



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA
Twenty-Third Session,**

Nairobi, Kenya, 02 – 06 September 2019

CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 – ROAD MAP TO IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. An in-session working group was established by CCAFRICA23 to consider paper CX/AFRICA 19/23/10 and CRD08 and provide a proposal for the consideration by the plenary on the work to be undertaken by CCAFRICA to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 over the next two years. Specifically the working group was requested to:

- Identify goals/objectives on which the region will focus its contributions to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for the next two years; and
- Identify the activities to be implemented to support achievement of the prioritized goals/objectives.

1.2. The working group was chaired by Kenya and Co-chaired by Senegal. The chair of the Codex Sub-committee of the CCEXEC on strategic planning provided an overview of the work of the sub-committee and the expectations of CCAFRICA. The Chair and co-chair reminded participants to consider the information available to them in CRD8, to learn from the lessons of the past and focus on identifying actionable activities.

2. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The discussions were facilitated and undertaken in several phases.

Phase 1: Identification of the priority goals for CCAFRICA

2.2. Members were asked to review goals 1-4 and identify their highest priority goal based on their experience and needs. Using this approach Goal 1 was identified as the highest priority and goals 3 and 4 equally considered as the next priority. Goal 2 was identified as the lowest priority. Goal 5 was not considered as CCAFRICA is not identified as one of the responsible parties for this goal.

2.3. The WG agreed to there focus their next round of discussions on Goals 1, 3 and 4.

Phase 2: Identification of activities

2.4. Members were split into three sub groups of different sizes, with interpreters embedded in them, to discuss the regional, sub-regional, national and local reality and then draft text for the activities that would provide the link between the selected objective(s) and the desired outcome.

2.5. The outcome of those discussions were as follows:

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	<p>i) Identify the gaps in the Codex standards with regard to the needs of the region.</p> <p>In order to do this we need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a tool that can be applied within the region with input from a national level, - ensure Codex contact points are sensitized and trained, and - prioritise the gaps at a regional level 				
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	<p>Participate in Codex meetings and activities physically and through EWG to highlight our gaps and to get to them in a timely manner</p> <p>Develop proposals for new work items (to get our activities on the agenda)</p> <p>Create awareness on our needs and priorities</p>	<p>In order to ensure a timely Codex response, need to push the gaps and priorities through committees and their working groups.</p> <p>Can initiate activity at regional level through formulation of compelling new work proposals which make the case on grounds of health protection and fair trade.</p>			
3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	<p>Identify priority standards for the country</p> <p>Create awareness on these standards using media, posters, etc</p>				
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding	- adopt/ adapt codex standards nationally and augment into regulations				

	and implementation/application of Codex standards	- support industries to comply to regulations - assess use and compliance to regulations				
4: Facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process	4.1. Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries	Advocate with high level policy makers Continue advocacy until priorities become law Provide a legislative basis for Codex structures within countries.	Need to institutionalise work of codex at the national level – political figures come and go but we want our work to continue. Codex structures within countries are weak and improvements needed, especially the convening power of national codex committees due to their cross-cutting agenda. Leader needs to have a strong convening power			
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members	Advocate at various levels starting with local management teams before moving to national and regional level. Develop and disseminate clear policies at regional country and within country Increase communication to stakeholders with clear scientific data Improve visibility of Codex through conferences, professional bodies and other means.	Some management teams do not understand our work – bottom up approach Harness power of science to communicate can lead to compelling arguments to stakeholders and drive action			
	4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing countries.					

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The WG considered that the above represented an important step towards the identification of the regional contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan. The challenge in identifying activities that can be implemented within the next two years was noted and it was acknowledged that some further work was needed to finalise the workplan including the identification of who will take leadership and who will take action for each of the activities.

3.2. In order to complete the work it was considered that a time-limited EWG could be established chaired by Kenya and co-chaired for Senegal supported by chairs and rapporteurs (Cameroon, Gambia, Nigeria) of the sub-groups established during this working group to address these additional aspects

3.3. CCAFRICA is invited to

- i) Consider and agree with the priority goals and objectives identified by the working group;
- ii) Consider the activities identified by the working group and provide feedback on their refinement and achievability within the next two years; and
- iii) Establish an EWG to complete the workplan taking into account the feedback received from CCAFRICA23 noting that the EWG would be time-bound and need to complete its work within 2019.