stakeholders to apply and eventually comply to regulations</p> <p>Respond to the upcoming annual surveys from the Codex Secretariat on the use and impact of Codex texts</p>	<p>There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders. These activities will contribute to implementation and application of codex standards</p> <p>Having data at the regional level on use and impact of specific Codex texts can help ensure activities are targeted to needs</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator</p>	<p>Increased application/uptake of Codex standards by stakeholders</p>	<p>Biennial Report</p>	<p>Outreach to CCPs by coordinator to encourage activities in is area</p> <p>Use the opportunity of the ongoing work on drafting guidelines supporting the harmonization of food safety legislation in the region to sensitize policymakers.</p> <p>Leverage on the WFSD events to undertake national and regional sensitization events.</p> <p>Leverage the annual survey on use and impact of Codex standards administered by the Codex Secretariat</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>Conduct advocacy to policy makers to prioritize codex work, allocate resources and provide institutional framework for Codex structures within member countries</p>	<p>Need to institutionalise work of codex at the national level by strengthening codex structures.</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator</p>	<p>Enhanced activities by Member countries in support of Codex work</p>	<p>Biennial Reports</p>	
	<p>4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members</p>	<p>Encourage the establishment of national Codex (expert) committees at the country level to enable active participation and timely responses to circular letters, EWG work.</p>	<p>The expert's committees will be the forum for discussion on Codex Work and contributions of countries on Codex standards</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator</p>	<p>Increased participation in EWG, PWG and response to circular letters</p> <p>Training events on Codex and modes of participation (e.g. EWG, OCS implemented at national, sub-regional or regional level.</p>	<p>Biennial Reports</p>	<p>Undertake national and regional training events on the use of Codex tools</p> <p>Encourage the eligible countries in the region to apply for CTF Round 7</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration between CCAFRICA with FAO, WHO, AU and RECs</p>