



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

Twenty-fifth Session

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CODEx STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025: IMPLEMENTATION BY CCAFRICA

(Prepared by the Coordinator for CCAFRICA)

1. 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 2020-2025¹ and 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 5 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. CCAFRICA24 held in September 2022 recognized the progress made in implementing the Regional Work Plan 2020-2022 to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and endorsed the regional work plan for the period 2022-2024. The meeting further agreed to maintain the implementation of activities aimed towards achieving goals 1, 3 and 4.
- 1.4. The current monitoring framework that includes SMART indicators has provided useful information as observed during CAC47. Additionally, the interest in the results of the survey on the use and impact of Codex texts have provided practical data for the strategic plan indicators. With the Strategic plan (2020-2025) heading into the final year of implementation, the activities undertaken within CCAFRICA will contribute to the final report.
- 1.5. The detailed updated CCAFRICA work plan for the reporting period, 2023-2024 is attached as **Appendix I**.

2. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITIES

This paper provides an overview and status report on the activities that have been undertaken for the period 2023 – 2024 under the Strategic Plan and projecting of planned events to be undertaken in the short term in order to meet the set out goals. It also includes in Appendix II a scorecard that indicates the level of participation of CCAFRICA members in Codex meetings that were held in 2023 and 2024.

3. ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2025

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. Potential activities to be implemented in the region in 2025 will be proposed by members following consideration of the progress and implementation.

4. CONCLUSION

Codex Members share the responsibility for implementing the Codex Strategic Plan together with the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO and it is important to keep monitoring the progress reporting milestones being achieved.

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

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

CCAFRICA25 is requested to:

- (i) consider the progress has been made in the region with regards to the priority goals (1, 3 and 4) of the strategic plan 2020-2025.
- (ii) consider the proposed priority goals, objectives and identify specific activities for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in 2025 by CCAFRICA
- (iii) devise suitable mechanisms through which members best communicate progress in relation to the activities identified under the priority goals; and
- (iv) discuss how CCAFRICA member countries can enhance effective participation and engagement in Codex processes.

APPENDIX I

CCAFRICA WORKPLAN 2023-2024 TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2024	Reporting mechanism	Implementation status/ approach (as of December 2024)
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	A regional survey to identify emerging food safety issues and needs including issues related to national food control systems, to be launched in Member Countries	A regional survey was conducted which identified emerging food safety issues as aflatoxins, pesticide residues in foods and AMR. The response was 47% and there is need to upscale.	National Codex Contact points, CCAFRICA Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat	Report of identified gaps according to the FAO/WHO survey tool Increased response	Report to next session of CCAFRICA	A survey will be developed by FAO/WHO and the Codex Secretariat to be implemented in early 2025 (aim to include elements in the survey that would better capture capacity needs among members – a bridge to implementation of the Food control systems Assessment Tool). Some additional information to support members in their completion of the survey may also be provided
	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	Capacity development on food control systems at national level (strengthening surveillance/diagnoses) Creating awareness on identified issues e.g. Aflatoxin, pesticide residues, antimicrobial resistance (AMR)- CCAFRICA23 report	Need to emphasize the gaps and priorities through committees and their working groups. This will ensure a timely Codex response. Initiate activities at regional level through formulation of new work proposals	National Codex Contact Points, CCAFRICA Coordinator	Increased effective participation in Codex committees /meetings/EWG to gain a better understanding of ongoing work particularly in priority areas Increased awareness of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool through the implementation of Webinar(s) on the tool	Biennial reporting of events	Promoting participation in ongoing Codex work in the priority areas (aflatoxins, pesticide residues, AMR) led by the Coordinator with support of the Codex Secretariat. Many awareness raising activities on priority areas have been already undertaken e.g. Regional event held in June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya with the objective to Raise awareness of the importance of food safety to promote action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. Communication sent to all CCPs by CCAFRICA Coordinator in 2023 requesting them to provide information on any events convened to allow for their collation. FAO/WHO in collaboration with CCAFRICA participated in the Inaugural meeting of the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum in which CCAFRICA initiatives to support harmonized regulatory Agenda and the Assessment of national food control systems in Africa as a basis to improve the collaborative food safety agenda in the region were shared. Capacity development initiatives undertaken on Science and Risk analysis in Codex focusing on data generation in order to enhance the region's ability to generate and submit quality data on Codex work. Regional training undertaken in July 2024 supported by WHO and AU-IBAR with participation from 11 Member countries ² . National training events on data also undertaken in Burkina Faso, Malawi, Nigeria and the EAC (Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda).

² Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, The Gambia, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	Develop Information education and communication (IEC) materials; Posters, brochures, fliers Hold workshops/seminars/meetings/media to educate on standards related to priority areas (see 1.2)	There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders These activities will contribute to raising awareness on Codex standards, thus contributing to the global use of Codex standards by different stakeholders as a reference for food safety and fair practices in food trade.	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator	Increased awareness on codex standards	Event reports	Through the support from Codex Trust Fund, countries implementing a group project in East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) developed information, education and communication materials based on the Codex regional guidelines for the design of control measures for street-vended foods (Africa) (CXG 22R-1997) and the Code of Practice for the Prevention and Reduction of Mycotoxin Contamination in Cereals (CXC 51-2003). The materials will be disseminated in the region to support wider application. Food Safety awareness events in the markets and targeting key stakeholders undertaken by members during the period (2023-2024) to increase the participation and use of Codex standards as reported for Nigeria, Rwanda. Regional awareness events to celebrate World Food Safety day on food safety standards and importance on investing in preparedness for safety on the continent convened through collaboration of FAO, WHO, WFP and AU-IBAR. Several members³ continued to impressively showcase and raise the profile of food safety and Codex at national level as reported for the numerous events held across the continent on varying food safety subjects and targeting several stakeholders.
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of Codex standards	Sensitize policy makers on codex standards, the requirements for their implementation and their value as a foundation to adopt/adapt codex standards in development of national food standards & regulations and application in food trade. Undertake sensitization events to support	There is low application of codex standards by stakeholders. These activities will contribute to implementation and application of codex standards	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator	Increased application/uptake of Codex standards by stakeholders	Biennial Report	Policy and decision makers on food safety and Codex activities of the East African Community (EAC) were sensitized in September 2023 and resolved to implement 11 actions to improve food safety control and Codex related systems in the region. The high-level participants from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda also adopted four policy briefs providing recommendations on mitigating the impact of current food safety issues.

³ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa, Senegal, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, Zimbabwe

		stakeholders to apply and eventually comply to regulations					
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	Conduct advocacy to policy makers to prioritize codex work, allocate resources and provide institutional framework for Codex structures within member countries	Need to institutionalise work of codex at the national level by strengthening codex structures.	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator	Enhanced activities by Member countries in support of Codex work	Biennial Reports	High-level events for policy and decision makers held in Eswatini and Somalia to raise the profile of food safety at the national level and serve as a platform to advocate for the necessary investments in order to improve the food control system.
	4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of all Codex members	Encourage the establishment of national Codex (expert) committees at the country level to enable active participation and timely responses to circular letters, EWG work.	The expert's committees will be the forum for discussion on Codex Work and contributions of countries on Codex standards	National Codex Contact Points CCAFRICA Coordinator	Increased participation in EWG, PWG and response to circular letters Training on Codex and modes of participation (e.g. EWG, OCS implemented at national, sub-regional or regional level.	Biennial Reports	CCAFRICA in collaboration with AU-IBAR in 2023 and 2024 have supported Somalia, Eswatini and Namibia to strengthen their national codex committees by enhancing capacity on work management and application of Codex procedures. Through implementation of CTF projects, national codex committees in Benin, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Mauritius, Cabo Verde have been strengthened through adoption of new procedures for management of Codex work at national level. Appendix II provides a general scorecard on member participation in Codex meetings in 2023 and 2024.

APPENDIX II

Scorecard indicating level of participation in Codex meetings by CCAFRICA members in 2023

[illegible]

Member State	CCRVD26	CCNFSDU43	CCFA53	CCCF16	CCFICS26	CCFL47	CCMAS42	CCPR54	CCGP33	CAC46
Malawi										
Mali										
Mauritania										
Mauritius										
Morocco										
Mozambique										
Namibia										
Niger										
Nigeria										
Rwanda										
Sao Tome and Principe										
Senegal										
Seychelles										
Sierra Leone										
Somalia										
South Africa										
South Sudan										
Togo										
Uganda										
United Rep. of Tanzania										
Zambia										
Zimbabwe										

Key

Member participated in a Codex session	
Member did not participate in a Codex session	

Scorecard indicating level of participation in Codex meetings by CCAFRICA members in 2024

[illegible]

Member State	CCSCH7	CCFO28	CCFH54	CCCF17	CCFA54	CCMAS43	CCPR55	CCFICS27	CCNFSDU44	CCFFP36	CCRVDF27	CCFL48	CAC47
Malawi													
Mali													
Mauritania													
Mauritius													
Morocco													
Mozambique													
Namibia													
Niger													
Nigeria													
Rwanda													
Sao Tome and Principe													
Senegal													
Seychelles													
Sierra Leone													
Somalia													
South Africa													
South Sudan													
Togo													
Uganda													
United Rep. of Tanzania													
Zambia													
Zimbabwe													

Key

Member participated in a Codex session	
Member did not participate in a Codex session	