

# CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

E

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 6

CX/NASWP 24/17/7

January 2025

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

#### Seventeenth Session

Nadi, Fiji

3 February - 7 February 2025

#### CODEx STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025: IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION

(Prepared by the Coordinator for North America and South West Pacific and the Codex Secretariat)

#### BACKGROUND

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its forty-second session (CAC42, 2019), adopted the "Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025"<sup>1</sup>, which purpose is to advance the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2020-2025. CAC42 encouraged all Members to participate in the development of the work plan for its implementation over the next years, particularly the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee meetings, and requested the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC79) to present the proposed work plan for implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan to CAC43.
2. The Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 have five goals which are detailed below. These include addressing current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner for the development of standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles, and increasing their impact through the use of Codex standards. This means encouraging all Codex Members to take part throughout the standard-setting process and improving work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all the objectives of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.
3. The different FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees develop biennial workplans to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan. The reports on the implementation of the regional workplans are reviewed and updated at the biennial meetings of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees based on results achieved, current circumstances and other relevant factors.
4. The 16<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP16) reviewed the regional activities implemented during 2020-2022 and the proposed activities for 2023-2024<sup>2</sup> and introduced some amendments and additions, including coordination between Members and stakeholders to generate data related to fermented noni fruit juice under major achievements, and promotion of sustainable funding for scientific advice under planned activities.
5. CCNASWP16 further discussed and endorsed the progress report on the Codex Communication Work Plan<sup>3</sup> that summarized the activities in terms of communication in the past two years and put forward suggestions on future plans.
6. The purpose of this document is to provide a background for CCNASWP17 to stimulate a discussion on the implementation of the regional workplan for 2023-2024 with a view to identify priorities for 2025 and potential strategies to ensure successful implementation.

#### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE NASWP REGION DURING 2023-2024

7. Codex Members in the NASWP region 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

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

<sup>2</sup> CX/NASWP 23/16/6, Annex I

<sup>3</sup> CX/NASWP 23/16/6, Annex II

significantly contributed to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at the global level during 2023-2024.

8. Major achievements at the regional level include:

- Improved capacities at national level by ensuring that a Codex Contact Point (CCP) is in place and by strengthening the national Codex committees (NCCs);
- Improved participation in electronic working groups (EWGs) to develop standards relevant to the region;
- Promotion of data submission to facilitate the scientific advice process, in particular referring to scopolin for the *Regional Standard for fermented noni fruit juice* (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 356R-2023);
- Carrying out activities to improve understanding of Codex work;
- Contributing to the implementation of the Regional Communications Workplan; and
- Contribution to the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031 development.

9. A detailed analysis of achievements per activity included in the regional work plan 2023-2024 is outlined in Annex I, including proposed activities covering 2024-2025.

10. A progress report on communication work is included in Annex II, including a proposal for 2025.

### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2025**

11. The Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 is the basis for the development of a regional work plan for the remainder of 2025. Regional implementation plans should detail the regional contribution to the achievement of the Strategic Goals and reflect the priorities of the region while providing a sufficient degree of flexibility to Members.

12. A CCNASWP colloquium entitled “Supporting the Enhancement of Food Control Systems in the South West Pacific (SWP) Region” was held in Fiji from 26 to 28 February 2024. Codex priorities for the region were discussed during the meeting and a review of findings from previous discussions on Codex capacity in the region confirmed that the regional needs remain similar to the 2022-2023 regional work plan, including:

- Capacities of CCPs in the Pacific Island countries need to be improved;
- Capacities of Members in the region regarding Codex work and benefits of Codex standards need to be improved;
- The scientific capacity in the region is limited and would benefit from the creation of a pool of resources that could be used by various food control organizations, and in particular CCPs in the region;
- Improving the generation and submission of data for scientific advice, in particular regarding proposed standards for the region;
- Providing additional support to the coordinator such that they are able to fulfil the country's obligations under optimum conditions;
- Continue meeting virtually on a regular basis and ensuring greater participation to these meetings as avenues for continued collaboration between CCNASWP sessions; and
- Consider the development of regional positions based on the precedent established by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) and the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) and ensure discussion of this item at the upcoming CCNASWP17.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. CCNASWP17 is invited to:

- (i) review the work done in the region during 2023-2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Annex I and Annex II);
- (ii) discuss and agree on activities for implementation in the region in 2025, in line with the region's priorities; and
- (iii) discuss and identify how Members can improve participation, information-sharing and communication regarding activities under the Codex Strategic Plan.

**ANNEX I****MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023-2024 IN THE NASWP REGION**

| <b>PRIORITY GOAL: 1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner</b>                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.</b>                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)</b>                                                                     | <b>MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>REMARKS</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025</b>                                                                                                             |
| <i>1.2.1 Improving the linkages with the Codex Secretariat through the CCP in Member countries</i>         | Active participation of the region in all Codex meetings including subcommittees of CCEXEC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Email addresses on the Codex webpage must be up-to-date to ensure they are active for ease of communication.                                                | Continued active participation of the region in all Codex meetings.                                                                            |
| <i>1.2.2 Pacific Islands countries establishing or participating in relevant discussion groups or EWGs</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following adoption by CAC43 (2020) of the <i>Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as a Beverage When Mixed with Water</i> (North America and South-West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020), the EWG on Kava completed the assessment of reviewing and amending Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) on methods of analysis for Kava as proposed by CCMAS41 (report to be discussed at CCNASWP17). The SOP will be presented to CCMAS44 in May 2025 for endorsement.</li> <li>The region through the EWG on the noni fruit juice standards progressed the work on this regional standard which was finalized by CCNASWP16 (2023) and adopted by CAC46 (2023).</li> <li>Active participations of the region in relevant discussions or established EWGs of Codex meetings: Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Executive Committee of CAC (CCEXEC), Codex Committee of Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7), and Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27).</li> <li>Members in the region participated actively in CCEXEC's work on developing the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2030.</li> <li>Preparation of two new work proposals for a regional NASWP standard to be discussed at CCNASWP17; 1) on galip nut, prepared by Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands, and 2) on breadfruit flour (prepared by Samoa)</li> </ul> | The <i>Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice</i> (North America and South-West Pacific) (CXS 356R-2023) has been published on the Codex website. | <p>Active participation of the Pacific Islands countries in Codex EWGs relevant to the region.</p> <p>Follow-up on any new work proposals.</p> |

| PRIORITY GOAL: 2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                  |
| REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)                                                                                                              | MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025                                                                      |
| 2.1.1 Hosting a regional workshop with support from FAO and WHO on the use of expert scientific advice in the development of Codex standards | <p>The Second Codex Colloquium for North America and the Southwest Pacific was held in Fiji from 26-28 February 2024, with participation from 35 Contributors representing 12 Codex Members from the North America and the South West Pacific regions.</p> <p>This event follows-up on the commitments made during the side event organized on the margins of the CCNASWP16 (2023) held in Fiji, which recommended continued capacity building efforts aiming to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better structure and coordinate participation from countries in the region in Codex committees.</li> <li>• Create pools of experts in various areas of food risk analysis, which may be called upon to support competent authorities in the region to prepare for Codex technical discussions and/or to adapt Codex standards in support of national / regional food regulatory decisions.</li> <li>• Create a network of food laboratories in the region, to stimulate experience-sharing and collaborative efforts of data generation. This network could be connected to the AOAC INTERNATIONAL, the reference organization in food analytical standardization.</li> <li>• Prioritize traditional / indigenous foods that can be candidates for the development of regional standards, with the identification of a pipeline for such products, with the relevant supportive research / data. The development of Codex regional standards for such products would help promote their marketability and availability in foreign markets.</li> <li>• Develop synergies with capacity building programs funded through other initiatives and, in particular, the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) dedicated to countries of the region to maximize the impacts of the planned investments.</li> </ul> <p>The Second Colloquium intended to gather all representatives from CCNASWP Codex Members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss opportunities to enhance engagement in Codex standard setting procedures.</li> <li>• Better map roles and responsibilities of food competent authorities from the region.</li> <li>• Enhance efforts of regional coordination in preparation for Codex processes.</li> <li>• Deliver on select capacity building initiatives identified as a priority by food regulators in the region.</li> <li>• Chart a path forward for the Codex South West Pacific Initiative to be further leveraged in order to enhance the performance of food regulatory programs in the NASWP region.</li> </ul> | Continue convening meetings at regional level to discuss work plan implementation and next steps |

| <b>PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards</b>                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>2.2.1 Developing and implementing a work plan to generate relevant data to elaborate Codex standards, specifically referring to scopoletin in the Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice</i> | Active communication on scientific data to support the food safety risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) on scopoletin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Continue promoting the submission of scientific data to support the food safety risk assessment by JECFA on scopoletin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.</b>                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice</i>                                                                                                    | Sustainable funding for scientific advice for use by Codex actively promoted by NASWP Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Promote sustainable funding for scientific advice for use by Codex.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PRIORITY GOAL: 3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards</b>                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</b>                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)</b>                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>3.1.1 Conduct targeted activities (e.g. virtual sessions) that increases understanding of Codex standards within governments and among national stakeholders</i>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Use of Codex standards in National Food Regulations</li> <li>•A Second North America and South West Pacific Codex Colloquium was held in Nadi, Fiji from 26-28 February 2024. The Colloquium was organized to identify a series of recommendations for action, to support the strengthening of Codex capacities in the region and to leverage such efforts in order to enhance the performance of food control systems and food regulatory programs in the South West Pacific.</li> <li>•Coordination of nation-wide food safety events such as World Food Safety Day to raise awareness of Codex standards and its use and impact.</li> </ul> | <p>Continued support for roundtable meetings to support Members of the region to effectively participate in future Codex meetings under the Codex capacity building initiative in the region.</p> <p>Organize regional and national events to discuss collaborative approaches to improved food safety across sectors and the promotion of Codex standards.</p> |

| PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation /application of Codex standards                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)                                                                                                                                                                                   | MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |         | PLANNED ACTIVIES FOR 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3.2.1 Promote coordination among relevant authorities                                                                                                                                                             | <p>The <i>Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as Beverage when Mixed with Water</i> (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020) which was adopted by CAC43 in 2020 has significantly impacted the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) Commercial Kava Pilot Program which has progressed to Phase 2 allowing the commercial importation of Kava into Australia for use as a food;</li><li>(ii) Kava Legalization in Germany; and</li><li>(iii) Formulation of the Regional Kava Strategy.</li></ul> <p>The Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice (North America and South-West Pacific) (CXS 356R-2023) was adopted by CAC46 in 2023, as proposed by CCNASWP16 (2023).</p> |         | <p>Continue promoting coordination among relevant authorities to support initiatives that enable the understanding and implementation of Codex standards.</p> <p>Continue the activities already initiated on Kava and consider a case study on the adoption of the regional standards on Kava and/or Noni Juice.</p> |
| PRIORITY GOAL: 4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| PRIORITY OBJECTIVE: 4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries.                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)                                                                                                                                                                                   | MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | REMARKS | PLANNED ACTIVIES FOR 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4.1.1 Strengthening the National Codex Committee (NCC) through training sessions including virtual sessions that promote the use of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes | Strengthening of NCCs in all Member countries throughout the region.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         | Continue promoting the strengthening of capacities of NCCs to ensure Codex work in the region remains successful.                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| REGIONAL ACTIVITIES (2022-2024)                                                                                                                     | MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | REMARKS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>4.1.2 Improving the performance of the CCPs by assigning qualified staff to that position; providing sufficient funding and resources</i></p> | <p>Virtual coordinating meetings for Members in the NASWP region prior to each Codex committee meeting to go over key agenda items and share positions between members of the region, and where possible, develop regional positions if appropriate.</p> <p>Successful applications for CTF support in Rounds 5 and 7, by Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The five (5) pacific island countries had agreed to be part of a CTF group project that would benefit all successful applicants. The group project was planned be tailored to the specific challenges and needs of the region, take into consideration the national priorities identified in the individual country applications and include joint activities at regional level that are aimed to strengthen the cohesion of Codex work in the region. This would include the strengthening and retaining of capacities at regional coordination level. Capacity strengthening activities would be accompanied by a mentoring component that is planned to be provided by a senior expert on Codex. Through its setup, the project would aim to achieve a sustainable impact in strengthening countries' capacity and contribute to a regional network that will help elevate joint engagement in Codex.</p> <p>CTF country projects have been ongoing in Samoa and Tonga, both of which applied successfully for support in funding round 4.</p> | <p>Due to a sharp decline in financial commitments from the CTF donor community in 2024, the CTF Steering Committee decided that the inception of new projects is put on hold until further notice, i.e. until CTF2 project. additional funding has been secured. Once the current funding shortage has been overcome, the countries from the South-West Pacific that successfully applied for Round 7 support, will be first in line to start their CTF2 project.</p> <p>The CTF project in Samoa has ended in October 2024 while the project in Tonga is expected to continue until February 2026.</p> | <p>Active participation by all CCPs in the NASWP region in the virtual coordination meetings.</p> <p>Ongoing resource mobilization efforts of the CTF to accelerate disbursement of funds for the implementation of CTF projects in the region.</p> <p>Engagement with regional partners to identify in-kind and other forms of support to address identified capacity strengthening needs.</p> |

**ANNEX II****CODEX COMMUNICATIONS WORKPLAN – PROGRESS REPORT***(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)***Introduction**

1. The 16<sup>th</sup> session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP16) noted the regional Codex communication activities, provided suggestions for improvement, and consequently adopted the regional communications work plan 2023-2024<sup>1</sup>.
2. This document highlights the progress made on the implementation of the regional communications work plan 2023-2024 and proposes that the region maintain such a work plan moving forward, with the objectives of establishing clear communication channels and communicating the value of Codex standards in the region.

**Summary of progress****Objective 1: Establish clear, communication channels**

3. The coordinator has worked to continue ensuring communication among Members in the region by means of virtual meetings, emails and other formal and informal meetings. While these tools provide a way for countries to establish useful and faster communication channels, it remains important for CCNASWP Members to ensure that the official contact detail of their respective Codex Contact Points (CCPs)<sup>2</sup> are up to date as this guarantees that they receive formal communications from the Codex Secretariat. Updates should be provided directly to [Codex@fao.org](mailto:Codex@fao.org).
4. Under Objective 1, CCNASWP16 set a target that by CCNASWP17 80% of Members/Observers surveyed would indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”. To facilitate receipt of information, a very short survey has been developed. Members are encouraged to complete this survey at: <https://forms.office.com/e/E2Si1WPz9B>. This survey only takes 2-3 minutes, and the results will be provided during the discussion of this item.

**Objective 2: Communicate the value of Codex engagement and use of standards in the region**

5. The proposed activities under this objective primarily relates to sharing information linked to stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region and activities undertaken under the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) projects.
6. Over the past two years, only eight news were received from the region and subsequently published on the CCNASWP news page<sup>3</sup>. These articles were shared by six countries, namely Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa and the United States of America.
7. Based on the above figures, the region did not meet its targets of 50% of countries (equal to seven) contributing to news items and of a total of 30 news from countries in the region. The importance of communication in the region needs be thus further stressed, noting that while this activity may allow Members of the region to be informed about topics of relevance to the work of Codex, such as inter alia data collection, the implementation of Codex standards et al, it also serves as a mean to inspire and prod other countries in undertaking similar projects.
8. In this context, there is also value in recalling that CAC43 (2020) adopted the *Regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water* (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020)<sup>4</sup>. At the margins of CCNASWP16 some Members of the region expressed interest in developing a case study on the use of CXS 336R-2020. Such a case study could contribute to the objectives of communicating the use of standards in the region while demonstrating the impact of a regional food standard at different levels. A case-study could also be considered for the other NASWP regional standards, namely the *Regional Standard for fermented noni fruit juice* (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 356R-2023).
9. The Codex Secretariat remains available to support Members of the region in sharing news and further develop communication projects, from the initial stage e.g. on contents to capture, on how to draft an article related to an event, to the final steps related to their promotion on the Codex website and social media.
10. The CTF has been supporting two countries from the NASWP region through individual country projects with the aim to strengthen institutional capacity to engage more effectively in Codex work. The CTF project in Samoa concluded in October 2024, while the project in Tonga is expected to end in February 2026. Samoa submitted two testimonies of individuals involved in Codex activities during the CTF project period and shared their national procedural manual for Codex committees for inclusion in the CTF project output repository for further access to

other countries aiming to develop similar products.

11. While investing in Codex through CTF leads to safer food, improved public health and greater access to international markets, informing Codex stakeholders on its related projects and their implementation, will help showcase the importance of CTF.

### Conclusion

12. There are functioning internal regional communication channels and in general, it appears that Members of the region are informed about Codex-related activities. Regarding Objective 2, efforts should be made to build in communications to all initiatives, as well as to engage all Members in the region to share their experiences. Moreover, under the same Objective 2, to stimulate participation and contribute to ensuring that every Member of the region joins communication-related activities, it is proposed to set lower communication targets as included in proposed regional communications work plan 2025.
13. In this context, it is recommended that CCNASWP17:
  - renew its commitment to the regional communications work plan, as updated in the below proposed regional communications work plan 2025;
  - continue its efforts to enhance the regional communications network; and
  - improve communication and promotion of its food safety and standard setting efforts and successes, including the development of case studies on the use and impact of regional Codex standards (i.e. *the Regional standard for kava products for use as a beverage when mixed with water* (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020)).

### Proposed regional communications work plan 2025

14. The below table shows the objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCNASWP regional communications work plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, "Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards", in particular objective 3.1, "Raise the awareness of Codex standards".

| Objectives                                                                                                                                | Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Indicators                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Reinforce and expand existing communication channels and establish clear additional channels as needed e.g., for specific work streams | 1.1 Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and the Codex Secretariat<br>1.2 Expand and strengthen existing simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. regional WhatsApp communications group)                                                                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By CCNASWP18, 80% of Members / Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications "excellent" or "good"</li> </ul>                                                                                                  | Number of survey responses rating regional communications "excellent" or "good"                                                            |
| 2. Communicate the value of Codex engagement and use of standards in the region                                                           | 2.1. Provide the Codex Secretariat with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region<br>2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with the Codex Secretariat and FAO/WHO<br>2.3 Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary country in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By CAC48, 10 news items from countries in the region published on the Codex website</li> <li>• By CCNASWP18, 20 news items from countries in the region</li> <li>• By CCNASWP18, 50% of countries in the region contributed to news on the Codex website</li> </ul> | Number of CCNASWP news stories published on the Codex website<br><br>Number of countries who have made a contribution to the Codex website |