



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

Twenty-fourth Session

Virtual

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 BY CCAFRICA

(Prepared by the Coordinator for CCAFRICA)

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission at its forty second session (CAC42 in 2019) adopted the “Strategic Plan of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for 2020-2025¹ and encouraged all Members to participate in the development of the work plan for its implementation over the next year, particularly during the FAO/WHO coordinating committees, and requested CCEXEC79 to present the proposed work plan for implementation of the Strategic Plan to CAC43. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2020-2025.
- 1.2. The Strategic Plan is anchored on 5 goals that include addressing current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner, developing standards based on science and Codex risk-analysis principles, increasing impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards, facilitating the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process and enhancing work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all strategic plan goals.
- 1.3. The 77th session of the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC77) established a sub-committee to lead the development of the implementation work plan and among its tasks to inform and support discussions at the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- 1.4. CCAFRICA23 held in September 2019 established an in-session working group (WG) chaired by Kenya and co-chaired by Senegal welcomed the new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and agreed on the implementation of activities aimed towards achieving goals 1, 3 and 4. The meeting refined the activities to be undertaken in the region over the next two years to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 including definition of responsibilities, targets and monitoring approach. The detailed updated CCAFRICA work plan is attached as Appendix I.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITIES

This paper provides an overview and status report on the activities that have been undertaken for the period 2020 – 2022 under the Strategic Plan and projecting of planned events to be undertaken in the medium term in order to meet the set out goals. It also includes in Appendix II a scorecard that indicates the level of participation of CCAFRICA members in Codex meetings in 2021.

3. CONCLUSION

Codex Members share the responsibility for implementing the Codex Strategic Plan together with the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO and it is important to keep monitoring the progress reporting milestones being achieved.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

CCAFRICA is requested to:

- (i) consider what progress has been made in the region with regards to the priority goals (1, 3 and 4) of the strategic plan 2020-2025;
- (ii) devise suitable mechanisms through which members best communicate progress in relation to the activities identified under the priority goals; and
- (iii) discuss how CCAFRICA member countries can enhance effective participation in Codex processes

¹ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/publications/en/>

APPENDIX I

CCAFRICA WORKPLAN 2020-2022 TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2022	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2022	Reporting mechanism	Implementation status/ approach (as at July 2022)	Notes from review by Past and current Coordinator, Chair of the CCEXEC sub-committee, FAO and WHO and Codex Secretariat – 25 November 2020
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	A regional survey to identify emerging food safety issues and needs including issues related to national food control systems, to be launched in Member Countries	A regional survey was conducted which identified emerging food safety issues as aflatoxins, pesticide residues in foods and AMR. The response was 47% and there is need to upscale.	National Codex Contact points CCAFRICA coordinator FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat	Report of identified gaps according to the FAO/WHO survey tool Increased response	Report to next session of CCAFRICA	A survey will be developed by FAO/WHO and the Codex secretariat to be implemented in early 2021 (aim to include elements in the survey that would better capture capacity needs among members – a bridge to implementation of the Food control systems Assessment Tool). Some additional information to support members in their completion of the survey may also be provided	Reference to the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment tool was deleted following an explanation from FAO on the nature and purpose of the tool and the resources, time and commitment required to implement. Nevertheless the value of this tool was noted and it was considered that promoting its use in African countries within the lifetime of the SP would still be useful
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	Capacity development on food control systems at national level (strengthening surveillance/diagnoses) Creating awareness on identified issues e.g. Aflatoxin, pesticide residues, antimicrobial resistance (AMR)- CCAFRICA23 report	Need to emphasize the gaps and priorities through committees and their working groups. This will ensure a timely Codex response. Initiate activities at regional level through formulation of new work proposals	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Increased effective participation in Codex committees /meetings/EWG to gain a better understanding of ongoing work particularly in priority areas Increased awareness of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool through the implementation of Webinar(s) on the tool	Biennial reporting of events	Promoting participation in ongoing Codex work in the priority areas (aflatoxins, pesticide residues, AMR) led by the Coordinator with support of the Codex Secretariat. Many awareness raising activities on priority areas have been already undertaken e.g. WAAW recently held enables a focus on AMR, a virtual meeting on pesticides. Communication sent to all CCPs by CCAFRICA Coordinator in 2021 requesting them to provide information on any events convened to allow for their collation. FAO/WHO in collaboration with CCAFRICA held a regional webinar in November 2021 to illustrate the potential use and support options available in relation to the application of the FAO/WHO Food Control System assessment Tool	The importance of creating awareness on the prioritized areas was highlighted but considered premature to expect new work proposals to be developed within this time frame. Rather more emphasis should be placed on participation in Codex work on these topics to ensure African concerns are considered and then facilitate a future examination of the feasibility for Developing proposals for new work items on two top prioritized emerging issues in the future

<p>3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards</p>	<p>3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</p>	<p>Develop Information education and communication (IEC) materials; Posters, brochures, fliers Hold workshops/seminars/meetings/media to educate on standards related to priority areas (see 1.2) and those areas of importance due to COVID (e.g food hygiene related texts and import/export related texts) e.g. industries, institutions, government officers</p>	<p>There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders These activities will contribute to raising awareness on Codex standards, thus contributing to the global use of Codex standards by different stakeholders as a reference for food safety and fair practices in food trade.</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator</p>	<p>Increased awareness on codex standards</p>	<p>Event reports</p>	<p>It is important to link activities here with the Communications Plan adopted with CCAFRICA. Planned events would have to be of a virtual nature due to the pandemic – noted that virtual events may not be accessible to all and need to consider how to achieve outreach to those without access in current context. Coordinator to reach out to Members to encourage awareness raising activities at country level and/or indicate tools needed to support this.</p>	<p>Rather than having to run a survey or mechanism to identify relevant codex standards, standards in those priority areas could be used initially as well as those of greater importance due to the COVID pandemic such as the GPFH, CCFICS texts</p>
	<p>3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards</p>	<p>Sensitize policy makers on codex standards, the requirements for their implementation and their value as a foundation to adopt/adapt codex standards in development of national food standards & regulations and application in food trade. Undertake sensitization events to support stakeholders to apply and eventually comply to regulations</p>	<p>There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders. These activities will contribute to implementation and application of codex standards</p>	<p>National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator</p>	<p>Increased application/uptake of Codex standards by stakeholders</p>	<p>Biennial Report</p>	<p>Outreach to CCPs by coordinator to encourage activities in is area Use the opportunity of the ongoing work on drafting guidelines supporting the harmonization of food safety legislation in the region to sensitize policymakers. <i>Note: Issue of industry support yet to be addressed</i></p>	<p>Expressed interest the FAO study on codex pesticide residues and potential follow-up in the African region – FAO to follow up on potential options. Adoption and application of Standards take time and to lay the foundations increased awareness of policy makers would be needed so this could be a first step. This could also promote engagement in the ongoing work in the region to develop drafting guidelines supporting the harmonization of food safety legislation in the region</p>

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	Conduct advocacy to policy makers to prioritize codex work, allocate resources and provide institutional framework for Codex structures within member countries	Need to institutionalise work of codex at the national level by strengthening codex structures.	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Enhanced activities by Member countries in support of Codex work	Biennial Reports		
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members	Encourage the establishment of national Codex (expert) committees at the country level to enable active participation and timely responses to circular letters, EWG work.	The experts committees will be the forum for discussion on Codex Work and contributions of countries on Codex standards	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA coordinator	Increased participation in EWG, PWG and response to circular letters Training webinars on Codex and modes of participation (e.g. EWG, OCS implemented at national, sub-regional or regional level.	Biennial Reports	The Codex Secretariat, CCAFRICA, AU-IBAR, FAO and WHO Regional Offices for Africa have supported 3 regional webinars covering Members States in the East African Community, Economic Community for West African States and South African Development Cooperation reaching 32 Countries ² 31 countries in the region have or are benefitting from CTF – outreach to those to identify efforts to establish National codex committees or to encourage them to do so could be a starting point (https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund) AU-IBAR and CCAFRICA in 2022 have supported 35 members ³ in the region through in-person Codex Work management workshops in which a model national Codex structure was adopted Appendix II provides a general scorecard on member participation in Codex meetings in 2021.	Providing training on the mechanism by which to participate in Codex was considered to be integral to this and was being supported by the Codex secretariat in response to country requests. Support to the development of national Codex infrastructure can be provided through the Codex Trust Fund or FAO Technical cooperation projects (TCP). To avail of the latter food safety must be a priority area in the Country Programming Framework (CPF) or identified as an emerging issue. FAO willing to provide further information as needed.

² Burundi, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote D'Ivoire, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

³ Botswana, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea Equatorial, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Uganda and Zambia

