



## Agenda item 7

CX/NE 25/12/8  
September 2025

### JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE NEAR EAST

#### Twelfth Session

#### Muscat, Oman

28 September - 2 October 2025

### CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025: IMPLEMENTATION BY CCNE

*Prepared by the former Coordinator for Near East (Saudi Arabia)  
in collaboration with the Coordinator (Sultanate of Oman)*

## 1. Introduction and 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 2020-2025”<sup>1</sup>, 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 five 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 FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Near East at its 11th Session (CCNE11, 2023) discussed the roadmap to implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan (2020–2025) and agreed to adopt the regional communications workplan 2024–2025 and to establish an electronic working group (EWG) to develop the regional workplan for 2024 and 2025 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan.
- 1.4. However, the EWG could not complete its work within the expected period due to procedural and time-related constraints, which led to the deferral of discussions on the
- 1.5. planning process. It is therefore recommended that the region considers the activities discussed at CCNE11, and supplement them with those activities carried out in the last biennium. Nevertheless, the activities outlined in the previous strategic plan were successfully completed within the given timeframe.
- 1.5 This paper provides therefore an overview and status report on the activities that have been undertaken for the period 2024 – 2025 under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, also considering planned events to be undertaken in the short term, and until the end of the year, in order to meet the set-out goals.

## 2. Progress in implementing the Regional Work plan for 2023-2025

- 2.1 Significant progress has been made under the leadership of the Coordinators, Saudi Arabia and Oman, in implementing the activities relevant to the CCNE region. Such activities during the reporting period focused on strengthening coordination between members, enhancing the level of participation in Codex proceedings, raising awareness, and overall promoting Codex work across the Near East region. In addition, efforts were directed toward enhancing regional collaboration, building national capacities, and fostering more active participation of Members in Codex.

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

2.2 CCNE Members continued to actively participate in and contribute to Codex work at the global level, using the possibilities the virtual platforms provided to the maximum extent. As such, the region has significantly contributed to the implementation of the Codex strategic plan at the global level, and major achievements are outlined in Annex I.

### **Recommendations**

CCNE12 is invited to:

- (i) consider the progress that has been made in the region with regards to the priority goals (1, 2 3 and 4) of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- (ii) provide comments, if any, on the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 for consideration by CCEXEC; and
- (iii) support the Coordinator in the preparation of the final report of the CCNE strategic plan, to be submitted to the Codex Secretariat at the end of 2025, to facilitate compilation of the final report on the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020–2025 by the Codex Secretariat.

## APPENDIX I

## CCNE WORKPLAN 2023-2025 TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

| Priority Goal                                                       | Priority objective                      | Activities for the period 2023-2025                                                                                                                       | Rationale for proposed activities                                                | Responsible or lead party               | Expected output by 2025                                                                                                                           | Overview of progress on planned activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| 1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner | 1.1 Identify emerging needs and issues. | Determine the current and emerging issues in the region, based on the discussion held at CCNE11 and on follow-up surveys/ meetings with the CCNE Members. | Focus on the necessities of the Region and better coordinate relevant activities | Regional Coordinator / Member countries | A series of workshops / webinars are held on these matters and needs / issues are addressed.<br><br>Reports from Members of the region on results | Organization of an in-person regional training workshop in 2024 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, WHO, and FAO, and supported by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), with the participation of all Near East Codex Member Countries and several regional coordinators. |

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|  |                                           |  |  |  | achieved and pending issues | <p>Delivery of multiple virtual training sessions among Member Countries, enabling broader and more inclusive access to capacity-building activities.</p> <p>Organization of multiple training sessions and Codex workshops gathering CCNE CCPs, and intergovernmental organizations entrusted with food standards in the region and Codex observers namely the Arab Industrialization Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO) and the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), hosted by Oman (June 2023), Qatar (October 2023), Jordan (June 2024), Oman (April 2025)</p> |
|  | 1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues. |  |  |  |                             | <p>Codex Programs from the CCNE identified areas of priority addressed by dedicated webinars (management of food allergens - May 2023 ; management of</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|                                                                       |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                           |                                                                                                 | <p>Contaminants in Food, August 2023).</p> <p>CCNE Codex CCPs identified the need to collaborate on the availability of food consumption data to support risk assessment reflecting the realities of the region (Expert workshop on food consumption data collection – February 2024 – Doha, Qatar)</p>                                                                                                                                  |
| 2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk-based principles | 2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles. | <p>Organize in collaboration with the regional offices of FAO/WHO a series of capacity building activities.</p> <p>Organize with the Codex Secretariat ad hoc webinars / workshops on Codex standards and their possible applications.</p> <p>Participate in call for data / experts as requested by FAO/WHO scientific bodies.</p> | <p>The importance of developing science-based standards for the region; enhancing the contribution of CCNE Members to this goal.</p> <p>CCNE Members to better understand and implement Codex standards and relevant FAO/WHO texts</p> | Regional Coordinator / Member countries / FAO and WHO / Codex Secretariat | Increased participation of CCNE Members in data submission and in the standard setting process. | <p>Organized webinars destined to Codex programs of CCNE on recent JECFA evaluations affecting Codex decisions and on risk assessment methodologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Webinar on food consumption data collection methods: December 2023</li> <li>- Risk Assessment workshop – 21-22 October 2024, Dubai, UAE</li> <li>- Webinars on evaluations by JECFA/Expert consultations: Titanium Dioxide,</li> </ul> |

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|  |                                                                                                                | Monitoring program and participating in data entry. | at national and regional level. |  |  | <p>Food Allergen Thresholds (October 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Workshop on data submission requirements to codex – Muscat, Oman – July 2025</li> </ul> <p>Coordinated effort to develop a proposal for the application of Codex guidelines on extrapolation to derive MRLs for Veterinary Drug residues of relevance to CCNE countries for aquaculture fish cultivated regionally and for Camel tissues – February 2024</p> |
|  | 2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards |                                                     |                                 |  |  | <p>Coordinated data collection and submission effort from countries of the region, in support of the consideration of setting moisture levels for fresh dates from January 2023 to February 2025</p> <p>Coordinated data collection and submission efforts from countries of the region for Aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts (from January 2023 – June 2025)</p>                                                                                   |

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| 3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards | 3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards                                                            | <p>3.1.1. Organize workshops / webinars and / or publish digital contents on Codex to further promote the use of Codex standards in the region.</p> <p>3.1.2 Draft and share with the Codex Secretariat relevant stories related to Codex and activities carried out in the countries/region.</p> | Coordinate efforts, to facilitate the adoption of Codex standards and to better promote trade. | Member Countries / Regional Coordinator / FAO/WHO / Codex Secretariat | A series of meetings are held to support Members of the region to effectively participate in future Codex meetings under the Codex capacity building initiative in the region. | <p>Facilitation of several pre-session consultation meetings to support Member Countries in preparing for Codex meetings and to encourage active engagement.</p> <p>Publication of regional news and country-level updates through the Codex Alimentarius website, enhancing the visibility of Codex activities and achievements in the Near East.</p>             |
|                                                                       | 3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards | 3.2.2 Organize national and regional events on Codex related activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | To promote use of Codex standards and raise awareness on benefits                              | Member Countries / Regional Coordinator                               | Increased recognition and understanding of Codex texts.                                                                                                                        | <p>Active regional participation in World Food Safety Day 2023, 2024 and 2025 through campaigns and communication activities organized and supported by the Coordinator.</p> <p>Publication of regional news and country-level updates through the Codex Alimentarius website, enhancing the visibility of Codex activities and achievements in the Near East.</p> |

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|                                                                                              | 3.3 Recognize and promote the impact of Codex Standards                        | <p>3.3.1. Webinars and other relevant activities (e.g. survey, meetings) to support participation in the Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards.</p> <p>3.3.2. Celebrating the 60th anniversary virtually in December</p> | Supporting Global survey on use and impact of Codex standards | Member Countries           | More than 50% of the Members of the Region have submitted replies to the survey | <p>The Coordinator encouraged Member countries to complete the Survey on the Use and Impact of Codex Texts, to support assessment of national engagement with Codex standards.</p> <p>Codex standards adopted explained to members of CCNE through dedicated webinars (Food Allergen Management Webinar May 2023)</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 | <p>4.1.1 Eligible countries apply for CTF2.</p> <p>4.1.2 Countries support each other, and for sharing experience.</p>                                                                                                                | To support better participation in Codex related activities.  | FAO/WHO / Member countries | Enhanced contribution of CCNE Members in Codex work.                            | <p>Facilitation of several pre-session consultation meetings to support Member Countries in preparing for Codex meetings and to encourage active engagement.</p> <p>Development of analysis documents for key agenda items of Codex committees and their publication to be accessible to all CCNE CCPs</p> <p>Broadcast coordination sessions in preparation of Codex committees, with the</p> |

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|  |                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                   |                                         |                                                                         | <p>presentation of analysis of key agenda items</p> <p>Established on-going Codex coordination committees as part of regional standardization organizations e.g. AIDSMO Codex committee and GSO Codex sub-committee (Sub-Committee of TC5 – technical committee on agriculture and food)</p> |
|  | 4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex Members | 4.2.3 Implement and enhance National Codex Committees to better coordinate and increase participation in Codex work. | Better coordination at national and regional level on Codex work. Increase active participation of all countries. | Regional Coordinator / Member countries | Increased participation in EWGs, PWGs and response to circular letters. | Countries of the region taking a leadership role in participating and co-chairing Codex Electronic Working groups: e.g., Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia                                                                                                                                           |