Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) Strategic Plan 2014-2019

U.S. Partnership Program Meeting
May 2014
Purpose

1. Context (Impact of standards, accomplishments, trends influencing Codex)

2. Overview of how the strategic plan was developed


4. Key strategic objectives that will facilitate effective participation of all countries, especially developing countries.
Context: Expected impacts of Codex Standards

• Greater global and national awareness of food safety and quality issues:
  • More available data and stimulated activities in food technology, food chemistry, microbiology, nutrition, pesticide and veterinary drug development and safe use.

• Aim to apply a consistent approach in assessing and managing food safety risks and food quality internationally

• Enhanced consumers’ health protection globally

• Proactive mitigation of trade irritants related to food standards

• Leveraged international efforts to support domestic risk management decisions and regulations
Examples of Recent Codex Accomplishments

**Food Chemical Safety:**
- Management of Chloropropanols (e.g. 3-MCPD) in processed sauces
- Management of acrylamide in processed foods
- Management of potential melamine contamination of foods
- Management of safe use of chemicals in conjunction with food production: e.g. Veterinary drugs, pesticides and additives

**Food Microbial Safety:**
- Code of hygienic practice for powdered infant formulae for young children and infants
- Guidelines on the application of general principles of food hygiene to the control of viruses in food

**Labelling as a public health tool:**
- Identification of a list of priority allergens subject to mandatory labelling
- Guidance on application of Gluten free labelling
- Mandatory nutrition labelling of foods
Trends influencing the future of the role of Codex

- Expanding international trade of food /ingredients
- Changing food production practices
- Scientific and technological innovation
- Climate change
- Changing Consumer concerns / interests
- Emergence of food safety risks associated with economic fraud
Challenges for the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Need for timely scientific assessments supporting the development of standards
- Ability to respond swiftly to emerging needs with a “commensurate” science advice capacity
- Proliferation of sources of scientific information

Scientific Assessment Requirements

- Development of a number of standards by private organisations, which may result in impeding trade
- Importance of contribution of developing countries – so that standards are globally representative

Proliferation of private standards
The Importance of the Strategic Plan

- The strategic plan provides overall direction to the management of the Commission:
  - ** Identifies** the core objectives and priorities for Codex for next 5 years.
  - **Outlines** key activities that Codex will undertake for that duration.
  - **Sets** key measurable indicators, outputs and outcomes that can define the success of activities undertaken by Codex.
  - **Provides** overarching guidance to Codex’s regional coordinating committees and countries for their own strategic plans.
Criteria for Strategic Plan

• To develop a strategic plan that:
  
  • Upholds the mandate of the Commission of “protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in food trade”.
  
  • Ensures that the Commission is able to adapt to various drivers of change (e.g., innovation, food security concerns, consumer concerns)
  
  • Effectively reflect the priorities of all 186 Codex member countries; 6 regional coordinating committees and the parent organizations (WHO/FAO)
  
• To develop a strategic plan that can be accepted by 186 members and adopted through consensus.
Developing the Plan: Background

• The 67th Session (June 2012) of the Executive Committee established a subcommittee with a mandate to finalize the strategic plan by the next session of the Commission (July 2013).

  • Prior to June 2012, discussions of a possible proposed plan took place at the Executive Committee

• In addition to the strategic plan, a workplan had to be developed which allowed the Commission to track progress towards accomplishment of goals. The workplan identified:
  • Responsible parties
  • Measurable indicators
  • Clear outputs and outcomes
  • Timeframe
Developing the Plan: The Process

- Following the discussions at the 68th Session of the CCEXEC and the 35th Session of the Commission:

  1. Plan revised according to comments received from the 68th Session of CCEXEC and the 35th Session of the Commission
  2. Compilation of Comments document developed compiling all comments received and how they were addressed, with a detailed rationale.
  3. Revised plan circulated to all FAO/WHO Regional Coordinated Committee for discussion
  4. Revised draft of the strategic plan developed
  5. Bilateral Calls with each Regional Coordinator and Representative
  6. Physical meeting of the CCEXEC Subcommittee held in Canada to prepare revised version
  7. Subcommittee approved plan circulated and discussed at CCEX
  8. Plan adopted by the Commission by consensus

- The objective of the process was to ensure transparency, openness and inclusiveness.
Developing the Plan: The Process

- **Overall:**

- **Strategy:**
  - **Listen:**
    - Understand fundamental concerns of the region and members.
  - **Engage:**
    - Providing an opportunity for all members to comment on the proposed plan
  - **Act:**
    - Playing a role of a facilitator and consensus seeker
The Strategic Plan: Codex Core Value

- Strategic Vision Statement:
  - To be the preeminent international food standards-setting body to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

- Codex Core Values:
  - In fulfilling its strategic vision, Codex adheres to core values that include:
    - Collaboration
    - Inclusiveness
    - Consensus building
    - Transparency
# The Strategic Goals – “The Pillars”

## Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019

### Drivers of Change:
- Changing dynamics of standard-setting activities in Codex.
- Increased membership (186 countries, more than 200 inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations accredited as observer organizations)
- Active contribution from all members, especially developing countries
- Need to identify emerging issues and proactively respond to threats
- Adoption of standards in a timely manner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Goal 1:</th>
<th>Strategic Goal 2:</th>
<th>Strategic Goal 3:</th>
<th>Strategic Goal 4:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish national food standards that address current and emerging food issues.</td>
<td>Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.</td>
<td>Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members</td>
<td>Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.</td>
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Focus on Developing Countries

1. Recognizes and values increased role of developing countries
   • Increased consideration for developing countries
   • Enhancing awareness of issues and challenges

2. Relevant Standards for developing countries:
   • Encourage submission of data to FAO/WHO expert bodies
   • Enhancing capacity to generate, collect and submit data
   • Call for sustained and continuous participation of experts
     ➢ Establish networks of members to enhance collaboration

3. Support for sustainable national Codex structure
   • Implementation of Capacity development programs
   • Effectively conducting educational and technical capacity building activities
4. **Facilitate Effective Participation**
   - Use of partnership initiative; increased co-hosting
   - Financial contribution to Codex Trust Fund and developing successor initiative
   - Technological innovation – improve communication, work flow and management activities
     - *Virtual participation in meetings and working groups*

5. **Consensus** based process
   - Networking, training and workshops to improve skill set
   - Understanding of importance of consensus building in Codex for all members
Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019

**Strategic Goal 1:** Establish International food standards that address current and emerging food issues

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<th>Objectives:</th>
<th>Key Activities:</th>
<th>Key Outcomes:</th>
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| **1.1:** Establish new and review existing Codex standards, based on priorities of the CAC. | • Consistent application of decision-making and priority setting criteria.  
• Strengthen the critical review process | • New or updated standards developed in a timely manner.  
• More effective work management oversight.  |
| **1.2:** Proactively identify emerging issues and Member needs and, where appropriate, develop relevant food standards | • Developing a systematic approach to identify emerging issues  
• Develop standards in response to member needs | • Timely response to emerging issues  
• Improved ability of Codex to develop relevant standards |
| **1.3:** Strengthen coordination and cooperation with other international standards-setting organizations seeking to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize opportunities. | • Promote collaboration with OIE and IPPC.  
• Promote cooperation with IGOs and NGOs. | • Optimized collaboration and cooperation with international standard-setting bodies |
**Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019**

**Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

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| 2.1: Ensure consistent use of risk analysis principles and scientific advice. | - Use of scientific advice of FAO/WHO expert bodies to fullest extent  
- Encourage engagement of scientific and technical experts  
- Ensure all relevant factors are considered  
- Communicate risk management recommendations | - Consistent consideration of scientific advice  
- Increased scientific and technical expert participation at national level  
- Identification and documentation of factors considered  
- Effective communication |
| 2.2: Achieve sustainable access to scientific advice. | - Encourage sufficient resources and financial support for FAO/WHO expert bodies  
- Explore other appropriate funding sources for scientific advice | - Sustainable support for Codex  
- Flexible and reactive operational framework  
- Sustainable funding sources |
| 2.3: Increase scientific input from developing countries | - Encourage developing countries to submit data  
- Enhance the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.  
- Continued participation of experts from developing countries | - Standards representative of global environment  
- Increased suitable data considered  
- Developing countries playing effective role |
## Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019

### Strategic Goal 3: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members

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<th>Key Activities:</th>
<th>Key Outcomes:</th>
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| **3.1:** Increase the effective participation of developing countries | • Develop sustainable national institutional arrangements  
• Use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation (e.g., co-hosting)  
• Financial contribution to Codex Trust Fund  
• Develop successor initiative to Codex Trust Fund  
• Use of official language | • Increased and strengthened sustainable national Codex structures  
• Increased capacity development through co-hosting  
• Sufficient resource for assisting eligible country participation  
• Active participation |
| **3.2:** Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable Codex structures | • Encourage FAO/WHO to implement capacity development programs  
• Prioritization of Codex committees by developing countries  
• Technical capacity building around Codex meetings | • Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO/WHO.  
• Increased participation of developing countries  
• Maximize use of resources of Codex and its Members |
**Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019**

**Strategic Goal 4:** Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practice

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<th>Key Outcomes:</th>
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<td><strong>4.1:</strong> Strive for effective, efficient, transparent and consensus based standard setting process</td>
<td>• Identify and address impediments to standard-setting process&lt;br&gt;• Innovation to enhance work flow, communication and member participation&lt;br&gt;• Timely distribution of Codex documents in all languages&lt;br&gt;• Work group meetings in conjunction with Committee meetings.</td>
<td>• Effective and efficient Codex standard setting bodies&lt;br&gt;• Improved functioning&lt;br&gt;• Increased participation, especially by developing countries&lt;br&gt;• Improved efficiency and timely distribution of documents</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4.2:</strong> Enhance capacity to arrive at consensus in standards setting process</td>
<td>• Improve understanding of importance of and approach to consensus building&lt;br&gt;• Seek to improve skill set of chairs and committees to achieve consensus</td>
<td>• Increased awareness of importance of consensus based standard setting process&lt;br&gt;• Consensus achieved at working group and committee level.</td>
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## Monitoring the Progress

- Work plan identifying clear outputs, timelines and responsible party for each of the outcome:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strategic Goal</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Time Line</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Measurable Indicators/Outputs</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1.3 Encourage financial contributions to the Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.</td>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Codex Trust Fund (and its successor) have sufficient resources for sustainable assistance to eligible countries.</td>
<td>1. Increase in # of countries contributing to Codex Trust Fund and its successor initiative.</td>
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<td>3.1.4 Support the planning and development of a successor initiative for the Codex Trust Fund</td>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>Dec. 2015</td>
<td>A successor to the Codex Trust Fund is endorsed by the CAC</td>
<td>1. Options to successor initiative to Codex Trust Fund is proposed by FAO/WHO to CAC and a path forward is agreed upon.</td>
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<td>3.1.5 To the extent possible, promote the use of the official languages of the Commission in committees and working groups.</td>
<td>All Committees</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Active participation of Members in committees and working groups.</td>
<td>1. Report on number of committees and working groups using the languages of the Commission.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Objective 3.2 Promote capacity development programs that assist countries in creating sustainable national Codex structures.</td>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures.</td>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Enhanced level of capacity development initiatives undertaken by FAO and WHO to support the creation of sustainable national Codex structures</td>
<td>1. # of capacity development programs conducted by FAO/WHO to strengthen national Codex structures. 2. # of countries with functioning national Codex structures.</td>
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<td>3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them</td>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Increased participation by developing countries in Codex committees of most relevance to them.</td>
<td>1. # of developing countries that have identified and are actively participating in their priority committees.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3.2.3 Where practical, use Codex meetings as a forum to effectively</td>
<td>All Committees</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>Enhancement of the opportunities to conduct concurrent activities to</td>
<td>1. # of activities hosted on the margins of Codex meetings</td>
<td></td>
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Thank You!

Complete Version of the Strategic Plan available on Codex Alimentarius Website:

www.codexalimentarius.org/procedures-strategies/strategic-planning/0/en/