

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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TO: - Codex Contact Points
- Interested International Organizations
- Participants at the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles

FROM: - Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

DEADLINE: 10 January 1999

COMMENTS: To:

Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy.

Background

The 11th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia proposed that, in order to clarify the role of Codex Contact Points and to provide guidance for their operation, proposed "Core Functions of Codex Contact Points" be considered by the CCGP for consideration for inclusion in the Procedural Manual (ALINORM 99/15, para. 27). This proposal was approved as new work by the 45th Session of the Executive Committee (ALINORM 99/2, para. 26, Appendix 3).

The Coordinating Committee for Europe also discussed this issue and agreed that the inclusion of such general recommendations in the Procedural Manual would be more useful than detailed guidelines (ALINORM 99/19, para. 38).

The 13th Session of the Committee on General Principles noted the discussions held at the Coordinating Committees for Asia and for Europe concerning the definition of the functions of Codex Contact Points and agreed that this matter would be considered by its next session, and that the proposals made by CCASIA would be used as a basis for discussion. The proposed "Core Functions" of Codex Contact Points are therefore circulated for government comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee on General Principles.

Governments and international organizations wishing to submit comments should do so in writing to the Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, FAO, via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy, **before 10 January 1999.**

PROPOSED CORE FUNCTIONS OF CODEX CONTACT POINTS

- 1 Act as the link between the Codex Secretariat and Member countries, the various concerned ministries within each Member Country, private sectors such as the food industry and consumer organizations, the scientific community and individuals with special interests or scientific qualifications;
- 2 Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within their own countries;
- 3 Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex sessions and ensure that they are circulated to those concerned within their own countries;
- 4 Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission or its subsidiary bodies and/or the Codex Secretariat;
- 5 Work in close cooperation with national Codex committees; where such a committee has not been established the Codex Contact Point acts as the liaison point with the food industry, consumers, traders and all other concerned to ensure that the government is provided with an appropriate balance of policy and technical advice upon which to base decisions relating to issues raised in the context of the Codex work;
- 6 Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;
- 7 Receive the invitation to Codex sessions and inform the relevant chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat participants of their own countries.
- 8 Maintain a library of Codex final texts; and
- 9 Promote Codex texts and activities throughout their own countries.