



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### REPORT OF THE ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 AND THE CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORKPLAN FOR 2023-2024

#### Background

During the twenty-second meeting of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22), it was not possible to discuss agenda item 7 "Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025" due to lack of time.

Given the importance of the issue for the region and since it was linked to other issues previously discussed at the meeting including the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, CCLAC22 agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) that would work in Spanish and English, under the leadership of Ecuador (CCLAC Coordinator), and in which Members and Observers from the region could participate. The terms of reference are as follows:

- review and update the Regional Workplan 2022-2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- review and update the Regional Communications Workplan 2022-2024;
- finalize the update of the workplans within six months in order to facilitate their implementation before the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.

The list of participants is provided in Appendix 3.

#### Discussion

Ecuador, as Chair of the WG, proposed a timetable consisting of three rounds of comments. This was included in the invitation letter and set out a draft for the Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

The members of the EWG discussed the Strategic Plan proposal and the discussions were summarized as follows:

- emphasize the importance of setting out arguments in defence of scientific principles in Codex standard-setting work when drafting the Strategic Plan and its objectives.
- the importance of actively contributing to the implementation of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, involving and supporting developing countries given that they do not fully meet conditions for reacting to emerging situations. The countries proposed to report on the activities implemented by each country through the CCLAC Secretariat.
- promote cooperation actions with non-profit organizations and institutions such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to improve participation of Member Countries in the region in the different Codex forums such as seminars, colloquiums and twinning activities.
- provide information on events and other activities to the Codex Secretariat for publication on the official website.
- on activity 2.1, reconsider the period quoted. We suggest doing this on a quarterly basis as it provides flexibility to deal with different situations or setbacks that may arise in a one-month period.

**Conclusions**

Appendix 1 shows the goals and activities for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023–2024.

Appendix 2 shows the objectives and activities of the Codex Communications Workplan 2023–2024.

## Appendix 1

## ACTIVITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2024

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022–2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2024	Arrangements for providing information
<b>1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner.</b>	<b>1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.</b>	1.1.1 Survey to identify emerging issues and needs related to Codex topics, including those related to national food control systems, considering the report of the twenty-second CCLAC meeting. 1.1.2 Regional workshop to gather information on identified needs.	The survey and the regional workshop will identify the needs prioritized by countries in the region. This gathered information will allow processing.	FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator.	Work with Member Countries, based on gaps identified through the FAO/WHO survey and the workshop led by the Regional Coordinator.	Drafting of a survey on emerging issues in early 2024. Regional workshop in the first quarter of 2024. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third session of CCLAC.
	<b>1.2 Establish an order of priority for needs and emerging issues.</b>	1.2.1 Identify current and emerging issues in the region based on discussion at the twenty-second CCLAC meeting and comments gathered by the EWG and, if necessary, a regional survey.	Make Member States aware of emerging needs and issues with a view to joint actions to achieve regional positions that can be defended in the framework of the various Codex bodies.	Regional Coordinator, CCLAC Member States.	After prioritizing the issues identified, encourage Members to communicate proactively in order to actively participate in Codex work (committees, EWG, meetings and other scheduled activities).	Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third session of CCLAC.

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<p><b>2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles.</b></p>	<p><b>2.2 Promote the presentation and use of globally representative data in the development and review of Codex standards.</b></p>	<p>2.2.1 Activities organized by FAO and WHO to strengthen the technical capacities of Member States for data generation and publication in GEMS/Food.</p>	<p>The results of the workshop led by the CCLAC Secretariat in 2022 showed that Member States require further guidance and assistance regarding the collection, compilation and submission of scientific data used as a basis for risk assessment.</p>	<p>FAO and WHO, Regional Coordinator.</p>	<p>Thematic capacity-building activities, such as workshops, meetings and others, will be carried out to meet the requirements of Codex standard-setting.</p>	<p>Workshops and documents conducted by FAO, WHO and/or Member States. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third session of CCLAC.</p>

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022–2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2024	Arrangements for providing information
<b>3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards.</b>	<b>3.1 Raise awareness of Codex standards.</b>	3.1.1 Hold awareness-raising events on Codex standards for stakeholders throughout the agrifood chain, including academia and the private sector. 3.1.2 Draft information, education and communications materials.	The aim is to raise awareness of Codex standards among stakeholders and encourage their adoption by means of the events and communications materials.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Increased recognition and understanding of Codex work and standards.	Relevant information published on the CCLAC page of the Codex website. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third session of CCLAC.
	<b>3.2 Support initiatives that enable understanding and implementation and application of Codex standards.</b>	3.2.1 Hold regional and national events to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, disseminating the importance of implementing/applying Codex standards. 3.2.2 Encourage the participation of different stakeholders (academics, industry, civil society, academia, observers, public institutions, international organizations and others).	Improve understanding of the benefits of implementing Codex standards.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Increase recognition and understanding of Codex texts. Inform the region of events organized by the various Member States, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Marking the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, with national and regional events. Relevant information published on the Codex website.
	<b>3.3 Recognize and promote the</b>	3.3.1. Encourage Member States to	To be aware of the global survey on the use	Member States,	Active participation of Member States in the	Relevant documents, survey report and final

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	<b>effects of Codex standards.</b>	participate in the survey on the use and impact of Codex standards.	and impact of Codex standards in Member Countries of the region.	Regional Coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	survey on the use and impact of Codex standards, increasing the percentage of participation compared to previous years.	report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.
<b>4. Encourage the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard-setting process.</b>	<b>4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Member States.</b> <b>4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members.</b> <b>4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation of developing countries.</b>	<p>Submit projects to the Codex Trust Fund for eligible countries to access benefits and work in accordance with the process.</p> <p>Develop opportunities for mentoring, exchange of experiences and knowledge between countries in the region and with other countries.</p> <p>Support capacity-building, through training courses, seminars and others.</p> <p>Applications in the Codex programme for the Americas to increase face-to-face participation in the various committee meetings.</p>	With the support of the Codex Trust Fund, the Codex programme for the Americas and other projects, more Member States are meeting the requirements and strengthening their national committees for better participation in Codex work.	CTF, FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator and Member States.	Promoting capacity-building and activities of Member States regarding participation in Codex work. Increased participation in committees, EWGs, as well as increased response rate to CLs. Alerts by the CCLAC Regional Coordinator on the existence of EWGs, generating a space for the exchange of positions prior to publication in the forum.	Applications to the Codex Trust Fund, subject to compliance with requirements. Number of Member States participating in Codex meetings recorded in participant lists. Documents relating to the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.

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		Encourage participation in electronic working groups (EWGs) and responses to circular letters (CLs).				

## Appendix 2

## CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORKPLAN 2023–2024

Objectives	Activities	Body in charge	Goals	Indicators
1. Establish clear communication channels	<p>1.1. Strengthen and improve the flow and exchange of information between countries and the Codex Secretariat</p> <p>1.2. Establish simple and fast communication methods (e.g. discussion groups in the Codex EWG forum)</p>	<p>1.1 Member Countries and Codex Secretariat</p> <p>1.2 Regional Coordinator, Member Countries and Codex Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the twenty-third CCLAC meeting 80 percent of surveyed Members and Observers will have rated the timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications as "excellent" or "good"</li> </ul>	Number of survey responses rating regional communications as "excellent" or "good"
2. Convey the value of participation in Codex and the use of standards in the region	<p>2.1. Provide the Codex Secretariat with monthly weblog posts on food safety, standards development work or capacity-building initiatives in the region</p> <p>2.2. Promote regional initiatives and success stories in partnership with the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO</p> <p>2.3 Liaise with the Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to report on each phase of Codex Trust Fund projects</p>	<p>2.1 Member Countries and Codex Secretariat</p> <p>2.2 Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinator, FAO/WHO</p> <p>2.3 CTF Recipient Countries, FAO/WHO, Codex Secretariat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the forty-sixth session of the CAC, 10 news items from countries in the region will have been published</li> <li>By the twenty-third CCLAC meeting, 30 news items will have been published from countries in the region</li> <li>By the twenty-third CCLAC meeting, 60 percent of countries from the region will have continued to contribute to Codex news on the regional website</li> </ul>	<p>Number of news items published by CCLAC</p> <p>Number of countries that have made a contribution and had it published</p>



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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****Chair of the Electronic Working Group**

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