



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

Twenty-fifth Session

Kampala, Uganda

27 - 31 January 2025

CODEx COMMUNICATION WORK PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CCAFRICA24 acknowledged the importance of regional Codex communications and adopted the regional communications work plan 2022-2024¹. While challenges were noted, particularly in relation to resources to implement activities, the value of a communications work plan with targets that could motivate more countries in the region to share their experiences and progress was highlighted and further recognized.

1.2 This paper highlights the progress made on implementation of the regional communications work plan 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.

2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Objective 1 Reinforce and expand existing communication channels and establish clear additional channels as needed

2.1 The Coordinator has worked to continue communication among Members in the region by means of virtual meetings, emails, WhatsApp, telecommunications, and other formal and informal meetings.

2.2 While these tools provide a way for countries to establish useful and faster communication channels, it remains, important for CCAFRICA Members to ensure that the official contact detail of their respective Codex Contact Points² 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.

2.3 Under Objective 1, CCAFRICA24 also set a target that by CCAFRICA25 80% of Members/Observers surveyed would indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”. To facilitate receipt of information on this, a very short survey has been developed. Members are encouraged to complete this survey at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/NVwGCBVuw8>

2.4 This survey takes only 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

2.5 The proposed activities under this objective primarily related to sharing information related to success stories in the region, stories on food safety, standards work or capacity development initiatives in the region and activities undertaken under the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) projects.

2.6 There has been an effort in the region to document and communicate activities through the preparation of short web stories that have been subsequently published on the CCAFRICA news page³ on

¹ REP22/AFRICA paras 82 ff. and Appendix VI

² List of CCAFRICA Codex Contact Points: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/codex-regions/ccafrika/members/en/>

³ <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/codex-regions/ccafrika/about/en/>

the Codex website. This has been steadily increasing year on year.

2.7 Over the past two years World Food Safety Day provided a strong incentive to raise awareness on food safety and share information on national and regional initiatives. At least twenty-five countries in the region have shared stories since CCAFRICA22, multiple stories coming from some countries⁴. In this context the region has met its target of 50% of countries contributing to news items and World Food Safety Day, along with the celebrations for the 60th anniversary of Codex, was the major driver. Stories also covered technical areas such as for example data generation, implementation of Codex standards, trainings and the regional webinars organized by the Coordinator in collaboration with FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat.

2.8 While CCAFRICA met the indicator established in the communications work plan regarding the number of countries contributing to Codex news on the regional webpage, set for the 50% of the total number of CCAFRICA Members, there is still opportunity for more countries in the region to share their experience, news and messages related to Codex work.

2.9 There have been 28 CTF recipient countries in the region⁵: half of them have shared at least one story of an initiative or progress in the region, along with social media posts shared via the relevant channels of Members, FAO, WHO and Codex.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 There are functioning internal regional communication channels and in general, the region has made good progress since CCAFRICA24. With regard to Objective 2, World Food Safety Day continued to serve as a strong driver along with webinars, and initiatives organized in the context of CTF. Moving forward, efforts should be made to continue to build in communications to all initiatives to maintain this situation, as well as to engage other Members in the region to share their experiences.

3.2 In this context, it is recommended that CCAFRICA25:

- i. renew its commitment to the Communications work plan, as updated in Annex 1;
- ii. continue its efforts to enhance the regional communications network; and
- iii. continue to communicate on and promote its food safety and standard setting efforts and successes.

⁴ Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Chad, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, The Gambia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

⁵ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund/projects-and-impact>

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN 2025

The table shows the objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCAFRICA 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 Codex Secretariat (CS) 1.2 Expand and strengthen existing simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. Regional WhatsApp communications group)	By CCAFRICA26 80% of Members/ Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”	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 CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region 2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO 2.3 Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects	- By CAC48, 20 news items from countries in the region published - By CCAFRICA26, 30 news items from countries in the region - By CCAFRICA26, 70% of countries in the region contributed to Codex news on the regional webpage	Number of CCAFRICA news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution