

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 11 (a)

CX/CAC 10/33/10

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

33rd Session

Geneva, Switzerland, 5-9 July 2010

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirtieth Session of the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission 2008-2013¹.
2. Part 3 of the Strategic Plan incorporates a check list that should be regularly updated for review by the Executive Committee and the Commission to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
3. The Commission is invited to review the checklist as presented in Annex 1 to this document, together with additional notes by the Secretariat contained in Annex 2, with a view to providing views and recommendations, where appropriate.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
1.1 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food safety	CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFNSDU, relevant Task Forces and Commodity Committees	Continuing	Standards related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/3 and CX/EXEC 10/64/2		
1.2 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food quality	Relevant Task Forces, Commodity Committees and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/3 and CX/EXEC 10/64/2		
1.3 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food labelling and nutrition	CCFL, CCFNSDU	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/3 and CX/EXEC 10/64/2		
1.4 Review and develop Codex standards and related texts for food inspection and certification, and methods of analysis and sampling	CCMAS, CCFICS	Continuing	Standards and related texts adopted at respective steps	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/3 and CX/EXEC 10/64/2		

1.5 Develop guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Existing relevant Codex Committees, <i>ad hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance	Completion by 2011	Guidance for safe and prudent non-human antimicrobial usage for containment of resistance	Ongoing	See ALINORM 10/33/42 Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance advanced to Step 5		
1.6 Explore innovative risk management frameworks	CCRVDF, CCPR	Completion by 2009	Reports by CCRVDF and CCPR respectively to CCEXEC and CAC	Ongoing	<u>CCRVDF</u> - new work addressing risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs with no ADI/MRL, including process to develop risk management recommendations - review all factors considered for establishing ADI and recommending MRLs <u>CCPR</u> : Revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR – See Note.		
1.7 Encourage FAO/WHO to expand capacity building programmes	CAC, CCEXEC and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/15-Add.1		
1.8 Publish and disseminate the Codex Alimentarius	Codex Secretariat, Codex Contact Points	Continuing	Publication and dissemination of Codex Alimentarius	Ongoing	Updated Codex standards and related texts were published on the Codex website and the new CD ROM (following the 32 nd CAC). Several new special publications published by thematic area.		

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
2.1 Review the consistency of risk analysis principles elaborated by the relevant Codex Committees	CCGP	Completion by 2011	Report by CCGP of completed review to CAC.	Completed	CCNFSDU risk analysis policy document adopted by the 32 nd CAC. CCFH risk analysis policy document for adoption by the 33 rd CAC. CCGP considered the review at its 25 th (2009) and 26 th (2010) session. <u>See Note</u>		
2.2 Review risk analysis principles developed by relevant Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Completion by 2013	Report by relevant Committees of completed review, taking into account the review of the activities in 2.1 and 2.3.	Initiated at the 26 th CCGP	This activity follows completion of Activity 2.1. CCGP forwarded the above review to relevant Committees. <u>See Note</u>		
2.3 Enhance communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies	CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH, CCNFSDU	Ongoing	Incorporated into report as required in 2.2.	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/15		
2.4 Review the set of criteria recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice.	CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Report of review by CCEXEC to CAC, with recommendation to better match priorities and resources	Completed	The 61 st CCEXEC agreed that there was no need to revise the criteria at this stage. See CX/CAC 10/33/15		

2.5 Encourage countries to channel their requests for scientific advice to FAO / WHO through the CAC	CAC, CCEXEC, all subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by FAO and WHO of requests for scientific advice received directly from countries vs. requests received through CAC.	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/15 See Note.		
2.6 Encourage FAO/WHO to provide training and capacity building on risk analysis for food safety	CAC, CCEXEC, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and Codex Members	Continuing	Report from FAO/WHO to CAC, CCEXEC and Coordinating Committees	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/15-Add.1		

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
3.1 Review the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities and procedures of the critical review carried out by the CCEXEC	CCEXEC, CCGP	Completion by 2009 Completion by 2011	Report by CCEXEC on analysis of the critical review process If there is need for revision, revise the Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities by CCGP	For adoption by the Commission.	The 63 rd CCEXEC agreed on proposed amendments to the Criteria.		
3.2 Ensure effective standards management	CCEXEC	Continuing	Report on compliance of standards development against timelines (associated with critical review process)	Ongoing.	See CX/EXEC 10/64/2 (critical review)		
3.3 Develop committee-specific decision making and priority	All General Subject Committees and some other	Completion of criteria by 2008	Committee-specific decision-making and priority-setting	Completed Decision making criteria	Other committees consider that the general criteria for priority setting are		

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
setting criteria	subsidiary bodies as appropriate	Review of criteria starting in 2008	criteria Confirmed review of criteria beginning in 2008	CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCMMP, CCMAS, CCRVDF Priority setting criteria CCFH, CCFA, CCCF, CCRVDF, CCPR, CCMMP	adequate. See also 3.1		
3.4 Analyse work-management approaches that facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step process	Either by Codex Secretariat or by consultant for next step (3.5)	Completion by 2009	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC on analysis of work-management approaches	For consideration at the 64 th CCEXEC	See Agenda Item 5 (in conjunction with the speed of standards)		
3.5 Adopt approaches proven to facilitate advancement of texts in the Codex step procedure by subsidiary bodies not currently using such approaches	CCEXEC and CAC	Completion by 2011	Adoption by CAC of work - management approaches.	Not yet started.	This activity should take place following completion of Activity 3.4.		

3.6 Implement priority-ranked comprehensive accounting of all requests for scientific advice	CCEXEC, CAC, FAO and WHO	Continuing	Comprehensive report by FAO/WHO to CAC on accounting of all requests for scientific advice	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/15		
3.7 Evaluate the capacity of the Codex Secretariat to perform its function effectively	Codex Secretariat, CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2009	Report by Secretariat to CAC on the staff and other key resources	Completed	See CX/CAC 10/33/11		
3.8 Streamline Codex Commodity work	CCEXEC, CAC	Completion by 2010	Implementation of the decisions of the Commission on how to streamline Codex work on commodities through an improved structure of Codex subsidiary bodies	Completed	CAC 32 decided to discontinue discussion on this subject.		

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
4.1 Track the activities of other international standard-setting bodies	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Report to the CCEXEC and CAC indicating potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the work of other international organizations	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/12 See Note.		

4.2 Encourage Codex contributions to the work of other international bodies	Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of standards elaborated by other international organisations with a cross reference to Codex standards and relevant texts	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/12		
4.3 Encourage contributions from other international bodies in Codex work	Observers, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Number of Codex standards elaborated with identifiable input from other international organisations	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/12		
4.4 Consider cooperation with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations	Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Devise the means by which Codex can strengthen cooperation with OIE and IPPC	Ongoing	See Note.		
4.5 Promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level	Codex Members, FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	Completion by 2009	Reports from members to Regional Coordinating Committees on mechanisms and evaluation criteria.	Completed	Questionnaire on inter-disciplinary coordination sent to governments and considered in Coordinating Committees. See Note		
Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members							
Activities	Responsible parties	Timeframe	Output/Measurable indicators	Current Status	Notes	Advice by EXEC	Decision by CAC
5.1 Promote enhanced participation of developing countries in Codex	CAC, CCEXEC	Continuing	Reports from FAO / WHO presenting analysis of measures of enhanced participation achieved through the Codex Trust Fund.	Ongoing	See CX/CAC 10/33/14 and CX/CAC 10/33/14-Add.1		

5.2 Promote effective use of written comments in the Codex process	Codex Members, Observers, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports by host countries on patterns of submission of written comments in response to CLs, and adherence by chairs to the guidelines for the conduct of the meetings.	Ongoing	See Note.		
5.3 Evaluate effectiveness of Codex Committee sessions held in developing countries	Host countries, CCEXEC	Completion by 2009	Reports from host and co-hosting countries documenting experience co-hosting experience.	Completed	Recommendations by the 32 nd CAC and 26 th CCGP: See Note.		
5.4 Strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees	CAC, CCEXEC, Codex Secretariat	Continuing	Reports from FAO/WHO on countries whose National structure and Codex Contact Points have been supported.	Ongoing	Reports of coordinating committees for consideration at the 35 th CAC (2011)		
5.5 Enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels	CAC, Codex Members, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports from member countries under relevant agenda items of the Regional Committees, on participations of non-governmental organizations at National level.	Ongoing A questionnaire was sent to governments for discussion in Coordinating Committees.	Reports of coordinating committees for consideration at the 35 th CAC (2011)		
5.6 Enhance communication about Codex work at international and national levels	Codex Secretariat, WHO and FAO, Codex Contact Points, subsidiary bodies	Continuing	Reports by Secretariat to CAC on increased use of audio/ webcasting, enhancement of webpages, increase use of electronic distribution of Codex materials, etc.				

Annex 2**Notes by the Secretariat****Goal 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks**

Activities 1.1 through 1.5 are ongoing activities that constitute the core business of the Commission. They are regularly monitored through the Critical Review undertaken by the Executive Committee.

Activity 1.6 specifically addresses issues on exploring appropriate risk management frameworks to be applied in developing maximum residue limits (MRLs) of veterinary drugs and pesticides by the Committees on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) and on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) respectively.

1. Veterinary drugs residues

- The CCRVDF at its 18th Session (May 2009) agreed to establish an electronic working group to (i) define the scope for the new work addressing risk management recommendations for veterinary drugs for which no ADI and MRL has been recommended by JECFA due to specific human health concerns or lack of information needed to resolve existing human health concerns; (ii) develop a process by which the Committee will promulgate risk management recommendations; (iii) make proposals on how to address the remaining veterinary drugs for which JECFA clearly identified human health concerns listed in Annex II of CX/RVDF 09/18/8 ; and (iv) propose procedures for conveying these risk management recommendations in the Codex standard setting process consideration (ALINORM 09/32/31 paras. 158-166).
- The 18th CCRVDF agreed to review all the factors taken into account in connection with establishing the ADI and the current process of recommending MRLs (ALINORM 09/32/31 para. 148).

2. Pesticide residues

- The CCPR at its 40th Session (April 2008) proposed new work on the revision of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, which would incorporate the *Criteria for the Prioritization Process of Compounds for Evaluation by JMPR* and the *MRL Periodic Review Procedure* (ALINORM 08/31/24 paras 129-133).
- The 41st CCPR (April 2009) agreed to retain the Periodic Re-Evaluation Procedure while acknowledging that there was a need to review data requirements and procedures for revocation of MRLs for pesticides.
- The 42nd CCPR (April 2010) considered a revised version that was returned for further redrafting (ALINORM 10/332/24, paras.139-152).

Activity 1.7 is an ongoing activity. Information on FAO and WHO capacity building activities is presented in CX/CAC 10/34/15-Add.1. These activities are also considered regularly by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees.

Activity 1.8 is being implemented by the Codex Secretariat on an ongoing basis, including through the Codex website. All Codex Contact Points play an important role in effective distribution and dissemination of the Codex Alimentarius at the national level.

Goal 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

Activity 2.1 - The risk analysis policy document developed by the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) was adopted by the 32nd Commission (2009). The Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) finalised the *Proposed Draft Risk Analysis Principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene* (ALINORM 10/33/13 para. 150 and Appendix VII) for adoption by the 33rd Commission.

The 25th Session of the Committee on General Principles (2009) had a general discussion on this activity and confirmed the timeline of work to complete the review by 2011 (ALINORM 09/32/33, paras. 91-98). The 26th Session considered a review of risk analysis principles and in conclusion agreed that risk analysis

policies developed by Codex committees were generally consistent with the *Working Principles for Risk Analysis*, which complied with the mandate given to the Committee under Activity 2.1. The Committee also agreed to forward the review presented in CL 2010/1-GP to the committees concerned for their consideration and review of their risk analysis policies, which would initiate **Activity 2.2** of the Strategic Plan. (ALINORM 10/33/33, para. 55).

Activity 2.2 has been initiated concurrently with the completion of Activity 2.1.

Activity 2.3 aims at enhancing communication among relevant Codex subsidiary bodies (as risk managers) and the FAO/WHO scientific expert bodies (as risk assessors) in accordance with paragraph 38 of the *Working Principle for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius*. This Activity is closely related with Activity 2.2. CCFA, CCCF, CCPR, CCFH and CCRVDF maintain communication with relevant scientific expert bodies in accordance with the existing risk analysis policy and/or established practice.

Activity 2.4 relates to the following criteria recommended to FAO and WHO by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 05/28/3 para.75):

Criteria to be Used by FAO and WHO for Prioritization of Requests by Codex for Scientific Advice:

- *Relevance in relation to the strategic objectives and priorities as defined in the Strategic Plan;*
- *Clear definition of the scope and objective of the request as well as clear indication of the way in which the advice will be used in the work of Codex;*
- *Significance and urgency to the development or advancement of Codex texts taking into account public health and/or food trade relevance of the issue and the needs of developing countries;*
- *Availability of scientific knowledge and data required to conduct the risk assessment or to elaborate the scientific advice;*
- *High priority assigned by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.*

The 61st Session of the Executive Committee noted the view of FAO and WHO that the current criteria were useful and appropriate and agreed that there was no need to revise the criteria at this stage. FAO and WHO are currently using these criteria, as mentioned in CX/CAC 10/33/15.

Activity 2.5 is an ongoing activity. Document CX/CAC 10/33/15 provides a list of requests for scientific advice addressed to FAO and WHO. All requests for scientific advice directly related to Codex work in 2009-2010 originated from Codex subsidiary bodies. Some other expert meetings not directly related to Codex work were organised by FAO/WHO.

Activity 2.6 is an ongoing activity. Capacity building activities on risk analysis undertaken by FAO and WHO are presented in CX/CAC 10/33/15-Add.1. These activities are also considered regularly by FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees.

Goal 3: Strengthening Codex Work-Management Capabilities

Activity 3.1 - The 61st Session of the Executive Committee agreed that it was premature to make concrete proposals on how to initiate review of these criteria and procedures and decided to revisit the matter after the Executive Committee had gained more experience in the conduct of the critical review (ALINORM 08/31/3A, para.133). Guidance on the application of the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* was forwarded by the 63rd CCEXEC to the Commission for adoption (ALINORM 10/33/3, Appendix II).

Activity 3.2 is an ongoing activity and will be considered under Agenda Item 2 of the CCEXEC.

Activity 3.3 has been completed as committees concerned have considered this question and provided a reply, whether they developed specific criteria or confirmed that the use of the general criteria was adequate. See also Activity 3.1 above.

Activity 3.4. A review of work management approaches is presented under **Agenda Item 5. Study on the speed of the Codex standard-setting process** in conjunction with the analysis of the speed of standards, following the recommendations of the 63rd CCEXEC. **Activity 3.5** should follow Activity 3.4.

Activity 3.6 is ongoing. Updated information on the provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO is presented in CX/CAC 10/33/15.

Activity 3.7 will be considered under Agenda Item 4 b) of CCEXEC.

Activity 3.8 is completed. The 31st Session of the Commission adopted the *Procedures for Conversion of Regional Standards into Worldwide Standards*. As regards the “Consideration of merging or dissolving existing committees” the 32nd Session of the Commission decided to discontinue discussion on this subject (ALINORM 09/32/REP, paras. 223-228). Guidance on the application of the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* was forwarded by the 63rd CCEXEC to the Commission for adoption (see 3.1).

Goal 4: Promoting Cooperation between Codex and other relevant international organizations

General Note: Following the request of the 63rd CCEXEC, the information in document CX/CAC 10/33/12 will be presented to follow Activities 4.1 to 4.3.

Activity 4.1 is implemented through the consideration of a working paper (CX/CAC 10/33/12) and several information documents at the Commission. The information on the work of OIE, WTO, IAEA and ISO is presented at each session of the Commission, while the information on the work of other international organizations is presented to the Commission when relevant.

Activity 4.2 is implemented through the participation of the Codex Secretariat in relevant meetings of other international standards setting organizations either regularly or as required for subjects of specific interest, or through written contribution, mainly to draw the attention of other organizations to the existing or ongoing Codex work.

Activity 4.3 : The 28th Session of the Commission encouraged the OIE to actively participate in Codex standards setting through the work of several subsidiary bodies, while other organizations such as the UNECE have been participating in the work of a specific Codex subsidiary body.

Activity 4.4 The *Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts* provide the framework for cooperation with IGOs. Information on the cooperation with OIE and IPPC will be provided at the Commission.

Activity 4.5 was undertaken by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees between October 2008 and March 2009, following the recommendation of the 31st Session of the Commission. The reports of the Committees were considered by the 62nd CCEXEC and 32nd Commission (2009).

Goal 5: Promoting Maximum and Effective Participation of Members

Activity 5.1 is an ongoing activity. The FAO/WHO Trust Fund report is presented in CX/CAC 10/33/14.

Activity 5.2 will start with a consultation between the host governments and the Codex Secretariat to identify steps to be followed, such as reviewing the current submission and consideration of written comments in Codex committees. A survey for this purpose could take place in 2010.

Activity 5.3 was considered by the 32nd Session of the Commission, which made some practical recommendations (ALINORM 09/32/REP, paras. 157-168). The Committee on General Principles proposed to the Commission to amend the *Guidelines for Host Governments of Codex Committees and ad-hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces* and agreed that the Codex secretariat would create a specific page on co-hosting on the Codex website (ALINORM 10/33/33, para. 98, Appendices V and VI).

Activity 5.4: reports from the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to be held in 2010-2011 will be presented to the 34th Session of the Commission in 2011. This Activity is supported by Activity 5.6.

Activity 5.5: reports from the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to be held in 2010-2011 will be presented to the 34th Session of the Commission in 2011.

Under **Activity 5.6**, the Codex Secretariat is redesigning the website in order to improve its functionality and include interactive functions. An update will be provided to the CCEXEC and Commission. Audio visual and other relevant materials have been produced to support the activity of Codex Contact Points. A regular Codex newsletter is currently issued. Regional Coordinators have established websites for coordinating committees.