

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-second Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 8 - 12 July 2019

REPORT ON THE CODEX TRUST FUND SIDE EVENT

“How to design and implement a successful CTF project”

A highly interactive side event was organized on “How to design and implement a successful CTF project” Enhancing Engagement in Codex – Examples from Codex Trust Fund supported countries” on 8 July 2019 from 17h00-19h00 on the side lines of the 42nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Panelists were drawn from countries being supported by the Codex Trust Fund at different stages of implementation (Senegal, Honduras, Republic of North Macedonia) as well as a country engaging in mentoring/partnering (Norway), FAO/WHO staff supporting country implementation and the CTF Secretariat.

The event was moderated by the Codex Secretariat. Panelists responded to questions from the moderator and from the audience. The following are some highlights of the discussions.

Senegal:

How do you evaluate the success of the CTF-supported project in your country?

Awareness-raising with high level officials has led to higher levels of commitment and engagement. This has resulted in budget lines for Codex activities. More stakeholders are now involved in Codex activities, Codex guides and procedures have been elaborated for the transcription of Codex standards into national requirements and World Food Safety Day was dedicated to the theme of mycotoxins.

What advice can you give to other countries embarking in CTF projects writing?

Use a multisectoral approach and work with all stakeholders. Focus the project on priority areas. Use high level authorities to chair Codex meetings in the country. Ensure that the project works hand in hand with wider efforts to improve food safety and enhance engagement in Codex.

Honduras:

What are the critical factors that allowed you to get underway?

- 1) Creation of a solid basis with in-depth work to get support from high level decision-makers.
- 2) Dedicated funds for the project from different sectors/stakeholders.
- 3) Formation of strategic partnerships to work jointly around clear and agreed messages to add value to the project.

What did you achieve in the first year of the project?

- Got people involved, empowered them and obtained political commitment.
- Identified a clear vision of what we wanted to achieve.
- Reactivated the National Codex Committee (NCC) and held regular and frequent meetings.
- Established sub-committees of the NCC.
- Worked with eight e-working groups as a way of engaging proactively rather than reactively in Codex.
- Began work on modernizing regulations.
- Took the lead on a document up for debate in a technical committee.
- Learned from Chile how to strengthen Codex in a way that is holistic and integrated into the national food control system.
- Built a Codex “family” in the country.

North Macedonia – What are your expectations for your project?

Establish a functional national Codex structure. Improve participation and inputs to the Codex process. Become as effective as our mentoring partners Norway and Sweden.

Why did you seek the collaboration with Norway-Sweden as a twinning arrangement?

To get input from Norway on general Codex procedures, improvement of our Codex work, and from Sweden on EU procedures and legislation and Codex structure in the EU.

Where would you like to be in one year’s time?

Have a functional CCP Office. Engage with relevant stakeholders for setting a common and clear Codex policy vision, objectives and priorities. Raise awareness of Codex in the country. Translate some basic materials on Codex to support better understanding of the importance of Codex.

Norway:**How do you see the role of a mentor/partner in a CTF project?**

Provides an opportunity for two-way exchange where each side learns from each other.

What will be your starting point for partnering/mentoring with North Macedonia?

Working with FAO Regional Office to help prioritize where we can best assist. We can also draw on the experience of countries which have had some experience with mentoring/partnering of CTF projects.

FAO/WHO/CTF Secretariat - what is the role of FAO/WHO in CTF projects? What does the CTF Secretariat do?

FAO/WHO: Regional offices provide technical assistance, monitor implementation, make linkages between project objectives and other food safety topics important for the country. Headquarters carries out assessment

(critical review of applications), management (provision of comments and recommendations to support funding decisions), communication (results, findings, learning).

CTF Secretariat: Responsible for management mechanisms (i.e. Steering Committee, Technical Review Group), overall management of the programme, programme and project administration, reporting, communication and fundraising.

What are some of the key elements of good applications?

- Good knowledge of your strengths and weaknesses in Codex from use of the Codex Diagnostic Tool.
- Focus on activities that are needed to address the weaknesses and fill the gaps.
- Simple but effective action plans.
- Projects that are embedded in the wider work to strengthen national food control systems.
- Projects that are linked to and focused on Codex issues that are important to the country.
- Elements that will lead to sustainability of project achievements in the medium and long term.
- Involvement of FAO/WHO right from the beginning.

What are some of the common weaknesses found in applications?

- Poor or no multi-stakeholder consultative process.
- Problems with building the application, alignment, coherence, activities selected, budgets.
- Problems with understanding and using a results-based approach.
- No or poor rationale for why CTF support needed

A number of specific questions and issues were raised by participants in the audience and were responded to by panelists. Countries requested more assistance in helping them to use the Codex Diagnostic Tool properly and prepare robust applications. Cuba advised countries to:

- Be prepared. Work upstream and dedicate resources to this.
- Invest in a good diagnosis of Codex capacity in the country and ensure that the NCC and all sectors are involved in the diagnosis.
- Improve communications among and between countries to share experiences and learning.