

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

CRD05

October 2022

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Twenty-second Session
Virtual, 24-28 October 2022

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025:
POSSIBLE CCLAC ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by the Regional Coordinator)

1. CCLAC Members are jointly responsible for implementing the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 with the Codex Secretariat, the FAO, and the WHO.
2. Appendix I includes possible CCLAC activities for 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Annex I

Possible CCLAC activities for 2022-2024 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities prior to 2020-2022	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Reporting mechanism	Possible activities for 2022-2024
1. Address current, emerging, and critical issues in a timely manner.	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	Information gathering on current, emerging, and critical issues from Member Countries. Recognition of potential data sources to facilitate measurement of progress on new issues.	As per the needs presented by Member States in previous meetings and Plenary Sessions of various committees, and also in individual meetings as per what is required to develop regional strategies.	Regional Coordinator and Regional Secretary	Data collection from speeches, remarks, and concerns during meetings, plenaries, and post-plenaries. Collecting information on needs during the “Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2020-2022.”	There is support for activities to continue virtually, given that every committee has had to change how they conduct business due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is further justified by budget cuts of Member Country governments.
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	Prioritize the most debated issues, particularly issues of regional interest and those concerning standards that are close to approval, including ones that have been held back for reasons unrelated to the Codex mandate.	Discussions began on new proposed works and concerns that require global recognition and support in accordance with the principles of the Codex Procedural Manual.	Member Countries and Regional Coordinating Committee	Direct communication with stakeholders to improve methods for following up on priority issues.	Once these issues and concerns are deemed a priority, encourage Members to proactively participate and stay informed on Codex texts and country and regional needs.
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles.	2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk-analysis principles.	The region firmly follows scientific recommendations and advice when developing, advancing, and approving standards. However, it	Codex Members contribute to calls for data from working groups and joint committees as needed.	Member Countries	Data on Member Countries’ participation.	Encourage contributing scientific studies and relevant results to the Codex Alimentarius Committees with help from involved parties.

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		lacks the analytical capacity to provide sufficient studies and results in all the required areas.				
	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards.	Thanks to the region's contribution of scientific data, there has been enormous progress in standards, such as in the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.	Encourage Members in the region to respond to calls for scientific data to ensure proper development of scientific advice from Codex auxiliary bodies.	Member Countries	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Continue workshops, meetings, talks on the importance of participating in calls for data bringing in different actors from each country to provide scientifically backed data.
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.	Member Countries are aware of the importance of funding for expert bodies; however, governments are allocating resources to emerging issues such as that of the COVID-19 pandemic, making support unavailable for this activity.	Emerging issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to revive domestic economies are ongoing.	Governments	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Raise awareness of the importance of funding for Codex issues through use of standards in Member States.

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3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards.	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards.	Various events with stakeholders from the National Committees that promote and raise awareness of the importance of participating in Codex work.	Use of Codex standards in any capacity to benefit the Member Country.	Members Countries, Codex Observers, Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinator, FAO/WHO	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Continue to hold and encourage participation in events such as workshops, seminars, and talks with stakeholders—government actors, private industry, scientific researchers, academia, civil society—associated with Codex to promote use of Codex standards.
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards.	Organization of events such as the celebration of World Food Safety Day.	To enhance understanding about the benefits of applying Codex standards.	Member Countries, Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Visual reports of completed activities published on the CCLAC web page (www.codexalimentarius.org).	Promote internal activities in each Member Country that are aligned with different Codex projects.
	3.3 Recognize and promote the use and impact of Codex standards.	Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022 to identify completed activities tied to positive impact in the use of Codex standards.	Support activities regarding the use of Codex standards.	Member Countries	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Continue to hold regional workshops to share experiences and provide mutual support.

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4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process.	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member States.	Strengthen the structure of Codex representative bodies.	Bolster response to various work requests.	Member Countries, Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinator and Regional Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Encourage application to the Codex Trust Fund and provide support at all times to strengthen the various National Committees and create committees in Member Countries where they have been impacted or weakened.
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members.	Virtual participation. Develop opportunities for mentorship and for sharing experiences and knowledge among countries of the region. The proportion of countries that contributed to EWGs, were presidents of the EWG, and responded to Circular Letters (Appendix 1) increased considerably.	Encourage the creation and activation of each Member's National Committee to achieve consistent participation in all Codex work.	Member Countries and Regional Coordinating Committee	Codex Sub-committees' weekly meetings. Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	Support new projects proposed by the region, encourage participation in different bodies (Electronic Working Groups), responses to Circular Letters, move forward with drafting standards.
	4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation by developing Countries.	Virtual participation, in light of a lack of resources. Binational program for access to the Codex Trust Fund (CTF). Collaboration for agreements with the Strategic Plan work	Raise awareness among government actors for support and recognition of Codex standards.	Member Countries and Regional Coordinating Committee	Information provided by Member Countries at the Regional Workshop for analysis of and updates on completed work 2020-2022.	More advisory reports and sharing of experiences between countries on Codex-related issues are encouraged and expected.

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		plan.				
5. Enhance work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals.	5.1 Develop and maintain efficient and effective work management practices and systems.	Given the virtual nature of the state of the world, instant management channels were created and a commitment to efficient management of Codex work is encouraged.	Due to the need for improved workflows, allocation of priorities, best practices, and fund management, the focus must be on work activities that are efficient and effective.	Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinator, Regional Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Activities from the Codex meetings agenda.	Identify and replicate—adapted for each Member—management practices and systems with positive outcomes for resource optimization.
	5.2 Enhance the capacities of committee and working group chairpersons, regional coordinators, and host country secretariats to support the work of Codex.	One of the Regional Coordinating Committee's first moves regarding the organization of Codex sub-committees has been outreach to the points of contact to create a WhatsApp group. They created channels for discussion to systematize technical information from the committees.	Enhancing capacity will facilitate meeting objectives by increasing cooperation among Member Countries and bringing them closer together.	President of Codex Alimentarius, FAO/WHO	Record of participation from the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat.	Encourage participation in Electronic Working Groups, raising awareness of efforts to hold them in Spanish and how wonderful it is for Member Countries in the region to lead them. Emphasize the importance of Member Countries' progress for the entire region.