

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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

Agenda item 5

CX/AFRICA 25/25/5

December 2024

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

Twenty-fifth Session

Kampala, Uganda

27 - 31 January 2025

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

(Prepared by the Coordinator for CCAFRICA)

A. CODEX STANDARDS AND RELEVANT TEXTS

1. The 45th, 46th and 47th Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meetings held in December 2022, November 2023 and November 2024 adopted more than 1850 new and revised Codex standards (including numerical standards), guidelines and codes of practice. The new Codex texts continue to be an integral part in the provision of science based solutions that are useful in enhancing the quality and safety of food while ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

2. This comes at a time during the implementation of the agreement that established the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is a critical turning point for Africa and food standards elaborated through the Codex system are key enablers in facilitating fair trade in food and agriculture commodities and products across the continent and ensuring that the health of the over 1.4 billion people is protected.

3. Codex text of significant interest to the region taking into consideration the food safety issues in the region such as aflatoxins, pesticide residues, food fraud and antimicrobial resistance, include but not limited to:

- Revision to the *Standard for named vegetable oils* (CXS 210-1999), inclusion of avocado oil;
- Revision to the *Standard for olive oils and olive pomace oils* (CXS 33-1981);
- *Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated roots, rhizomes and bulbs – turmeric*;
- *Guidelines for food hygiene control measures in traditional markets for food*;
- *Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of ciguatera poisoning* (CXC 83-2024);
- Maximum Limits for Lead in certain spices;
- MLs for total aflatoxins in specific spices;
- Food-additive provisions and revisions to existing provisions in the *General standard for food additives* (CXS 192-1995);
- MRLs for different combinations of pesticide/commodity(ies);
- Revision to the *General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods: Provisions relevant to allergen labelling* (CXS 1-1985);
- *Guidelines on the provision of food information for pre-packaged foods to be offered via e-commerce*;
- *Guidelines on the use of technology to provide food information in food labelling*;
- Principles and Guidelines on the Use of Remote Audit and Inspection in Regulatory Frameworks;
- *Standard for Follow-up Formula for Older Infants and Product for Young Children* (CXS 156-1987);
- *Guidelines for the Safe Use and Reuse of Water in Food Production and Processing* (CXG 100-2023); and
- *Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in Raw Beef, Fresh Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Raw Milk Cheeses, and Sprouts* (CXG 99-2023).

4. Additionally, substantial work is still in the development pipeline for which Members in the region should take keen interest in order to contribute to the process to ensure favourable outcomes to the benefit of the region. The completed and ongoing work speaks to the outcome of a regional survey conducted in 2017/18, which identified emerging food safety issues in the region as aflatoxins, pesticide residues in foods, food fraud and Antimicrobial Resistance.

B. CODEX TRUST FUND (CTF)

5. Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) was launched in 2016 at CAC39. CTF2 is focused on in-country capacity building to promote more effective participation in Codex, in contrast to CTF1, which focused on increasing participation at Codex meetings by developing countries.

6. As of December 2024, up to 31 Countries in the region have received funding from CTF with an additional three countries (Namibia, Somalia and Togo) that applied for support in Round 8, and are awaiting for confirmation of funding from CTF considering that their projects were technically approved.

7. Up to 9 beneficiary countries that received funding in Round 1 (Ghana, Senegal and Madagascar), Round 2 (Burkina Faso, Mali and Rwanda) and Round 3 (Benin, Nigeria and The Gambia) having completed implementation of activities identified in the different projects.

8. CCAFRICA, CTF Secretariat, FAO and WHO Regional Offices for Africa undertook a regional workshop in November 2023 held in Sally, Senegal targeting the eligible countries in the region for CTF support. The session placed significant emphasis on the use and application of the Diagnostic Tool.

9. This is addition to specific mentoring and coaching programme administered by FAO and WHO Regional Offices for Africa as well as African Union – Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in which up to 5 countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Somalia and Togo) were supported to engage national stakeholders and develop and submit applications for support to CTF. All the 5 applications were successful.

10. Up to 13 countries in the region remain eligible for support (details in the Appendix). There is need to widen the scope of CTF to consider exceptional additional tailor-made support such as training on proposal writing and development for these eligible countries in order to ensure timely submission of proposals as and when the next round of applications is opened.

11. Current CTF Support to CCAFRICA members as at December 2024 is indicated in the **Appendix**.

C. OTHER TOPICS ON CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS

12. Other topics of special interest to the region that relate to the Codex Committees that have been prioritized by members as well as linked to the regional food safety priority areas are as indicated below

Committee	Examples of topics of Special Interest (list not exhaustive)
CCFL	Annex to General standard for the labelling of pre-packaged foods (CXS 1-1985): Guidelines on the use of precautionary allergen labelling
	Guideline on the application of food labelling provisions in emergencies
CCNFSDU	Standard for foods for older infants and young children
	MLs for lead in spices, dried bark; and dried culinary herbs
CCCF	Sampling plans for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in certain spices (dried chilli pepper and paprika, and nutmeg)
	Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of cadmium contamination in foods
	Revision of the Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in peanuts (CXC 55-2004)
CCPR	Guidelines for monitoring the stability and purity of reference materials and related stock solutions of pesticides during prolonged storage
	National registration of pesticides
	Priority list of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR
CCSCH	Standard for spices derived from dried or dehydrated fruits and berries – vanilla
	Standard for large cardamom
	Standard for cinnamon
	Standard for dried seeds-coriander

Committee	Examples of topics of Special Interest (list not exhaustive)
CCFFV	Draft Standard for Fresh Dates
	Standard for Fresh Curry Leaves
CCFICS	Guidelines on the prevention and control of food fraud
	Guidance on appeals mechanism in the context of rejection of imported food
	Principles for the digitalisation of National Food Control Systems (NFCSS)
	Guidance on the standardization of the representation of sanitary requirements
	Revision to the Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food (CXG 89-2016)
	Draft Consolidated Codex guidelines related to equivalence
CCFA	Standard for Baker's yeast
	New work on draft food additive provisions of the GSFA
CCFO	Standard for microbial omega-3 oils
	Revision to Codex standards on fats and oils to reduce trans-fatty acid intake
CCFH	Revised Guidelines on the application of the general principles of food hygiene to the control of pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> species in seafood (CXG 73-2010)
	Revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food (CXG 79-2012)
	Revision of the Guidelines for the control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> in chicken meat (CXG 78-2011)
	Revision of the Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in foods (CXG 61- 2007)
CCRVDF	MRLs for fumagillin dicyclohexylamine (DCH) – fish fillet and honey
	Guideline for competent authorities on actions that may be taken when residues of veterinary drugs in food are below or above Action Levels, or there are no Action Levels established
CCCPL	Standard for whole millet grains

D. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

13. The Committee is invited to consider and review the above topics as outlined in this paper and in particular:

- a) Note the topics highlighted above with a view to support the ongoing work and make recommendations for consideration by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- b) Encourage countries to consider the adoption/adaption of the recently published Codex texts and other relevant standards within their respective national frameworks in order to enhance intra-Africa trade and support effective implementation of the AfCFTA.
- c) Encourage members in the region to include and enhance advocacy for Codex and Food Safety within their respective Governments.
- d) Encourage countries to jointly prepare and submit new work proposals of common interest; possibilities of information exchange amongst the countries of the region, including relevant data and scientific expert advice for preparing new work proposals.
- e) Encourage Members to consider co-chairing EWGs and/or co-hosting arrangements with a view to enhance participation of the region in the topics relevant to the region; and
- f) Identify suitable ways for engagement of eligible countries of the region with Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) potential next round of applications, for their capacity building, including establishment of national level Codex structures; possibilities of submission of joint applications.

APPENDIX

Round 1 (Projects completed)	Round 2 (Projects completed / Under implementation)	Round 3 (Projects completed / Under implementation)	Round 4 (Under implementation)	Round 5 (Under implementation)	Round 6 (Under Implementation)	Round 7 (Under implementation)	Round 8 (Projects technically approved. Awaiting additional funds from CTF)	Eligible for the next call of applications
Ghana	Burkina Faso	Benin	Mauritius	Eritrea	Comoros	Botswana	Namibia	Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DR Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe
Madagascar	Cabo Verde	Côte d'Ivoire		Ethiopia	Niger	Lesotho	Somalia	
Senegal	Guinea	Nigeria		Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone		Togo	
	Mali	Malawi		Liberia	Zambia			
	Rwanda	The Gambia			Zimbabwe			
		Uganda-Kenya-Tanzania-South Sudan-Burundi						

Key

Completed	
Under Implementation	
Awaiting confirmation of funding from CTF	
Eligible for support in the next call for applications	