

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Sixteenth Session

Geneva, 1-12 July 1985

REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Nairobi

31 October - 5 November 1983

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REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE
CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa was held in Nairobi by courtesy of the Government of Kenya.

2. The Session was attended by 62 participants or observers from 15 countries, the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI).

The List of Participants, including officers from the FAO/WHO Secretariat, is included as Appendix I to this Report.

3. Dr. J.K.A. Misoi, Chairman of the Committee and Coordinator for Africa welcomed the participants attending the Session. He expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Commerce and Industry for finding time to open the Session. He then gave a brief review of the work so far accomplished by the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

4. The Session was officially opened by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, the Hon. A.J. Omanga. He welcomed the representatives of Governments and International Organizations attending the Session and stressed the importance of the work of the Coordinating Committee for Africa aimed at protecting the health of the consumer and facilitation and promotion of trade, through food standards work. The Minister recalled that the Coordinating Committee for Africa had been established as a result of a joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Conference held in Nairobi in 1973. He expressed his appreciation to FAO and WHO and the Secretariat for making the necessary preparations for the Session. The Minister indicated that Kenya followed with great interest the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of the Coordinating Committee for Africa. He wished participants a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Nairobi.

5. Mr. L.K. Jacobsen, speaking on behalf of the FAO Representative in Kenya Mr. K.E. Kolding, expressed his thanks to the Government of Kenya for making the holding of the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa possible. He indicated that FAO and WHO were greatly interested in food standards work which aimed at consumer protection and facilitation of international trade in food.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Coordinating Committee adopted the Provisional Agenda without any changes, except that it agreed to consider the appointment of Rapporteurs.

APPOINTMENT OF RAPPORTEURS

7. Dr. Randolph Ati of Togo and Mr. G.O. Baptist of Nigeria were appointed as rapporteurs to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of the report.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE

Hosting of Codex Sessions in Developing Countries

8. The Coordinating Committee was informed that the Commission at its Fourteenth Session had agreed that, in principle, every effort should be made to arrange to hold a number of Codex Sessions in developing countries so as to facilitate participation by these countries at Codex Sessions. The Secretariat had been requested to follow up this matter with developing countries and with countries actually

hosting Codex meetings. The Secretariat had contacted Codex Member Countries and also countries hosting Codex Sessions and had reported to the Fifteenth Session of the Commission.

9. The Coordinating Committee was also informed that a number of countries had offered to host Codex Sessions and that the Commission at its Fifteenth Session had requested the Secretariat to continue to explore the possibility of holding certain Codex sessions in developing countries (paras 95-100, ALINORM 83/43).

10. The Delegations of Zambia and Kenya reiterated their Governments' offer to host Codex Sessions. The Secretariat indicated that the possible holding of a Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in a developing country was being discussed with the authorities of The Netherlands.

Frequency of Sessions of the Commission

11. The Coordinating Committee was informed that the Executive Committee, at its 29th Session, had discussed the frequency of Sessions of the Commission which, for the last few sessions, had been on a two-yearly basis. The suggestion had been made that Sessions of the Commission should be held annually in accordance with the Commission's rules. However, it had also been noted that holding more frequent Sessions of the Commission, albeit shorter ones, would cause additional financial burden for countries. The Executive Committee had decided that the views of Codex Coordinating Committees should be sought on this matter.

12. The Coordinating Committee was also informed that the Commission, at its 15th Session, had decided that for practical reasons the present frequency of every 20-24 months should be maintained for its Sessions. The Delegation of Nigeria concurred with this decision and expressed the view that Sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Africa should, likewise, be held on a 2-yearly basis in order to enable Governments to make adequate preparations for the Session.

Elaboration of Standards for Pulses and Legumes and Cereal Products

13. The Coordinating Committee noted with satisfaction that the terms of reference of the Codex Committee on Cereals and Cereal Products had been widened to include standards for pulses and legumes (paras 148-158, ALINORM 81/39). It also noted that this Committee was elaborating a standard for pulses.

14. The Coordinating Committee was informed that the above Committee (renamed Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes) had decided not to embark on the standardization of semolina and wheat. These and other similar cereal products had been included in previous lists for future work by the Coordinating Committee for Africa. The Committee was also informed that the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had discussed the need for the development of a Code of Hygienic Practice for the Storage of Grains, especially in relation with problems caused by aflatoxins present in cereals. The Committee had decided not to embark on the elaboration of such a Code at this time (see paras 166-173, ALINORM 83/29). The Secretariat pointed out that the reason for such conclusion was based on the view that any problems arising during storage of grains did not only relate to the question of hygiene, but represented a technological problem involving considerations such as moisture content during storage.

Membership of the Commission

15. The Committee noted that the present total membership of the Commission stood at 122 countries. While this represented the great majority of countries which were Members of FAO and/or WHO, the membership of the Codex Region of Africa of 36 countries could be still increased. The Delegation of Lesotho informed the Committee that its Government had notified the Secretariat of its intention to become Member of the Commission. It appeared that this communication had not been received by the Secretariat. The Committee requested the Secretariat to look into this matter as soon as possible.

16. Several delegations pointed out that membership of the Commission and, in particular, of the Coordinating Committee for Africa depended to a large extent on the status of development of food control infrastructures in the countries concerned. These delegations also stressed the need for an indication of the practical benefits to be gained from a membership of, and participation in, the work of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

17. The Delegation of Zambia recalled discussions at previous Sessions of the Coordinating Committee concerning the need to provide funds for the Coordinator for Africa to enable him to carry out his duties more effectively and to establish closer contacts with the appropriate authorities in countries, leading to a better understanding by Governments of the aims of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

18. It was realized that participation in the work of the Coordinating Committee and activities aimed at strengthening food control infrastructures were related. It was pointed out, however, that funding of food control projects were becoming difficult because of lack of adequate funds for this purpose. Furthermore, requests for technical assistance from FAO or WHO in the field of food control came from Governments on the basis of priorities established within their countries.

19. The question was raised as to whether it was useful to participate in food standards work activities while food control infrastructures were lacking or in need of strengthening. The Secretariat made the remark that even in the absence of adequate food control facilities, the existence of appropriate food laws and regulations (including standards) offered a certain degree of protection of the consumer and of the countries' economic interest.

20. The Committee agreed that membership of the Region of Africa should be strengthened. In order to achieve this, there was a need for more information to be made available to countries of the Region of Africa concerning the benefits to be derived from a participation in the work of the Coordinating Committee. The Secretariat was requested to look into the matter of preparing a document for distribution to countries of the African Region. As regards strengthening of food control infrastructures, the Committee agreed that this be promoted and requested FAO and WHO to examine how best this could be achieved.

Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food

21. In introducing the subject, the Secretariat explained the sequence of events that had led up to the decision of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, at its Fifteenth Session, to defer the final decision on the amendment of the Codex Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food to its next Session. In the meanwhile, the Codex Alimentarius Commission had requested the Regional Coordinating Committee to discuss the issue during their forthcoming Sessions.

22. The Delegation of Kenya expressed the opinion that there was a need to harmonize the Codex Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food in line with the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes with respect to the promotion and information concerning products covered by both instruments.

23. The Secretariat felt that the Coordinating Committee had not been allowed sufficient time to study the relevant documentation concerning the proposal to amend the Code of Ethics for the International Trade in Food. However, it was pointed out that the Coordinating Committee for Africa would again have the opportunity to express opinion at its Seventh Session, scheduled for early 1985, prior to the next Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

24. The Delegation of Lesotho felt that it would be useful if both FAO and WHO would, in the meanwhile, jointly reach a consensus on how the Codex Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food could be made compatible with the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes and if these findings were communicated to countries.

25. The Committee agreed that, as the matter was still under consideration by the Commission, discussion of this matter be deferred for the present as further opportunity would be afforded at the next Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa.

REVIEW OF ACCEPTANCES OF CODEX STANDARDS AND MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

26. The Committee had before it a paper (CX/AFRO 83/3) informing the Committee concerning the publication of Codex standards in the various Volumes of the Codex Alimentarius, the issue of the summary of notifications received from Governments in relation to the acceptance of these standards and replies received from countries in the Region of Africa. It was noted that the 'Codex Alimentarius' consisted of a collection of Codex Standards, Codes, Maximum Residue Limits and other texts

assembled into Volumes as well as the publications containing the response of Governments.

27. The Chairman of the Committee pointed out that implementation of the Codex standards, etc., was an integral part of the Codex Acceptance Procedures.

28. During the discussions, it was stressed that:

- (a) the acceptance of Codex standards required appropriate infrastructures which should be created in order to enable Governments to study the implications of the Codex recommendations and to formulate their response;
- (b) the application of Codex recommendations required the necessary legal framework, while their enforcement required adequate food control infrastructures.

29. The question was raised as to whether regional laboratories could not be established which could be used to implement food regulations. Furthermore, it was stressed that assistance through the UN system was required to strengthen existing food control setups or to establish them where they did not exist. The Secretariat pointed out that the establishment of regional laboratories was desirable but that existing laboratory facilities in the Region of Africa would need to be first upgraded in order that such regional laboratories could be established. Furthermore, it was difficult to decide on the location of a regional laboratory and to secure adequate funding. In fact, available funds from UNDP, FAO, WHO and UNEP were limited even for the strengthening of food control in individual countries.

30. The delegate of Nigeria pointed out that the establishment of national standards and regulations was a lengthy process and that, for this reason, Codex standards were applied in Nigeria until they were replaced by specific Nigerian standards established in that country.

31. The representative of ARSO informed the Committee that the aims of that Organization included the encouraging of the strengthening of food control through the setting up of regional specialized laboratories and the organization of training schemes.

32. As regards the setting up of national committees to study Codex recommendations, the Delegation of Togo indicated that an inter-ministerial working group was being established in that country which would study Codex standards and maximum residue limits. This working group would be in a position to make concrete proposals concerning the acceptance of Codex recommendations. In the meanwhile, foods in conformity with Codex standards, etc., were permitted to be distributed in its country. The Delegation of Mozambique informed the Committee of the existence of an inter-ministerial commission which had been set up, *inter alia*, to collaborate with Codex.

33. The Delegation of Zambia pointed out that its country had communicated its position regarding the acceptance of Codex recommendations, but that this was not reflected in the document. The Secretariat indicated that this would be rectified in the Codex documents containing Government acceptances.

34. As regards the question of enforcement of Codex recommendations, several Delegations pointed out that such enforcement capability was a *sine qua non* in giving a meaningful acceptance to Codex recommendations. In this respect, the point was made that the very existence of food laws and regulations and codes of practice helped to improve food production and marketing practices and tended to offer some protection. Furthermore, the existing standards and other aspects of food regulations could be included in trade contracts.

35. The Committee concluded that:

- (a) there was a need for specialized regional laboratories;
- (b) existing food control laboratories should be strengthened;
- (c) the establishment of food standards and their harmonization was a useful exercise even if adequate food control facilities did not exist;
- (d) the establishment of appropriate infrastructures within countries to study Codex recommendations; and that

- (e) Governments should take the opportunity presented by the issue of the various Volumes of the 'Codex Alimentarius' during 1983/1984 to communicate their acceptances to the Secretariat.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE AFRICAN CODEX REGIONAL COMMITTEE
AND AFRICAN REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

36. The Chairman, in introducing document CX/AFRO 83/4, reminded the Committee that the above matter had been discussed at the Fifth Session of the Committee (see ALINORM 81/28, paras 27-36) as a result of which he had circulated a questionnaire to international organizations in Africa to identify areas of possible collaboration between them and the Committee.

37. The questionnaire had indicated the following areas of possible collaboration:

- (a) Improvement of basic food law in Africa;
- (b) Harmonization of food standards in Africa;
- (c) Elaboration of food standards and codes of practice for the protection of the consumer against hazardous ingredients, e.g. food additives, contaminants, pesticide residues and provision of appropriate food hygiene in the Region;
- (d) Attention to nutritional aspects and adequate label information;
- (e) Consumer protection against fraud, deception and adulteration of food;
- (f) Strengthening of food monitoring and control services, such as laboratories, provision of adequate manpower and equipment;
- (g) Motivation of industrialization through transfer of technology via standardization;
- (h) Facilitation of international and regional, sub-regional trade in food and hence improvement of economic and nutritional position of the peoples of the Member Nations, etc.

38. The Committee noted that in addition to the above list, collaboration could also include training, the holding of seminars and creating closer working relationships between national standards bodies and national Codex and FAO Committees. A summary of the replies received was included in CX/AFRO 83/4.

39. The Chairman reported that replies had been received from seven of the 11 Organizations to which the questionnaire had been circulated and that, in the main, they expressed a positive attitude towards finding ways of collaborating with the Committee.

40. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had attended a Council Meeting of the African Regional Standards Organization from 8-10 November 1982 and had reason to believe that good working arrangements would be achieved following further discussions.

41. The observer from ARSO also informed the Committee that the matter of cooperation between ARSO and the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been subject of discussion at the Ninth Session of the ARSO Council which had met in Nairobi, 26-28 October 1983.

42. He pointed out that the Lagos Plan of Action had given a mandate to ARSO to elaborate regional standards and that eight Technical Committees had been established for the purpose.

43. The observer of ARSO, therefore, proposed that ARSO should become the executive agent for the establishment of regional standards and that the Coordinating Committee should coordinate its work to avoid duplicating the activities of ARSO.

44. It was pointed out that the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been established to provide protection for consumers throughout the world by elaborating standards for foods moving in international trade and, through its Regional Standards, for foods of importance in the Region. The terms of reference of ARSO, on the other hand, covered a wide range of activities in the field of standardization, quality, control, certification and monitoring including many subject areas other than foods.

45. Some Delegations expressed the view that, since Codex was concerned with food standardization only, this should be continued in the Region through the Codex Coordinating Committee and that a useful area of collaboration would be the promotion and promulgation of Codex Regional Standards by ARSO.

46. It was pointed out that the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme was also active in the Region in helping to establish food control infrastructures which were complementary to the elaboration of food standards.

47. The Committee noted that the Commission had already established excellent working arrangements with organizations such as the International Standards Organization (ISO) and other bodies which specialized in specific food commodities.

48. It agreed that there was a need to define the areas of responsibility in the Region by discussions between ARSO and the Commission's Secretariat and that these matters should be brought to the attention of the Commission at its next Session.

49. It also agreed that further investigation should be made into the areas of responsibility of other regional organizations, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa so that a more detailed study could be made of possible areas of collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, including not only food standardization but also the establishment of food control facilities in the Region.

DRAFT AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR GARI

50. The Coordinating Committee had before it a revised text of the above standard prepared by Togo (CX/AFRO 83/5) and room documents Nos 4, 5 and 6 containing comments and information on the standard for gari.

51. The draft standard was introduced by the Delegation of Togo who indicated the various changes made to the draft standard. The Coordinating Committee agreed to discuss the revised draft standard prepared by Togo.

Section 2.1 - Definition of the Product

52. The Coordinating Committee discussed a proposal of the Delegation of Nigeria involving an amendment to the description of the processing of the product. It was proposed to use the term 'garification' with an appropriate description of this term so that it would be fully understood. The Delegations of Nigeria and Togo, with the assistance of the Secretariat, were requested to revise the definition of the product. The revised text is given in Section 2.1 of the standard.

Section 2.2 - Classification

53. The Coordinating Committee considered the proposal of the Delegation of Nigeria to change the sieve size to "0.50 to 0.25 mm aperture size" in sub-section 2.2.1 in order to bridge the gap created by the present sizing of "0.40 to 0.25" followed by "1 to 0.50" for the next size. It was agreed not to specify a diameter for circular apertures for the sieve but an 'aperture size' as provided for in various standards for cereals. The Coordinating Committee further agreed that the standard sieve corresponding to the aperture sizes adopted should be specified in the section on sampling and analysis and that the question of size classification be reconsidered at the next Session.

54. As regards the alternative descriptions for the various size classifications included in sub-sections 2.2.1 to 2.2.4, the Coordinating Committee agreed to use the following terms only: "extra fine grain gari", "fine grain gari", "medium grain gari" and "coarse grain gari". This was necessary to avoid using expressions such as "fine gari" which might be considered to imply a higher grade of quality.

Section 3.2 - Organoleptic Quality

55. On the suggestion of the Delegation of Nigeria, the Coordinating Committee added the words "as is acceptable in a given locality" in order to take into account the use of palm oil which influenced the colour of the final product.

Sections 3.3.1 - Total Acidity and 3.3.2 - Hydrocyanic Acidity and its glucosides

56. The Coordinating Committee agreed that the titles of these sub-sections be editorially amended as shown in the corresponding sections in APP III. It was also agreed that it should be clarified that total hydrocyanic acid, measured as the free HCN, was meant. The Delegation of Mozambique considered the maximum level of 2 mg/kg as not sufficient in view of the quantities observed in cassava products. It was pointed out that gari was a fermented and heat-treated product in which virtually no residues of HCN were present.

Section 5 - Contaminants

57. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues had made recommendations on the way residues of pesticide in processed foods carried over from agricultural applications or from environmental contamination should be regulated. Furthermore, the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes had developed a general text to cover the presence of such residues in cereal products. The Committee agreed that this text be used in Section 5.

Section 7.1 - Name of the Product and 7.2 - List of Ingredients

58. The Delegation of Nigeria was of the opinion that the amounts of ingredients added for enrichment should be declared on the label and that the fact that the product had been enriched should be stated in terms such as "gari enriched with...". Furthermore, that Delegation also suggested that the origin of added fats and oils should be declared since this information was of importance for certain cultural and religious groups.

59. The Delegation of Mozambique was also of the opinion that the amounts of ingredients added for enrichment should be quantified on the label.

Section 7.5 - Date Marking and Section 8 - Packaging, Transport and Storage

60. The Delegation of Tanzania was of the opinion that the conditions of storage and the type of packaging materials used should be specified in order to ensure the product be stored and handled in such a way as to maintain the good quality of the food.

61. The Committee noted that in standards for similar products other Codex Committees had not included instructions for storage as a mandatory requirement for labelling. Furthermore, it was considered that if packaged properly in accordance with Section 8, the product could be expected to maintain its quality if handled and stored under normal conditions.

Status of the Draft Standard for Gari

62. The Committee decided to advance the Draft African Regional Standard for Gari to Step 8 of the Procedure (see Appendix II). However, it was agreed that the Section dealing with the definition of the product, the Section dealing with classification and the Section dealing with methods of analysis and sampling should be reconsidered at the next Session in the light of further studies to be carried out mainly by Nigeria and Togo. These studies would involve the gelatinization step proposed by Nigeria as part of the processing of gari (garification) and the size classification which had been proposed by Nigeria and adopted by the Committee.

PROPOSED DRAFT AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR MILLET GRAIN

63. The Committee had before it document CX/AFRO 83/6 containing the above standard and comments thereon contained in document CX/AFRO 83/6-ADD 1. The standard was introduced by the Delegation of Senegal. The following remarks and decisions were made in connection with the above standard.

Name of the Standard

64. The Committee agreed that the name of the standard should be changed to 'pearl millet'. This term was considered to be a general term covering various varieties of millet. The Latin name was corrected to *Pennisetum americanum*.

Section 2 - Description

65. The Committee had a discussion on the exact meaning of "whole" in relation to non-decorticated or decorticated millet grains. It was noted that the French text was clear in that it implied "entire", i.e. unbroken grains, rather than whole, i.e. non-decorticated grains. It was agreed that the Sections on Scope and Description be redrafted to make this clear. There was support for the remarks included in document CX/AFRO 83/6-ADD 1 that 'whole grain' should refer to the non-decorticated grain.

66. As the standard applied to unbroken grains of millet, the point was made that the standard should include a tolerance for broken grains.

Section 2.2 - Presentation

67. As the colour of the grains depended on the variety and various region-related factors, the Committee decided to delete this section, noting that the natural colour of millet was not a matter of presentation. In any event, sub-section 3.1.2 already covered this criterion.

Section 3.2.2

68. The Committee decided to put the range of 5 to 7.5 g into square brackets so that it could be reconsidered on the basis of further information. It was pointed out that there may be a need to distinguish between the decorticated and non-decorticated product.

Sections 3.2.4 and 3.2.5

69. As the values included in these sections were questioned, the Committee decided to place them in square brackets.

Section 3.2.6

70. The degree of decortication covered by this section was considered to be an essential parameter requiring control. This was so, since the degree of decortications had an effect on the technological quality of the flour prepared from millet as well as on analytical and nutritional parameters. As the minimum degree of decortication could be expected to be governed by good manufacturing practice, it was decided to specify only an upper limit (22 percent). The Delegation of Mozambique was of the opinion that the various analytical criteria were sufficient to control the process of decortication as these were related.

Sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8

71. For similar reasons as those indicated for the degree of decortication, the Committee decided to specify only the upper limit for cellulose content and fat content.

Section 3.2.9

72. The point was made that sections 3.1.2 and 3.2.9 were in contradiction and that a maximum limit of 2 percent would not be acceptable for some of the impurities listed in this section. The Committee agreed that this section required redrafting. A distinction between the decorticated and non-decorticated product should be made when redrafting the section.

Sections 4 - Contaminants and 5 - Hygiene

73. It was decided to adopt the same text as in the revised standard for gari. The Delegation of Kenya questioned whether mycotoxins should not be referred to. It was pointed out that the section on hygiene included a provision requiring that the product be practically free from toxins arising from microorganisms. The Committee decided to substitute the section on Hygiene with that included in other Codex Standards.

Sections 6

74. In section 6.1, the Committee decided to include 'organoleptic' in relation with the qualities of the product to be maintained. As regards the need to control

the premises used for the storage and transport of foods, it was noted that this matter was covered in the General Principles on Food Hygiene referred to in Section 5.

Section 7 - Labelling

75. The opinion was expressed that the degree of decortication should be declared on the label. The Secretariat was of the opinion that this information would not be relevant for consumer information and should be directed only to those concerned with the further processing of decorticated millet grains.

76. In the section on date marking, the requirement that the limit of durability be declared was placed in square brackets until further information was forthcoming.

Section 8 - Methods of Sampling and Analysis

77. It was agreed that this Section required revision.

Status of the Standard

78. The Committee decided that the standard be revised by Senegal in cooperation with the Secretariat and that the revised standard be returned to Step 3 for comments. ARSO was invited to submit any comments and information to Senegal and the Secretariat. As regards the Scope of the Standard, the author country was requested to give consideration to the question as to whether the standard applied only to millet grain sold directly to the consumer.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR MILLET FLOUR

79. The Committee had before it the above standard (CX/AFRO 83/7) and comments on it (CX/AFRO 83/7-ADD 1). The standard was introduced by the Delegation of Senegal.

80. The Committee decided to proceed in the same way as with the standard for millet grain, noting that most of the remarks and corrections made in connection with millet grain also applied to millet flour.

Section 3.1.3

81. The example 'couscous' given in this section was considered to be too specific. It was agreed that a more general term should be included.

Section 7.2

82. The Delegation of Mozambique was of the opinion that the requirement for the use of lead-free marking ink for packaging materials was too restrictive and not necessary. The requirement could be deleted since the mark would not come into contact with the food. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Codex had no recommendations for marking inks whether or not they came into contact with food. The Delegations of Senegal and Kenya were in favour of retaining the requirement in view of the use of certain types of bags where the possibility of transfer of the ink into the food might be possible.

Section 8

83. The Delegation of Rwanda was of the opinion that directions for storage should be given on the label.

Status of the Standard

84. The Committee agreed to proceed as in the case of the standard for millet grains. It was considered important to reconsider the scope of the standard, i.e., whether the product was intended only for sale directly to the consumer or also for product intended for further processing at the industrial and artisanate level. The Delegation of Senegal was requested to prepare the revised draft in collaboration with the Secretariat.

PROPOSED DRAFT STANDARD FOR SORGHUM GRAINS

85. The Committee had before it the above standard (CX/AFRO 83/8) and comments thereon (CX/AFRO 83/8-ADD 1). The standard was introduced by the Delegation of Senegal. The following remarks and decisions were made:

Sections 1 - Scope; 2 - Description

86. The Committee agreed to proceed in the same way as with the standard for millet grains, as regards the question of "whole grains" and "presentation".

Size Classification

87. The Committee discussed the need, or otherwise, of including a section on classification and related criteria. It was pointed out that grain size was not a significant quality characteristic. As regards weight of 1000 grams or weight of 1 litre, the establishment of such provisions were difficult in view of the great variability of sorghum grain size.

Analytical Criteria

88. It was clarified that an upper limit for moisture content was essential to prevent mould formation.

89. As regards degree of decortication, this was critical for the technological qualities of the flour. In this respect, it was noted that the scope of the standard referred to sorghum grains sold directly to the consumer. Criteria of relevance only to the technological properties of the derived product may not have to be included in the standard, or, alternatively, the scope of the standard should be adjusted.

Status of the Standard

90. The Committee decided to proceed as in the case of the standard for millet grains. The Delegation of Senegal was requested to prepare the revised standard in collaboration with the Secretariat. Governments and International Organizations were requested to send information to Senegal and the Secretariat.

NUTRITIONAL ASPECTS OF FOOD STANDARDS WORK IN THE REGION OF AFRICA

91. The Committee had before it CX/AFRO 83/9 which reviewed developments on the above subject since its last Session.

92. At that time, the Committee had endorsed the principle that when elaborating food standards, the nutritional aspects, where appropriate, should be taken into consideration.

93. The subject had also been discussed at the 14th Session of the Commission for which a background document had been prepared by Professor R.J.L. Allen (ALINORM 81/7). That document had concluded among others, that:

- (a) Nutrition considerations had not been neglected in the work of the Commission, on the contrary, the past and present work of the Commission had a considerable nutritional impact;
- (b) The Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses should consider the possibility of undertaking new responsibilities relating to nutritional aspects; and
- (c) The units concerned in FAO, WHO and the UN system in the nutrition field should give continued support to the work of the Commission (see paras 115-121, ALINORM 81/39).

94. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCFSDU) now had a mandate from the Commission to consider nutritional considerations, and that its revised terms of reference had been approved.

95. As a first task, the CCFSDU had decided to elaborate "Guidelines for use by Codex Committees on the inclusion of Provisions on Nutritional Quality in Food

Standards and other Codex Texts" (SEE ALINORM 83/26, Appendix IV). At its 15th Session, the Commission had agreed that the CCFSU should continue with its considerations of the above Guidelines at Step 3 of the Procedure.

96. The Committee also noted that, in addition, the CCFSU would consider at its next Session a first draft of "General Guidelines on Food Fortification".

97. The Committee was informed that, in addition to the work of the CCFSU, the Codex Committee on Food Labelling was elaborating Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (see ALINORM 85/22 para 21 and Appendices II, V and VI).

98. The Committee had a brief discussion on the particular problems of including nutritional provisions in regional African Standards. Several Delegations pointed out that, while it was desirable to fortify certain foods such as gari, great care must be taken to ensure that the organoleptic quality and, therefore, the acceptability of such foods would not be adversely affected. Instances were quoted by Delegates where weaning foods had been introduced which had a satisfactory nutritional balance but which had not been accepted because they contained unfamiliar ingredients. It was suggested that it would be better to supply information on how to compound nutritive foods from locally available products rather than to supply weaning foods with novel ingredients.

99. Other Delegations pointed out that it was important to restore nutritional value to products where essential constituents had been lost during processing.

100. Concerning nutritional labelling, it was pointed out that, while the maximum information possible should be given, this should also be related to the level of education of the consumer and that in many cases illustrative labelling would be more useful than, for instance, a complete listing of ingredients or date marking.

101. The Committee concluded that, although the nutritional aspects should be carefully studied when developing food standards, great attention should be paid to the essential composition and quality of foods; these should not be altered in a way which would affect their acceptability. The aspect of communicating information through suitable labelling should also be examined carefully.

102. The Committee expressed its willingness to collaborate with CCFSU and the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) on these matters and, in view of the work still in progress in these Committees, to review the situation at its next Session.

FOOD CONTROL FACILITIES IN THE REGION OF AFRICA

103. In introducing document CX/AFRO 83/10, the Secretariat pointed out that the information contained therein summarized all the information received from concerned Governments so far and also included information available to the Secretariat. The Secretariat informed the delegates that if any information was not up-to-date the Secretariat would be prepared to update the information on the basis of information received from Governments.

104. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that only a limited number of countries had provided information relative to the food control facilities available and that more countries should supply this information. The delegates present made a review of food control facilities and available staff in their countries. This information was used to complete and update information in Part II of CX/AFRO 83/10. Some delegates undertook to send a more complete documentation on this subject on their return to their countries.

105. The Committee stated that the information contained in this document was useful and that it could be used to aid countries in looking to their neighbours for needed assistance in various forms such as laboratory analysis. It was also pointed out that this information was a useful aid to the Secretariat in reviewing where possible assistance might be needed in strengthening the food control infrastructures of certain countries.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO/WHO IN THE FIELD OF FOOD CONTROL
PROJECTS IN THE REGION OF AFRICA

106. The meeting had before it working document CX/AFRO 83/11 providing information on recent developments with regard to assistance for food control efforts in the African Region. The document updated the information on technical assistance projects implemented since the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. The Secretariat presented the list of activities of the two Organizations.

107. FAO and WHO had developed several manuals and guidelines which dealt with policy and strategy issues, as well as specific technical problems with regard to food control activities. These publications and some of the training aids in food quality control were available to the countries for utilization in the development of national programmes. The Committee was informed that FAO and WHO were preparing guidelines to ensure the reduction, or prevention of contamination of canned foods. These guidelines would be available by mid-1984. In addition, the Committee was informed that a number of FAO's manuals of Food Quality Control were currently under review with re-issue expected to be completed by the end of 1984. In addition, a document on "Post Harvest Losses in Quality of Food Grains" would be available by mid-1984.

108. Information was provided on selected projects. The Delegation of Nigeria informed the Committee regarding the FAO project to assist Nigeria in the establishment of a training institute for food inspectors, consumer affairs officers and analysts, laboratory technicians including instrument repair experts and strengthening overall food control infrastructure. The Committee was informed that one of the aims of this project was to make it eventually a regional training centre and hopefully a bi-lingual training centre that would be able to serve the Anglophone and Francophone countries.

109. The specific attention to the Committee was drawn to some of the national food quality control strategy workshops recently supported by FAO on its own or in conjunction with WHO. The purpose of such workshops was to develop an overall integrated food quality control strategy; to promote coordination amongst various ministries of the Government concerned with food quality, safety and related matters, in particular the health and food and agriculture sectors; and to provide coherence amongst activities of various agencies at national level.

110. The Committee commended the work of FAO/WHO in providing technical assistance for strengthening and development of food control activities at the national level. Development of food control infrastructures was, in fact, the main constraint in most developing countries and no food law and standards could be implemented without such facilities. The need was therefore urgent. The Committee stressed the importance of this work and wanted it to be placed on a high priority.

111. The Committee considered it essential to make optimum use of the existing national facilities and urged intersectorial coordination and cooperation at the national levels. It was agreed that training should continue to receive a very high priority and special attention must be paid to training in laboratory instrument maintenance and repair. Because of the vastness of the African Region, workshops and sessions and the establishment of a network of institutions might have to be organized on sub-regional basis.

112. The Delegation of Rwanda stated that FAO and WHO might consider the providing of assistance with establishment of Regional and even sub-regional Food Laboratories which could provide valuable assistance to those countries that lacked such facilities. This suggestion received the support of the Committee.

113. The Delegation of Kenya provided information to the Committee with regard to training of personnel from East African countries in food inspection. The programme was being conducted with assistance from The Netherlands. Requests for assistance had been made to FAO and WHO to provide for a number of fellowships.

114. The Committee regretted inadequate support from UNDP to projects in the area of food quality and safety and recommended that more resources should be provided from UNDP to ensure quality and safety of foods and for the general improvement of the food system. This was essential for the protection of the health and economic interests of the population as well as for the overall development of the national economy.

115. It was pointed out that the availability of resources from the UNDP as well as other donor agencies depended upon the priority attached to these activities by the national authority. It was, therefore, necessary that Governments should give high priority to food control in their national plans and programmes. Effective implementation of food quality control activities depended upon the political will at the national level and determination of authorities to ensure effective action, monitoring and surveillance, policing and above all, extension and developmental action, at various levels in the food production and distribution chain. The Committee was requested to give this matter serious consideration.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO/WHO RELATED TO THE WORK OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

116. The meeting had before it working documents CX/AFRO 83/12 providing information on those activities related to the work of the Commission. The Secretariat presented the list of activities of the two Organizations. It was noted that:

117. A Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety had been convened in Geneva in June 1983 which had reviewed the various ways to strengthen the technical basis for the development of food safety and related programmes. The report of the findings of the Expert Committee would be published in early 1984.

118. The Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme was started in 1976 to implement a recommendation of the UN Conference on the Human Environment. When the programme was set up, national laboratories carrying out monitoring activities were identified and designated as FAO/WHO Collaborating Centres. Most of these Collaborating Centres were from developed countries. Data on the levels of selected contaminants (organochlorine pesticides, lead, cadmium and aflatoxins) in various foods and in total diet had been collected from the 22 FAO/WHO Collaborating Centres participating in the programme. Summary reports of the data and evaluation had been published; inter-laboratory analytical quality assurance studies had been conducted; a basic guideline on food contamination monitoring had been published; and a provisional edition of a publication entitled "Guidelines for the Study of Dietary Intakes of Chemical Contaminants" had been proposed. Several recommendations had been made that a special effort should be undertaken to identify laboratories in developing countries which could benefit from association with the programme, even though full scale national food contamination monitoring was not being carried out. FAO had provided assistance to a number of countries in the conduction of National Food Monitoring Programmes which could result in these countries being able to participate in the larger programme. A third Technical Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet in December 1983 to review and recommend ways to identify countries that could be targetted for assistance under this programme. That will enable them to become a Collaborating Centre and, therefore, make the Programme truly global.

119. The Delegation from Kenya drew the attention of the Committee to CX/AFRO 83/12, 1.2 Elaboration of Guidelines (ii) Slaughter Technique and meat hygiene under austere conditions and explained that the national Joint FAO/WHO Mission that had visited Kenya in 1981 had not fully explained that the purpose of the Mission was to gather information in preparation of guidelines. Reportedly, the stated purpose of the mission was to review activities being conducted in order to prepare an assistance project. It was requested that, in the future, when various missions visited a country they should disclose their exact terms of reference.

120. The Committee requested FAO and WHO to cooperate with and provide reinforced financial assistance within the framework of their general budget to Governments for development and improvement of integrated national food quality control programmes.

FOOD SAFETY AND HUMAN HEALTH

121. The Committee had before it document CX/AFRO 83/13. In presenting the paper, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the paper re-emphasized the importance of safe, wholesome food in a nation's health care delivery and, hence, the attainment of "Health for All by the Year 2000 (H/2000)". Therefore, Member States were requested to review their current activities in food safety and to assess their impact on the consequences of contaminated foods.

122. The Secretariat also referred to the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety. The Expert Committee had recognized the need for the various

Governments to give more consideration to the epidemiology of food-borne diseases and the attendant negative impact on their economy. Areas to be considered were the occurrence and documentation of food-borne illnesses, identification of the aetiological agents; consideration of factors which encouraged their existence, thereby leading to the designing of control and preventive measures.

123. The Expert Committee had advised that each Government, in designing its programmes on food safety, should take into account, *inter-alia*, the socio-cultural background of its people and the cost-benefit of such programmes.

124. The Committee had before it Room Document No. 3 which contained a Resolution on Food Safety and Human Health and which provided information and made certain recommendations for follow-up action as a result of the recent Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety. The discussion was led by the Secretariat (WHO).

125. The Committee endorsed the Resolution (see Appendix IV) and requested that the endorsed Resolution be referred to the next Session of the Commission which was scheduled to be held in July 1985. The Committee requested that FAO/WHO continue to provide support to developing countries in establishing and upgrading their food quality control infrastructure so as to encourage the production and handling of foods under hygienic conditions to prevent microbiological contamination which caused most outbreaks of food-borne illness and, at the same time, to deal with the increasing risks of chemical contamination and attendant health hazards.

126. The Committee proposed that, because of the fact that all African countries were not present at this Session, and in addition because some countries had more than those agencies involved in food control activities than were present at this meeting, FAO/WHO should contact Member Countries with a request that the endorsed Resolution be forwarded to all the concerned Governmental Agencies involved in food control activities.

REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS IN VILLAGE LEVEL FOOD HANDLING

127. The Coordinating Committee had before it document CX/AFRO 83/14 providing information on the development and initial implementation of a programme on food handling at village and household level, undertaken by FAO with effect from 1 January 1982. The Secretariat presented a review of the activities undertaken in this new area since its inception.

128. The Committee welcomed FAO's participation in this important area and stressed that much assistance was needed in the African Region in this field. It was suggested that as this was a most complicated field of endeavour that great effort must be made in the selection of experts for consultation purposes and in the development of the overall programmes.

129. The Delegation of Kenya pointed out that women had a very significant role in most food handling activities at household, village and cottage enterprise levels and that every effort should be made to work with the various women's groups that are established at the villages.

130. The Delegation from Kenya commented upon the availability and, more importantly, the lack of potable water supply in the various countries of Africa and suggested that high priority should be given to providing assistance in this area.

131. The Committee was informed of the activities conducted to date which included workshops held to develop strategies for groups of countries or for wider regions. Other activities being proposed included sponsorship of research on traditional foods and traditional food technologies and the collection of information needed for project development and for preparation of guidelines and manuals on improvement of food handling practices at household and village levels.

HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF STREET VENDING OF FOOD

132. The document CX/AFRO 83/15 was introduced by the WHO representative. He discussed the socio-economic and cultural changes which increased the patronage of the age-old custom of street vending of food. Important as the itinerant food vendor (IFV) were, they represented a potential health hazard, especially in developing countries where the practice was not being adequately regulated. The 'migratory' tendencies of some of these IFVs made it difficult to monitor the food

they sold and the hygienic conditions under which they operated.

133. Health hazards associated with the IFV were gastro-intestinal disorders such as diarrhoea and chemical poisoning. These were the result of using unwholesome food ingredients, microbial contamination of preparations of food under unsanitary conditions; and the use of cooking utensils of doubtful quality.

134. In spite of these shortcomings, the itinerant vending of food could not be abolished. Therefore, Governments (Federal, State or Local) should regulate and educate the personnel involved; improve the environmental conditions in which the trade was practiced and provide the essential utility services in order to aid the IFV to prepare safe and nutritious food for the masses. This was considered to be an essential contributive factor to the attainment of H/2000 (see para 121 of this Report).

135. During the discussion of the WHO paper, the Delegation of Mozambique informed the Committee that in that country the problems cited in the WHO paper did not exist since food was allowed to be sold only in licensed establishments. Furthermore, excessive urbanization which encouraged itinerant food vending was prevented by a policy of rural development and resettlement.

136. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in the paper and expressed the hope that they would be implemented.

ACTIVITIES REGARDING PESTICIDES AND THEIR RESIDUES IN FOOD

137. The Committee had before it document CX/AFRO 83/16 and Room Document 1 containing the revised recommendations of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and its Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries. The item dealing with pesticide problems had been placed on the Agenda of the Committee on the request of the Working Group.

Consideration of the Recommendations of the CCPR

138. The Committee was informed that the recommendations in Room Document 1 corresponded almost completely to those contained in ALINORM 83/24-ADD 3 adopted by the Commission. As regards recommendation 13, dealing with the need to provide continuing funding, including foreign exchange, for laboratories it was pointed out that this would meet with difficulties. In reply, some delegations remarked that developing countries should make the effort to support with funds laboratories established under technical assistance programmes, since it was to be assumed that such laboratories had been considered to represent a certain priority to the countries concerned.

139. The Delegations of Mozambique, Rwanda and Kenya shared the view that there was a need, first of all, to establish an effective control over the importation, marketing and use of pesticides. There was a need for information on pesticides, especially those not evaluated through the FAO/WHO and Codex mechanisms. The Delegation of Mozambique also stressed the need for adequate information and control in order that agricultural workers and others be protected from acute intoxication during the application of pesticides.

140. Other Delegations stressed the need for laboratory facilities, training of personnel and the establishment of the necessary technical backup for ensuring the maintenance and repair of instruments.

141. The Secretariat, in replying to a number of questions posed by delegates, informed the Committee of the work carried out by WHO, FAO, UNEP and IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) in the field of pesticides in relation to technical assistance and the evaluation of pesticide chemicals and their residues. It pointed out that the recommendations of the Working Group of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, dealt with all of the issues raised by delegates. There was a wealth of information on various aspects of pesticides relating to the use of agrochemicals, their toxicity (acute and chronic), efficacy, specifications, analysis, etc. However, it was difficult to know where to turn exactly for information in view of the complex nature of the subject and the large number of bodies involved. Furthermore, there existed a number of types of technical assistance such as those included in the recommendations.

142. The Committee concurred with the suggestion of the Delegation of Tanzania that FAO/WHO be requested to consider preparing a manual to advise countries on the availability of information on pesticides, the various recommendations of international bodies, sources of technical assistance, etc. This sort of reference manual would be of great value to developing countries.

143. The Committee unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the CCPR's Working Group and also concluded that support was needed from FAO and WHO and other Organizations leading to a better control of the use of pesticides. The organization of seminars would be useful in increasing the understanding of available information and assistance on pesticides.

Nomination of the Vice Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries

144. The Committee unanimously nominated Mr. G. Baptist of Nigeria for the post of Vice Chairman of the above Working Group, to represent the Region of Africa. Mr. Baptist thanked the Committee for the trust placed in him.

Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

145. The Committee was informed that FAO had prepared a Sixth draft of the Code and that it would be circulated to Governments, including Codex Contact Points, for comments. The interest of Codex in such a Code derived from the fact that the use of pesticides usually left residues in food and that food was moving in international trade. The Code was intended to bridge a lack which existed and was likely to continue to exist, in the control of pesticides in many countries.

146. The Committee strongly supported the need for the development of the Code and offered to examine it at a later Session. It expressed the view that if Governments and the Industry were to implement such a Code many problems arising from the marketing and use of pesticides would be alleviated.

NOMINATION OF COORDINATOR

147. The Committee had before it CX/AFRO 83/17 which set out the rules governing the appointment of a Coordinator (Rule II.4 in the Procedural Manual).

148. The Committee noted that Coordinators were appointed on the proposal of a majority of the Region to serve from the end of the Session at which he/she had been appointed, usually until the end of the succeeding regular Session. Coordinators served two such consecutive terms.

149. The Commission had, at its 15th Session, reappointed the present Coordinator for Africa, Dr. J.K.A. Misoi (Kenya) to serve a second consecutive term until the end of its Sixteenth Session which would take place in July 1985. As Dr. Misoi would, at that time, be ineligible for re-appointment the Committee should propose a candidate for appointment as Coordinator for Africa at the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.

150. The Committee was reminded that it was customary for the country of the Coordinator to provide host facilities for meetings of the Coordinating Committee held during his term of office and that it was also the custom to alternate Sessions of the Committee between the English speaking and French speaking countries of the Region.

151. The Committee noted that the present Coordinator would still be in Office if the Seventh Session of the Committee took place before the next Session of the Commission.

152. The Committee was informed that one Session during 1984/1985 had been scheduled for the Coordinating Committee for Africa and that, tentatively, the Session had been scheduled for February/March 1985. Should for some unforeseen reason the Seventh Session of the Coordinating Committee not be held before the next Session of the Commission, it was open to members of the Region to appoint a Coordinator during the Commission's Session itself. The Delegation of Kenya expressed the view that it was preferable to consider the nomination of the Coordinator at Sessions of the Coordinating Committee.

FUTURE WORK

153. The Committee had before it documents CX/AFRO 83/18 and ALINORM 83/7 prepared by a FAO consultant on fruits and vegetables which could be the subject of standardization within the Codex.

154. Document CX/AFRO 83/18 which had been prepared in response to a request of the Committee at its last Session, contained a list of processed commodities of interest to the Region of Africa with a view of standardization either at the regional or world-wide level.

155. Document ALINORM 83/7 had been considered by the 15th Session of the Commission and dealt with the question of possible standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Committee noted that the OECD and the UN/ECE were active in the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables. These Organizations and the Codex had agreed on arrangements in order to avoid duplication of work. The Committee also noted that the UN/ECE had decided, through cooperation with the International Trade Centre, to elaborate a standard for mangoes. The first draft would be drawn up by Mali.

156. The Delegation of Kenya drew attention to the terms of reference of the Committee which included the elaboration of regional African standards for foods produced in the Region and traded intra as well as extra-regionally. It was, therefore, proper for the region which produced mangoes to develop the standard, possibly in cooperation with bodies such as those mentioned above. In any event, it would have been appropriate to consult the Coordinating Committee for Africa prior to embarking on the standardization of mangoes and possibly other similar fruits of interest to Africa.

157. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the question of the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables (including those grown in tropical areas) was still open and that the Commission would discuss this question at its next Session. The UN/ECE was aware of this situation and concrete means of cooperation between Codex and that body would be submitted to Codex for consideration. It was the intention of involving producing countries in the standardization process.

158. The Committee agreed that the standardization of products of particular interest to the African Region should be handled through or in consultation with the Region. It was a matter of principle which should be brought to the attention of the Commission, especially since such standardization activities may have an economic impact on the export interest of African countries.

159. It was also agreed that the two papers mentioned in paras 154 and 155 above should be reconsidered at the next Session of the Committee.

160. It was further agreed, on the suggestion of the Delegation of Lesotho, to develop a standard for sorghum flour. The Committee noted that a draft standard had already been forwarded to the Secretariat. The Delegation of Senegal undertook to prepare a revised draft with the assistance of the Secretariat.

161. As regards the proposal of the Delegation of Tanzania to develop a standard for cassava flour, it was agreed that Governments should be requested to send information on the basis of which a paper could be prepared for the next Session of the Committee. The Delegation of Tanzania, with the assistance of Mozambique, undertook to study the information received and, if possible, prepare a draft standard for the next Session of the Committee. The representative of ARSO undertook to supply any information available. It was noted that Nigeria had experience in the processing of cassava and would provide appropriate information to Tanzania and Mozambique.

162. Following an enquiry by the Delegation of Kenya as to whether composite sorghum, millet and cassava flours should be standardized, the Committee decided to return to this matter at a future Session.

163. The Committee noted that Mozambique would submit a paper concerning the preparation of a proposed draft standard for grated coconut for consideration by the next Session of the Coordinating Committee. Kenya would attempt to prepare a proposed draft standard for oil seed cake products for use in weaning foods.

OTHER BUSINESS

164. The Delegation of Kenya pointed out that in some countries of the Region there was a lack of communication between different national bodies and ministries dealing with Codex matters and this presented a major obstacle to the consideration of Codex standards and codes of practice, especially with regard to their technical content and their acceptability to the countries concerned. The Delegation recommended that in those countries where a Codex national Committee did not exist, every effort should be made to coordinate inputs from all interested parties so that a proper representation of the country's point of view could be submitted to Codex Commodity and General Subject Committees.

165. The Committee strongly endorsed the recommendation and requested that this be brought to the attention of countries of the Region of Africa.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

166. The Committee was informed that one Session of the Coordinating Committee for Africa had been foreseen for the biennium 1984/1985. The time had been set for early 1985, i.e. before the next Session of the Commission, in a place to be determined.

167. The Delegation of Kenya informed the Committee that Kenya would host the Seventh Session of the Committee in Nairobi, subject to confirmation by its Government.

168. In view of the fact that the Committee had postponed the consideration of certain important questions to the next Session and since these questions had to be considered before the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, the Committee strongly recommended that it was imperative that the next Session of the Committee be held during early 1985, before the Sixteenth Session of the Commission.

169. The Committee considered a proposal of the Chairman that the next Session be preceded by a brief seminar session during which various speakers could inform those interested in the procedures of the Commission and of various important issues such as those raised during the Session. This would include lectures on pesticide residue problems, food control, the need for various infrastructures, etc.

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APPENDIX II
ALINORM 85/28

OPENING ADDRESS BY HON. A.J. OMANGA, E.G.H., M.P., MINISTER
FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, ON THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH
SESSION OF THE CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA
AT THE KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTRE, NAIROBI ON
MONDAY 31 OCTOBER, 1983 AT 3.00 PM

"Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I am here with you today to open this Sixth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. On behalf of the Government and the people of Kenya, I wish to welcome you all to Kenya. I note that it is the first time that the Committee is meeting in Kenya, and we feel much honoured by your presence here. We are proud to have held the position of Co-ordinator from 1981 and the renewal up to 1985.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization in 1962 has the task of developing and implementing worldwide food standards under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The Programme aims at protecting the health of consumers and to ensure fair trade practices in foods worldwide.

To us in developing countries, the work of Codex Alimentarius Commission is of special importance in that it enables free trade in international food markets. International Standards if properly applied facilitate the smooth exchange of goods and services and have become a strong tool in eliminating of technical barriers to trade.

For African countries, the application of international standards in production and marketing has the added advantage of enabling us to have a greater say in the fixing of prices and ensuring that our products can compete freely and effectively in terms of quality and price in international markets.

Furthermore, since Codex International Standards are as a result of general agreements between the Member Governments of FAO and WHO, African countries have an opportunity to have their views reflected in these important technical documents.

It is a reflection of the importance the international community places on the quality and safety of food commodities that in the relatively short existence of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, over 130 specific food commodities standards and codes for hygienic practices in food handling have been elaborated. The various national institutions empowered to enact food legislation should be urged to develop food laws and standards on the basis of the Codex International Standards to ensure that the objectives of the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme are realized. This is also in the Socio-economic interests of the nations concerned.

I am informed that the idea of forming the African Regional Codex Coordinating Committee originated in Nairobi, during the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Regional Conference for Africa in October 1973, during which also the decision to form African National Codex Committees was taken. In a way this is a 10-year anniversary of your Committee which is an opportune time to reflect on the progress achieved since inception.

The idea of having an African Regional Committee that coordinates development of regional food standards is highly appreciated in view of our common health, technical and economic interests. As we are basically agricultural nations, African nations will have a lot to benefit from having regional food standards in terms of enhanced trade between them. Additionally, there are some of those agricultural products that are products that are peculiar only to the African region and do not receive adequate attention at international forums. Notable among these are the various types of millets, cassava, sorghums and legumes. It is only an African regional organization such as this committee, that can develop quality requirements for these commodities in view of the fact that they are of concern to trade only in the region. Quality improvement of such indigenous food commodities could go a long way in elevating trade in them and thus their production.

Increased production of foodstuffs in especially the more arid zones of Africa is an issue of major concern to us. It is up to us to ensure that the quality and quantity of food products is improved for the welfare of our people.

I note with gratitude that the Committee has already addressed itself to some of these tasks, notably in elaborating draft regional standards for sorghum and millet grains. I hope more of these issues will be tackled at this and future sessions.

It is the duty of such an Organization as the African Regional Codex Coordinating Committee to further our efforts in the drive towards self-sufficiency in food production, through the various means available under their mandates. The recent World Food Day organized by FAO demonstrates the need for our countries to place more emphasis on food production. Africa should be a net exporter of food rather than importer.

We should not forget also the various hygienic problems that exist in most of our food preparation and selling places. The domestic scene of family food preparation should also be considered. Again the lack of nutritional sufficiency in most of the diets consumed in most rural areas should be of concern to us. Research and development efforts should be directed to enhancing nutritional aspects of products indigenous to the African Region not only for local consumption but also for export purposes.

Further, the health hazards posed by the pesticide residues left over after treatment of crops and animals with chemicals should be minimized through development of proper legislative procedures and application of these, as well as elaboration of safe maximum residue limits in foodstuffs. I am pleased to note that this matter forms part of the agenda for the Session. The efforts of the FAO and WHO in increasing food production and improvement of nutritional contents of diets, as well as prevention of health hazards should act as guidelines for us in Africa.

In development of foods standards for the African region collaboration with other African regional economic, political and social organizations should be sought to enable elaboration of practical and meaningful standards. Noting that this is an issue that will be discussed in this Session, I hope means and ways of establishing fruitful communication and liaisoning between these organizations will be developed.

On international standardization, African countries should participate more meaningfully, as it is only through this that the economic and technical views of the region can be reflected in international standards. This is especially necessary in regard to those food products that form the basis of the economies of our countries. It is in this connexion that I note with pleasure that one of our Kenyan national standards, namely that on Cashew Nuts, is being used as the basis for a Codex International Standard on the same product.

Kenya maintains a keen interest in development of regional as well as international trade networks, hence we shall continue to support efforts to establish international and regional standards on food to facilitate this idea. Towards this end, we shall continue to participate in meetings and where possible, host sessions such as the present one.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the FAO Secretariat for the assistance rendered during the organisation for the session. Further, I wish you every success in your deliberations. For those of you from outside Kenya, I invite you to feel at home among your brothers and sisters. I assure you that we shall do everything possible to make you stay here a comfortable one.

If you have time from your busy programme, you should take the opportunity to see more of our country especially the rural areas where most of our people live. We also have excellent tourist attractions, including a National Park within the outskirts of Nairobi. You are welcome to these as well as our various cultural centres notably the Bomas of Kenya.

With these few remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare this Sixth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa open.

Thank you".

DRAFT AFRICAN REGIONAL STANDARD FOR GARI

(Advanced to Step 8)

1. SCOPE

This standard applies to gari.

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1 Definition of the Product

Gari is the finished product obtained by artisanal or industrial processing of cassava tubers (*Manihot esculenta grantz*). The processing consists of peeling, washing and grating of the tubers, followed by fermentation, pressing fragmentation, drying if necessary, sifting and toasting. Gari is presented as flour of variable granule size. 1/

2.2 Classification 2/

Gari grains are classified in five categories as follows:

2.2.1 "Extra-fine grain gari"

This is gari of which not less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of 0.40 mm aperture size but of which less than 80 percent of the weight passes through a sieve of 0.20 mm aperture size.

2.2.2 "Fine grain gari"

This is gari of which not less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of 1 mm aperture size, but of which less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of 0.50 mm aperture size.

2.2.3 "Medium grain gari"

Gari of which not less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of 1.25 mm aperture size, but of which less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass through a sieve of 0.50 mm aperture size.

2.2.4 "Coarse grain gari"

This is gari of which not less than 80 percent of the weight shall pass easily through a sieve of 2 mm aperture size, but of which less than 80 percent shall pass through a sieve of 1 mm aperture size.

2.2.5 Unclassified gari

Gari which has not been classified by the sieve method to determine its category according to grain size.

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS

3.1 Raw materials

Gari shall be prepared from clean cassava tubers in good physiological condition.

1/ The process involving gelatinization and dehydration (garification) will be considered at the next Session of the Committee in the light of results of further investigation.

2/ Size classification will be reconsidered at the next Session of the Committee in the light of further investigation.

3.2 Organoleptic Properties

The colour, taste and odour of gari shall be characteristic of the product, as is acceptable in a given locality.

3.3 Analytical characteristics

3.3.1 Total acidity

The total acidity of gari shall not be less than 0.6 percent nor more than 1 percent m/m, determined as lactic acid.

3.3.2 Hydrocyanic acid and its glucosides

Total hydrocyanic acid content shall not exceed 2 mg/kg, determined as free HCN.

3.3.3 Moisture content

The moisture content of gari shall not exceed 12 percent m/m.

3.3.4 Crude fibre content

The crude fibre content of gari shall not exceed 2 percent m/m.

3.3.5 Ash content

The ash content of gari shall not exceed 2.75 percent m/m.

3.4 Extraneous vegetable matter

The extraneous vegetable matter content of gari shall not exceed 0.5 mg/kg.

3.5 Optional ingredients

Gari may contain one or several of the following ingredients in amounts conforming to the legislation of the country in which it is sold:

- (a) Edible fats or oils
- (b) Salt

3.6 Enrichment

The addition of vitamins, proteins and other nutrients shall be in conformity with the legislation of the country in which the product is sold.

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

4.1 No food additives shall be added to gari.

4.2 Para 3 of the Principle of the Carry-over of Food Additives (Ref. shall apply.

5. CONTAMINANTS

Gari shall be prepared with special care under good manufacturing practices, so that residues of those pesticides which may be required in the production, storage or processing of the cassava, or gari, or the premises and equipment used for processing do not remain, or, if technically unavoidable, are reduced to the maximum extent possible.

6. HYGIENE

6.1 It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this standard should be prepared in accordance with the International Code of Hygienic Practice entitled "Recommended International Code of Practice, General Principles of Food Hygiene" (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev.1).

6.2 When tested by appropriate methods of sampling and examination, the product:

- (a) shall be substantially free from pathogenic microorganisms;
- (b) shall be substantially free from substances originating from microorganisms in amounts which may represent a hazard to health; and
- (c) shall not contain any other poisonous or deleterious substances in amounts which may represent a hazard to health.

7. LABELLING

In addition to sections 1, 2, 4 and 6 of the General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Food Products, the following particular provisions shall apply:

7.1 Name of the Product

7.1.1 The name of the product to be shown on the label shall be "gari" preceded or followed by the common or ordinary name legally accepted in the country where the product is sold. The name shall show the size of the grain in accordance with the descriptions contained in section 2.2.

7.1.2 Where ingredients have been added in accordance with section 3.6 of this standard, the label shall indicate in close proximity with the name of the product that the product has been enriched and the ingredient or ingredients used for enrichment.

7.2 List of Ingredients

7.2.1 A complete list of ingredients present in the product shall be declared on the label in descending order of proportion in accordance with section 3.2 of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref. CODEX STAN 1-1981) except that in the case of added nutrients used for enrichment of the product, the amounts added shall be indicated on the label.

7.2.2 The origin of added fats and oils shall be declared in conformity with section 3.2 of the Codex General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Ref. CODEX STAN 1-1981).

7.3 Net Weight

Net weight shall be shown either according to the metric system ("International System" units) or the Avoirdupois system or in both systems of measurement in accordance with the requirements of the country where the product is sold.

7.4 Name and Address

The name and address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, importer, exporter, or vendor of the product shall be declared.

7.5 Date marking

The date of manufacture or packaging and the date of minimum durability shall be declared.

7.6 Country of Origin

7.6.1 The country of origin of the product shall be declared if its omission would mislead or deceive the consumer.

7.6.2 When the product undergoes processing in a second country which changes its nature, the country in which the processing is performed shall be considered to be the country of origin for the purposes of labelling.

8. PACKAGING, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE

8.1 Gari shall be packaged, transported or stored in containers which will safeguard the hygienic, nutritional, technological and organoleptic qualities of the product.

8.2 The packaging material shall be such as to protect the product against bacteriological and other contamination; it shall protect the product as far as possible against any infiltration of moisture, rehydration and against leakage. The packaging material should not impart any odour, taste or colour or any other extraneous property to the product and should not result in contamination of the product with substances of which the packaging material is made.

9. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING 1/

The methods of sampling and analysis indicated hereafter are international reference methods.

9.1 Sampling

According to ISO 2170-1972 Cereals and pulses - sampling of milled products.

9.2 Determination of Granularity

According to ISO 2591-1973 Test sieving. The sieves used are AFNOR sieves.

9.3 Determination of Moisture

According to ISO 712-1979 Cereals and cereal products - determination of moisture (routine method). This method measures water content by determining loss of weight of the sample heated under given conditions.

9.4 Determination of Ash

According to ISO 2171-1972 Cereals, pulses and derived products - determination of ash.

9.5 Determination of hydrocyanic acid

According to ISO Method 2164 - Legumes - Determination of hydrocyanic acid.

9.6 Determination of Acidity

According to AOAC Methods 14.064 - 14.065 (Official methods of the AOAC, 12th Ed., 1975, page 232), and ISO/DP 7305 Wheat flour, determination of fatty acids.

9.7 Determination of Crude Fibre

According to ISO/DIS 5498 - Determination of crude fibre content.

9.8 Determination of Proteins

9.8.1 According to ISO 1871-1975 Agricultural food products - General directions for the determination of nitrogen by the Kjeldahl method, or by AOAC method 14.206 (Official methods of the AOAC, 12th Ed., 1975, page 226). Protein content is calculated by multiplying the nitrogen content by 5.7.

9.8.2 A joint AOAC/ISO method for the determination of total nitrogen (Kjeldahl) is in preparation.

9.9 Determination of Fat

According to ISO 7302 - Cereal and cereal products - determination of total fat.

9.10 Extraneous Vegetable Matter (EVM)

Definition and method of test to be developed.

1/ To be finalized at the next Session of the Committee.

APPENDIX IV
ALINORM 85/28

RESOLUTION OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COORDINATING
COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

The Coordinating Committee,

- having considered document CX/AFRO 83/13 on Food Safety and Human Health and also a summary report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety, Geneva 1983;
- recognizing the essential role of safe food for reaching the social target of Member States and WHO, namely, Health for all by the Year 2000;
- recognizing the fact that food-borne diseases, often in the form of acute diarrhoea, contribute significantly to morbidity and mortality rates, especially in developing countries;
- recognizing the fact that the great public health significance of food-borne diseases is often insufficiently appreciated by health authorities; and
- recognizing the vast economic losses and the great social consequences due to contamination of food;

1. RECOMMENDS that National Governments:

- (a) assess national needs for the further development of food safety;
- (b) develop food safety as an integral part of the primary health care delivery system as well as the food production and distribution system; persons working in these programmes should be informed about the role of food as an important vehicle of diarrhoeal and other diseases and about appropriate intervention measures;
- (c) develop an effective system for coordination and collaboration of food safety between responsible ministries and other authorities;

2. REQUESTS FAO and WHO to continue to support Governments in developing and improving integrated national food safety programmes by:

- (a) cooperating in the assessment of national needs;
- (b) cooperating in elaborating national action plans aimed at reducing food-borne morbidity and mortality as well as food losses;

3. REQUESTS countries as well as FAO and WHO to report to the next Session of the Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on progress made in implementing the provisions contained in this Resolution.

CLOSING ADDRESS BY DR. WILFRED KOINANGE
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to have been given the honour of closing your important meeting - the 6th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa. Looking at the objectives of this conference I am pleased and encouraged to note that the meeting chose to address itself to staple foods consumed by the majority of people in Africa. The Coordinating Committee for Africa was formed with the specific purpose of fostering Regional standards. This is indeed very encouraging because African States can look forward to having closer collaboration and harmonization of their standards/regulations so as to bring about more regional trade. If our countries could increase trade between each other we would stand to benefit.

The Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme is based on the principles of:

- Protecting consumers against health risks and fraud
- Ensuring fair practices in the food trade
- Reaching international agreement on food standards, thus removing some of the non-tariff barriers to international trade.

The protection of the consumer against health hazards in food is such a fundamental need that Governments everywhere subscribe to it. There is of course much more to consumer protection than ensuring a safe food supply. In addition to being protected against health hazards and fraud, the consumer must be afforded the opportunity of knowing the composition and nutritional value of the food he/she is buying, through informative labelling.

I am informed that the Commission has embarked on an intensive programme of work covering the formulation of Regulations/Standards. Likewise, the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for Africa is promoting technical cooperation among African States on food control and standards. The Model Food Law and regulations prepared by FAO for use by Member States, is very important in so far as the food control services are concerned. Food law is required to protect the consumers against dumping which results from food not being monitored in many African countries. In view of what I have just stated, African Governments should endeavour to participate more in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its technical Committees. Our active participation in the Commission's work is a clear indication of our commitment and support to the Commission.

The drafting of standards/regulations today is taking on an increasingly international aspect and the assistance needed from the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission is quite considerable. As trade spreads among African countries, it will become manifestly important to make the standards/regulations compatible. It is in the interest of African countries to reach an early understanding regarding standards/regulations in order to avoid the need for harmonization after developing national food standards/regulations.

Collaboration should be initiated between agencies of the same Governments and later with neighbouring States. We must unite our efforts. Collaboration is indispensable and I believe this is accepted by all countries. We must avoid duplication and waste of resources. Our activities should be complimentary to one another and I see no reason why this cannot be realized in our work.

In Kenya, I am pleased to state that we are doing our best in maintaining regular dialogue between different agencies. The Codex coordinating Committee for Africa could promote the principle of such basic harmonization on the activities of different agencies.

APPENDIX V (contd.)

It would be appropriate for me to say that the assistance of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and other bodies in several countries together with advice which has been made available in the development of basic food law, the strengthening of the laboratory services and the training of both the analysts and the field inspectors is a particularly useful and very successful activity. Turning to my own country, I am pleased to say that we have received great assistance in the formulation of food regulations, the strengthening of the laboratory services and the training of analysts and field inspectors for which we are grateful.

Food control cannot function without laboratory services which are expensive to install, equip, staff and operate. The problem of the laboratory is obviously one which the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa could consider and also one in relation to which interested governments could request multilateral or bilateral international assistance. It is equally true that nothing really effective can be done in the important field of safeguarding the health and interest of the consumers and of the protection of trade by means of food control without proper infrastructure manned by trained personnel at all different levels. This is another point that the Coordinating Committee for Africa should vigorously pursue for international assistance.

May I wish you all a safe journey home. I hope the objectives of the conference were achieved and that you made useful contacts and gained good experience.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to declare this Sixth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Africa closed.
