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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

20th Session

Yaoundé, Cameroon, 29 January - 1 February 2013

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION**

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building implemented since the 19th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2. Under their respective mandates, goals and work plans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4. Furthermore, FAO and WHO capacity development activities also contribute to the Strategic plan for the CCAFRICA.

3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:

- Upgrading the capacity of developing member countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
- Enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
- Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.

4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided below in tables shown in paragraphs 11 and 12 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at <http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/home-page/en/>, <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/en/>, <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm>, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/capacity/en/> and <http://www.wpro.who.int/foodsafety/en/index.html>.

5. Important information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 35th Session of CAC and is available in CX/CAC 12/35/14 Add.1 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CAC/cac35/cac35_14_add1e.pdf). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials (e.g. guidelines, manuals and online resources), key initiatives, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include ongoing work on dealing with food safety emergencies, risk-based food inspection including imported food control, undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG), adoption of safe food practices by food chain operators, science based food safety systems, improved guidance on evidence based food safety policy making, assessment and planning for national food safety programmes and consumer education. In addition, all relevant information on scientific advice activities performed by FAO and WHO can be found at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/cac/cac35/cac35_14e.pdf, as a useful base to support the development of national food control programmes and science and risk based food safety standards.

Specific focus on regional initiatives

6. Joint FAO and WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners for the period in question appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which are submitted to the 67th Session of the CCEXEC and the 35th Session of the CAC (http://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CAC/cac35/cac35_13e.pdf).

7. Specific to the forthcoming 20th Session of CCAFRICA, FAO and WHO with funding from the CTF are holding a pre-CCAFRICA training workshop on “National food control systems” in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 28th January 2013. The expected outcome of the workshop is to increase participants’ understanding of the principles guiding the design and operations of national food control systems. The workshop will facilitate the exchange of successful experiences in this regard, especially in a context of scarcity of public funds and important capacity development needs that characterize the majority of African countries.

8. FAO and WHO are conducting a series of activities to strengthen food safety and veterinary community capacities to address the issues related to food borne pathogen contamination, the emergence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the associated human public health concerns. More specifically for Africa, FAO and WHO, in collaboration with the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) have recently completed a project to strengthen national/regional policies, capacities and systems for the detection, monitoring, regulation and management of food-borne pathogen contamination and AMR risks in the poultry, beef and pig value chains. The initiative has also generated data to support risk management decisions and the strengthening of national/regional food borne pathogen contamination and AMR surveillance. The participation of the East African Community (EAC) in the project highlights the importance of raising awareness at regional level on the valuable work done in Kenya so to contribute to the harmonization of policies and regional integration of processes addressing food-borne pathogen contamination and AMR. FAO and WHO are committed to work with key international partners, member governments, and food chain operators to ensure the microbiological safety of food and combat AMR.

9. Many countries continue to face challenges in upgrading national food inspection activities to make the “transition” to risk-based food inspection systems. A cornerstone FAO document “Risk-based food inspection manual” was published in 2008, and has been used in a range of training and in-country activities. Continuous engagement with member countries through FAO’s project work has identified the specific need for additional guidance on control and inspection of imported foods. In response to this an “Imported Food Control Manual” – consistent with the CCFICS texts is in its finalization stage. The manual aims to assist official authorities in the assessment, review and development, of national imported food control programmes – to help bridge the gap between principles and implementation. The new guidance is being field tested in Gabon, and has been prepared on the basis of fact finding missions and training sessions held in Angola, Côte d’Ivoire and Guinea.

10. Strengthening the adoption of safe food practices by food chain operators remains a priority for the region. Achieving safe food production is reliant on the adoption of safe food practices by those producing, handling and preparing foods – including farmers, processors, transporters, retailers and distributors, food handlers in restaurants, hotels, and the final consumer. A range of technical assistance activities are available from FAO and WHO – to promote the adoption of appropriate GAPs, GHPs and food safety management systems taking into account relevant Codex standards and codes of practice. Recent examples of FAO training to strengthen priority value chains include: 1) a series of national training workshops in Tanzania with an emphasis on the cashew, tomato, maize and poultry value chains to establish a group of food safety trainers from the public sector, from the academic community and from key private sector groups; and 2) a sub-regional workshop in Rwanda for government officials, food processors and members of academia and research on strengthening milk, passion fruits, rice and maize production from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda.

11. In planning and implementing these activities to improve specific value chains, the needs of the target group in terms of specific technical skills and know-how and consideration of the broader context of the enabling environment are addressed. Guidance from relevant Codex standards and codes of practice for these value chains is included in the training materials.

For long term and step-wise improvement for adoption of safe food practices, it is essential to work with concerned stakeholders at national and local levels from public and private sectors to identify weaknesses in the management of food safety in specific sectors and in formulating strategies that promote the application of Good Hygienic Practices and ensure compliance with national and international food safety requirements.

12. FAO has embarked on a 4-year project (funded by the EC) to develop a systematic methodology for collecting and analyzing data and information to inform improved food safety policy making. The need for more systematic, transparent and evidence based approaches to decision making in relation to investment in public food control and food safety programmes has emerged from FAO’s experience in capacity development at country level as well as through interaction with other international organizations. A key pillar

of this of this work is to use the multi-criteria decision making approach (MCDA) to ensure that food safety decisions take account of all relevant criteria, a clear overview of the costs, and understand the implications and consequences of food safety decisions.

To develop the methodology and gain a better understanding of the context for food safety decision-making and available data, FAO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, related line ministries and WHO FERG initiative in Uganda. A multi-stakeholder meeting will take place from 26 – 28th November 2012 to review and analyse the findings of two studies “situation analysis” and “burden of disease” and to discuss the national drivers which determine food safety priorities. The long term goal of this work is to provide food safety decision-makers with the tools which allow them to identify and consider all relevant factors according to their importance for their particular country and population would improve the transparency of the decision making process and facilitate decision making with a positive overarching cost-benefit ratio. .

13. Relevant FAO and WHO tool on safe food practices include:

- FAO training materials on GAPs – integrated to Farmer Field School programmes (<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/ipm/en/>)
- WHO 5 keys to growing safer fruits and vegetables (http://www.who.int/foodsafety/consumer/5keys_growing_safer/en/index.html)
- FAO tool on Good Hygiene Practices along the Food Chain – a practical resource for food safety trainers of small and medium sized businesses, under development (<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/food-safety-quality/publications-tools/en/>)
- WHO regional office for Africa: guidelines for developing and implementing a National food safety policy and Strategic Plan World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa Brazzaville 2012. <http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/hpr/food-safety-and-nutrition-fan.html>
- WHO Regional Office for Africa. Manual for Integrated Foodborne Disease Surveillance in the WHO African Region World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa Brazzaville 2012. <http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/hpr/food-safety-and-nutrition-fan.html>
- Food safety incorporated into IDSR which is now reporting food-related outbreaks in the outbreak bulletins

14. FAO and WHO participated at the continental workshop of African food safety specialists on the establishment of a Food Safety Authority at the African Union and of a Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed-RASFF which took place in Kigali on October 29-30, 2012. Joint presentation was made on INFOSAN and material provided on both INFOSAN and EMPRES Food Safety. FAO and WHO are supportive of this initiative which hopefully will contribute to raising the profile of food safety in AU priorities.

15. WHO worked in close collaboration with UNICEF, FAO, WFP, European Union, West Africa Health Organisation (WAHO), Comité Inter-Etat pour la Lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel (CILSS), Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH), Micronutrient Initiative (MI), The African Union (AU), New Programme for Africa's Development (NEPAD), to address food safety and nutrition in the African Region including the food crises in the Sahel Region and the Horn of Africa. The AU/EU programme on Better Training for Safer Food and AU/IBAUR were provided technical support by WHO/AFRO.

16. Activities completed or ongoing in terms of Regional/ National events organized in the Region since the nineteenth Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa are detailed in the following table.

REGIONAL EVENTS/ ACTIVITIES

| Activity | Organizers | Dates | Venue |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Regional workshop on SPS and food safety issues in Tanzania for all countries in the Codex African group: - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda | FAO/EAC | 20-21 June 2011 | Arusha, Tanzania |
| National workshop on 'Policy Options to Improve Microbiological Safety' in the meat (poultry, beef and pork) value chain in Kenya | FAO/WHO | June 2012 | Nairobi, Kenya |
| National workshop – preventing and reducing aflatoxin contamination of the maize value chain in Kenya | FAO/UoN | September 2011 | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Sub- regional FAO/WHO workshop on risk analysis for UEMOA countries | FAO/WHO/INRAB | December 2011 | Cotonou, Benin |
| Regional workshop on quality linked to geographical | FAO/OAP | December | Conakry, |

| Activity | Organizers | Dates | Venue |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| origin | | 2011 | Guinea |
| EAC/FAO/WHO workshop on strengthening Codex Alimentarius work in the region | FAO/WHO | 26-27 September 2011 | Nairobi, Kenya |
| Regional training workshop on pesticide MRLs in Africa region, 20 participants (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia). The objectives of the workshop was to strengthen the capabilities of scientists from developing countries in the techniques of pesticide evaluation for the establishment of MRLs and to update their knowledge of the assessment of risks associated with dietary intake of pesticide residues. | FAO, in partnership with USDA | 6-10 June 2011 | Accra, Ghana |
| Regional seminar on Quality linked to geographical origin, with 17 African countries (mostly French speaking), members of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI). The objective was to share the experiences of countries in this field, and discuss the needs and perspectives for the development of geographical indications. | FAO in partnership with OAPI | 8-10 December 2011 | Conakry, Guinea |
| Pilot study on the possibility of creating formal linkages between street food vendors and public/private institutions | FAO | Ongoing | Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Mali |
| A sub-regional workshop on food safety (focused on milk, passion fruits, rice and maize value chains) | FAO | 8-10 May 2012 | Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Uganda. |
| A sub-regional Codex workshop with the EAC countries on increased private sector involvement in preparing national and regional positions on Codex issues within the EAC Partner States. | FAO/WHO | 5-7 December 2012 | Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi |
| Global Food infections Network (GFN) Level III Foodborne Infections Network training course on laboratory-based foodborne disease surveillance for Indian Ocean Island States | WHO, Pasteur Paris and Pasteur, Madagascar | 1-11 March 2012 | Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles |
| Global Food infections Network (GFN) Levels I and II Foodborne Infections Network training course on laboratory-based foodborne disease surveillance for West African countries | WHO in collaboration with the Medical Research Council, Banjul, The Gambia | Banjul, The Gambia 14-18 January 2013 | |

17. FAO /WHO continued their technical assistance activities in the region: enhancing food safety by strengthening national food control systems. Components of activities include; technical support to enhancing food safety policy, management and regulatory framework; strengthening of national Codex committees, strengthening of foodborne disease and food contamination surveillance/ monitoring; strengthening laboratories, training for food inspectors, development of food safety emergency response plans, responding to food safety emergencies, supporting in coordination of food safety within departments in countries, food safety concerns during disasters, managing the food safety aspects of mass gatherings and consumer food safety education projects.

| Projects/Direct Assistance to Countries | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | City/Country | Status |
| Projects, under the FAO-TCP programme, on strengthening National Codex Committees, as well as their role within the national food control systems | Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Angola | Closed end of 2011. |
| FAO/WHO project on data collection on sorghum contamination by mycotoxins | Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Sudan | Ongoing |
| Strengthening the national SPS legal framework, and strengthening national Codex committees, under the FAO- TCP programme, and follow up under One programme in collaboration with WHO and UNIDO | Cape Verde | TCP closed in 2011; and one UN programme in pipeline. |
| Strengthening the national Codex Committee (TCP Facility)– follow up to the previous assistance under the global SPS TCP project. | Cape Verde | Implemented From January 2012 to August 212- closed |
| TCP Facility to promote consumption of safe food and market hygiene in Praia, Cape Verde | Cape Verde | Ongoing |
| Support to the creation of a national Codex Committee , under the FAO- TCP facility programme | Gabon | Closed in 2011 |
| Formulation of FAO TCP projects on strengthening National Codex Committee as well as strengthening the regulatory framework for food control | Republic of Congo and Guinea Bissau | Formulated, waiting for priority setting by Government and funding |
| Formulation of FAO TCP in Comoros to strengthen the National Codex Committee | Comoros | Ongoing |
| FAO TCP project to support the CCAFRICA coordination, as well as the national Codex committees in Gabon and Central African Republic | Cameroon, Gabon and Central African Republic | Approved |
| FAO TCP programme to strengthen capacities in Risk analysis | Mali | At approval stage |
| Technical and financial assistance to the Ghana Health Service (GHS) in implementation of the Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures with regard to food safety management through revision of the food safety component of the GSOP to ensure compliance with the Codex Code of Hygienic Practices for pre – cooked and cooked foods in Mass Catering (CAC/RCP 39-1993) and relevant Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice. (FAO) | Ghana | On-going |
| FAO technical and financial assistance for development of National Food Safety Policy for Ghana | Ghana | On-going |
| MTF/GHA/033/STF “Developing a combined e-Learning Curriculum and Information Platform on Food Standards as a Contribution to Up-grading Food Quality and Safety Assurance Systems in Developing Countries”. This work is in collaboration with the University of Cape Coast and the South African Institute for Distance Education (Saide). | Ghana | On-going |
| Developing smallholder farmers capacities to produce safe and quality horticulture produce for local and regional markets, through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) Integrated Production and Pest Management Programme in West Africa (FAO) | Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal | 2011-2012 |

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| FAO/ WHO project on “Improving Food Safety in the Poultry, Pork and Beef Value Chains in Kenya” | Kenya | 2010-2012. Completed |
| FAO TCP programme on “Management and Control of Aflatoxin in the Maize Value Chain: Empowering the National Food Safety Coordinating Committee” | Kenya | Implementation starting |
| Capacity building for South African professionals in food safety, in collaboration with the Department for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (FAO project) | South Africa | ongoing |
| FAO TCP on quality linked to geographical origin: identification and qualification of pilot products. | Benin | In pipeline |
| National training of trainers (ToT) course on food safety and quality assurance in Tanzania –under the ‘One UN’ initiative (FAO) | Tanzania | Ongoing since 2011-2012 |
| Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction (GCP/INT130/EU) - Work on food safety policy development working with Uganda as a pilot country | Uganda | Ongoing |
| FAO TCP Facility project for the development of a food composition table of traditional food in Zimbabwe | Zimbabwe | In pipeline |
| Rwanda – One Un proposal component for strengthening the legal and institutional framework for food control systems, under FAO lead technical role | Rwanda | In pipeline |
| STDF sub regional project on total diet studies – implemented by FAO | Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin, Mali | Project proposal at application stage |
| The Five Keys to Safer Food has been incorporated into the joint UN agencies project on school feeding with WHO/AFRO support | Cape Verde | 2011 |

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| WHO/AFRO supported the adaptation and implementation of training manuals and guidelines for nutrition and/or food safety including healthy food market guide, nutrition and food hygiene in schools, HACCP, the 5 keys manual and Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition | Chad, Gabon, Guinea, Togo, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Mali, Mauritania, The Gambia | 2011-2012 |
| WHO is supporting several research projects on the aetiology, sources of contamination, antimicrobial resistance and risk factors for foodborne diseases jointly with CDC and other partners. | Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia | Kenya study completed but rest ongoing |
| WHO supported the review of the training modules on foodborne disease surveillance and to organize training on laboratory foodborne disease surveillance | Guinea | 2011-2012 |
| WHO and partners supported to finalization or drafting their national food safety policies | The Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya and Uganda | 2011-2012 |
| WHO/AFRO supported the drafting Bills on food safety. | The Gambia and Namibia | 2010-2011 |
| WHO/AFRO in collaboration with FAO; to elaborate action plan on Food safety interventions in Markets and to develop a video on Food safety. | Congo, Gabon | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO: supported development of IEC materials on the WHO Five Keys to Safer Food and the 3 Fives for African Cup of Nations. . | Gabon | 2011-2012 |
| WHO/AFRO: elaboration of a logical framework for strengthening of their national food control system within the framework of the joint UN programme. | Cape Verde | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO: supported organization of a series of trainings of food inspectors and laboratory technicians in food control (HACCP) and surveillance of food borne diseases. | Guinea | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO: Healthy Food Market pilot programmes were established. | Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo | Completed |

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| WHO/AFRO: The WHO Five Keys to Safer Food messages were incorporated in the New WHO Growth Chart | Benin | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO: IEC activities using the WHO Five Keys to Safer Food and the Five Keys to growing safer fruits and vegetables. In Senegal the two keys were combined for the first time. | Benin, Chad, Congo, Senegal | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO and FAO: National workshops to revitalize the National Codex Alimentarius Committees and development of plans. | Gabon and Congo | Completed |
| WHO/AFRO: Supported countries in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel Region and others to address the health impact of the food crisis and other emergencies | Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Gambia. Guinea | Ongoing |

18. The challenges identified during the implementation of capacity building include;

- There is a strong driver at regional level for harmonization of legislations within regional economic groupings; however the complexity for legal texts related to national, regional and international hierarchy becomes an issue requiring very specialized legal skills that are not always available in the region. An additional issue relates to the fact that some countries belong to different regional economic groupings at the same time and this adds up a level of complexity.
- At national level, all food control systems involve multiple authorities, with some varying degree of integration, requiring a strong coordination. One specific challenge lies in the fact that the roles and responsibilities of each authority are not always well defined, adding to the fact that the institutional and legal mechanisms for a an efficient coordination also need to be defined. This impacts heavily of the efficiency of the food control system.
- Linking good practices in primary production to an overall approach of food safety along the chain still needs to be strengthened. This is also partly related to frequently fragmented food control systems and disconnect between authorities having oversight on specific agricultural input (e.g. pesticide registration and quality control; veterinary drugs...) and food safety authorities, with no overall coordination body.
- Countries generally have both regulations (sanitary and technical) co-existing with a system of voluntary standards. The specific contribution of these different types of texts to a improved food safety and quality are not always well perceived, not is the role of inspection and certification bodies in this context. The role and use of Codex standards as a basis for elaborating national regulations or standards also need further work.
- At national level, food control strategies should be risk or evidence based. To this purpose, baseline data and background information on food contamination, fraud, foodborne disease, food contaminants, status of antimicrobial resistance in the food supply etc should be used. Countries are reporting a lack of such baseline data – however, in a number of cases such data actually exists, even if partially, but this is not known by all potential users.
- Official inspections are still to a great extent happening on a routine basis. In a context of general lack of resources, both in terms of number of staff, transportation means, and tools to perform meaningful inspection, their impact is therefore greatly reduced. There is strong need to move towards risk based inspection programmes, but this requires specific skills, and the appropriate legal and regulatory basis that are still too often missing.
- The access to appropriate analytical resources is still under development and countries often need, for specific analysis to contract laboratories outside of the region, at a high cost. The transportation network which still weak at the regional level also contributes to these difficulties in accessing

specific high quality analytical services. While specific programmes and agencies are working on this aspect, there is also a need for a better integration of the analytical tool as a whole with the food control strategy, for an improved sustainability.

- Food safety emergency response systems are still very weak.
- A “twin track” food control system is still often to be observed, where commodities for export are benefitting from official sanitary certification and control staff that are better trained and equipped, while the domestic market has yet to observe the benefits of resource intensive projects targeting the export market.
- A majority of consumers is still relatively unaware of basic food safety messages. In parallel, in some countries a growing middle income urban class is becoming more sensitive to eating safe food but doesn't trust the “standard supply” and for whom specific private standards represent the only solution.

19. Looking ahead, priorities for the coming year in the region, which may be implemented jointly by FAO and WHO, or in association with other partner organizations, aim at strengthening national food control systems in African countries, including:

- Provide expertise in the drafting of SPS compliant laws, regulations, standards and facilitating regional harmonization and understanding, ensuring that the Regional Economic Agreement legal texts in that area are compatible with agreements subscribed at international level by their memberships.
- Support national Codex programmes (including setting up/developing Codex Contact Points, National Codex Committees, National Codex operating manuals) to not only facilitate effective participation in Codex but also provide data for Codex standards setting to further enhance participation in Codex activities at regional and national levels. These national Codex programmes must be also coherently integrated with the national food control system.
- Support in developing national food safety programmes strengthening a pragmatic risk based approach to address food safety issues as well as improve coordination at national level. The development of and enhancing linkages between the health, agriculture, and trade sectors, through coherent and efficient institutional frameworks is instrumental to this approach. Helping countries to precisely assess the robustness of their food control system is a first step that will also allow to measure progress.
- Advocate the importance of developing the public health surveillance data collection and its use for building up specific monitoring programmes, and integrating these into an overall food safety strategy at national level. This also includes the support to data generation programmes that are instrumental for risk based decision making.
- Support countries in establishing risk-based food inspection systems, including risk-based import control systems. This will be supported by the development of tools and training materials to assist food safety and quality control activities, through a targeted and phased approach. This includes both managerial and technical level functions.
- Supporting countries in developing Food Safety Emergency Response systems or plans and linking these to food recall and rapid alert systems.
- Support in establishment of food safety programmes and assurance systems across the food chain including GAP/ GHP/ GMP/HACCP, etc encompassing food operators from primary production to retailers.
- Improving food safety consumer education, integrating with other education activities.

20. Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries. FAO and WHO have been generally collaborating and coordination in the implementation of food safety related activities.

21. **The membership of CCAFRICA is invited to engage with FAO and WHO** to provide feedback on:

- Ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region.
- Priority needs at national and regional levels which require further support from FAO and WHO.