



## Agenda Item 7

CX/AFRICA 17/22/8  
November 2016

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**  
*22<sup>nd</sup> Session,*

*Nairobi, Kenya, 16-20 January 2017*

**MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN**  
**(STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CCAFRICA 2014 – 2019: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION)**  
(Prepared by Kenya, Coordinator CCAFRICA)

### **BACKGROUND**

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa was established at the ninth session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), held in Rome, Italy, from 6th to 17th November 1972, in accordance to Article IX (b) of the rules of the CAC.

Since its inception, the FAO/WHO CCAFRICA worked to lead, according to current needs and as part of its mandate, activities which relate to the provision of standards for African food that are of importance for international and regional trade, and that may improve the safety of food available to consumers using Codex standards.

At the present, FAO/WHO CCAFRICA which has forty nine (49) member states is vested with the mission assigned to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The tasks include:

1. Development of regional Codex standards.
2. Promoting the use of Codex standards.
3. Identification and definition of the region's needs in terms of food standards and food control.
4. Harmonizing food regulations to promote trade among member states.
5. Development of procedures and food control infrastructures.

In order to carry out its duties, FAO/WHO CCAFRICA, just like Codex Alimentarius Commission, bases its work on the risk assessment, provision of scientific advice and consensual approach.

The objectives of FAO/WHOC AFRICA are in line with the objectives of CAC, which aims to improve food safety, quality and fair international trade.

### **CCAFRICA REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN**

CCAFRICA 21 (2015) agreed to adopt the regional strategic plan (2015 – 2019), and also requested Cameroon and Kenya to finalise it and include the linkages to the global strategic plan as agreed by the Committee. Cameroon and Kenya, completed the strategic plan (See CX/AFRICA 17/22/8 Add.1)<sup>1</sup>.

This report has prepared based on the strategic plan

### **STRATEGIC GOALS**

#### **Strategic Goal 1. Ensure effective participation of African countries in the activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies.**

*Efforts have been made at regional levels-AU, COMESA, EAC ECOWAS and AU to advocate for funding for Codex and food safety activities. This has been achieved through participation of meetings at various regional meetings. AU has been very visible in this area and has made deliverables. It is noteworthy that the participation*

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<sup>1</sup> REP15/AFRICA, Para 52-54

of African delegates in Codex Meetings has gone down, due to the winding up of the Codex Trust Fund-1 in 2015, hence this strategic goal is still relevant.

**Objective 1.3 Encourage member States of FAO/WHO CCAFRICA to create and strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Committees.**

CCAFRICA and FAO have developed and operationized TCPs to strengthen Codex Contact Points. The first was carried out in Central Africa (Cameroon, Chad and Gabon) while the second one targeted the South African countries (Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe). These activities took place in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

FAO will convene a meeting with the Coordinator of CCAFRICA, COMESA, EAC and IGAD regional Economic blocks in November 2016 to map the way forward to create and strengthen Codex Contact Points and National Committees.

**Objective 1.4: Promote the participation of African experts in FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committees.**

In November 2015, Coordinator of CCAFRICA chaired a food safety meeting which was organized by WHO in Entebbe, Uganda where the high expertise of Africans was evidenced. The Coordinator has been circulating calls of experts in FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committees through Codex Contact Points. Unfortunately, their participation is still low at global level.

**Strategic Goal 2: Develop African regional food standards that address current and emerging food safety challenges.**

CAC38 (2015) approved development of Regional Standards on Fermented Cooked Cassava, Gnetum Leaves and Shea Butter. The Electronic Working Groups (eWGs) chaired by Cameroon and Mali respectively have completed their work and submitted the reports for consideration by CCAFRICA22

CAC39 (2016) approved the Project Document on Dried Meat, as a consequence an eWG chaired by Ivory Coast as established at CCAFRICA21 commenced its work. CCAfrica commends African Codex Contact Points for their efforts to realization of this goal.

The Codex Trust Fund-2 will go a long way towards generating and collecting scientific data on the production, processing, composition, storage, commercialization, quality and food safety of interest to Africa. CCAfrica member countries have been encouraged to apply for the fund.

**Strategic Goal 4: Use of Codex standards and related texts to improve the quality and food safety in FAO/WHOC AFRICA member countries.**

In the year 2015, CCAFRICA, COMESA and FAO partnered in sensitizing standard setting bodies on the use of Codex standards in a workshop that was attended by 8 countries and one regional economic community. A similar workshop was organized by AU and ECOWAS that benefited delegates from 14 African member States in the same period.

**Emerging issues – New Codex Strategic Plan**

CCEXEC71 (2016) recommended to the Commission to request the Secretariat to start the process of developing a new Strategic Plan for Codex, taking note that among others: the current Strategic Plan 2014-2019 should be the starting point for the new plan; (ii) Relevant findings from the on-going internal work management review should feed into the Strategic Plan development process; (iii) The effectiveness and measurability of indicators, with an aim to substantially reduce their number; (iv) The strategies/work programmes of FAO and WHO, and especially whether they will have an influence on the chosen timeframe of the plan; (v) UN goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup>.

This activity is expected to begin in the second half of 2016 and first half of 2017, and members and observers will be expected to submit comments on the first draft of 2017

**Challenges in implementation and monitoring**

- No defined mechanism for monitoring of the regional Strategic Plan,
- Obtaining replies from members on questionnaires and CLs remains a challenge,
- Some of the contact emails for the CCPs are non operational

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<sup>2</sup> REP16/EXEC, para 84-88

## **Conclusion and recommendation**

The Coordinator of CCAFRICA recommends that the region considers the following:

- a) Use the Regional Strategic Plan as an internal document that would continue to inform the activities of the region, as well as, the regional input into the new global strategic plan (2020-2024);
- b) Monitoring of both the global and regional Codex Strategic Plan is rather challenging and therefore it is proposed that CCAFRICA makes recommendations on how best this can be done, including the possibility of discontinuing further monitoring of the regional strategic plan;
- c) In future, to ensure better monitoring and reporting on the activities of the strategic plan, the coordinator will undertake a survey in order to prepare a status report on the extent of implementation of the strategic plan
- d) Request members to update the contact addresses of their Contact Points.