

**DECISIONS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY AFRICAN
NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT OFFICERS AT THE
PANAFRICAN MEETING TO REVIEW DRAFT CODEX
DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST TO AFRICA,
1 – 4 DECEMBER 2009, NAIROBI, KENYA**

ACTION ON THESE NOW!!!!

1. Review of the proposal for new work on maximum levels for fumonisins in maize and maize products and associated sampling plans by Martin Kimanya

Decision: Codex would circulate a document proposing a specific ML for fumonisins in maize by the end of December 2009 and the CCAfrica Coordinator would organize a chat session of the CCAFRICA Delegates on Contaminants led by Morocco (assisted by Tanzania) and CCP Officers thereafter to discuss the proposal for an ML for fumonisins in maize and maize products and associated sampling plans amongst them. Should it be necessary the CCAfrica Coordinator will advice AU-IBAR to facilitate a meeting CCAfrica delegates who confirm their participation in the next session of in Nairobi to discuss the proposal.

2. Discussion paper on mycotoxins in sorghum by Patrick Clerkin

Decision: CCPs in African countries decided to commit to provide information to Tunisia on contaminants in sorghum in the region. Additionally, information on Contaminants in the region would be sought from ICRISAT and other sources. The deadline was accepted as end of December 2009.

3. Proposal for New Work on a Code of practice for the reduction on ethyl carbamate in stone fruit distillate by Lucy Namu

Decision: Since most countries in the region were not producing stone fruit distillates, the CCAFRICA Coordinator was tasked to send an e-mail to find out those countries that are manufacturing or importing stone fruit distillates in the region and to see if it was an issue of importance to countries of the region and respond for comments for submission to Germany.

4a. Proposed Draft standard for chilli pepper at step 3, by Eunice Adams

Decision: All CCPs are expected to submit comments by end of 31-01-2010 with the request for the inclusion of other types/ranges species of chilli in addition to the slim conical type.

b. Proposed Draft standard for avocado at step 5

Decision: All CCPs are expected to submit comments by end of 31-03-2010.

4c. Proposed Draft standard for tree tomato at step 5

CCPs are advised to submit comments on Tree Tomato at step 5 by 31-03-2010.

5. Proposal to revise codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children CAC /GL 8 -1991

Decision: It was agreed that African countries should join the EWG led by Ghana to revise the above mentioned document. The CCAFRICA Coordinator would send an invitation for countries to join the EWG.

6. Proposed Draft Guideline for the Control of Campylobacter and Salmonella spp in Chicken Meat

Decision: Africa should actively participate in EWG led by New Zealand, Sweden and supported by Brazil in English to address the text and any issues identified in the text. AU/IBAR should be requested to provide french translation in the work of the EWG. Codex countries could push the document forward.

The African Group should negotiate with the EC to move this document forward by engaging in discussions in areas of concern. The CCAFRICA Coordinator would arrange for a meeting for African Delegates to meet the EC and the US separately during the CAC meeting to discuss the issue.

7a. Revision of codex classification system for food and feed

Decision: CCPs to contact CCPR Delegates in their home countries to generate a position that aims at supporting the retention or continuation of work on revision of guidelines to include simplified examples such as pepino and okra.

African countries should also:

- request for inclusion of the African egg plant in the classification system
- note that okra has been included in the category of cotton and that there is the need to contact agronomists and botanists and to submit written comments to correct the matter.

Note that the deadline is 2009-12-15 so CCPs should submit comments as soon as possible.

7b. Proposed draft revision of the Guidelines on the estimation of uncertainty of results for the determination of pesticides residues

Decision: CCPs should have dialogue with counterparts in countries with a view of submitting written comments for the attention of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. Before written comments are submitted, discussions should be ongoing in the African CCPR WG to clarify concerns raised in the Nairobi meeting.

7c. Discussion paper on the Guidance to facilitate the establishment of Codex MRLs for Minor uses and specialty crops

Decision: Request for submission of supervised residue field trial data for the scheduled compounds to support the elaboration of MRLs for minor uses and specialty crops from African countries.

8. Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems

Decision: CCPs are to thoroughly discuss issue in their countries and submit comments although deadline is passed (16th November 2009). Governments might consider this document in line with other FAO documents on same issue to see if sufficient. Members are encouraged to implement these Guidelines.

9. Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade In Foods (Report of CCGP, ALINORM 09/32/33 APPENDIX II)

Only Kenya had submitted written comments and deadline for submission of comments is 2009-12-15. African countries decided to submit written comments before the deadline to address whether specific amendments should be made to the different clauses apart from the scope noting that the scope was not open for discussions. CCAFRICA Coordinator to start chat sessions on an amendment to the current section “3.2 f” to require that an imported product have a remaining shelf life equivalent to 2/3 of the period from its labeling to its expiry date.

10. Proposed Draft Recommendations for the Labeling of Foods obtained through certain techniques of GM/GE (Report of CCFL, ALINORM 09/32/22 APPENDIX VII)

Decisions: Countries decided to go back home and decide within their countries and send written comments in support of the chapeau developed by Africa. However, the general support was that in order to enable Consumers make informed choices and also if the GM product is significantly different from the conventional, then it must be labeled.

33RD SESSION OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM 28 JUNE – 3 JULY 2010)

1. Draft maximum levels for melamine in food consumption human and animal (new activity) by Patrick Clerkin

Decision: Countries of the region agreed to discuss internally the submission of written comments in support of the adoption of maximum melamine levels 1mg/kg in infant formula and 2.5 mg/kg in foods (other than infant formula) and feed of the above mentioned at step 5/8 at the 33rd session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission scheduled for June 2010. Kenya reserves its position on this.

2. Proposal to revise codex guidelines on formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children CAC /GL 8 -1991

Decision: It was agreed that African countries should submit written comments in support of its approval the 33rd session of CAC in late June 2010

3. Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade In Foods (Report of CCGP, ALINORM 09/32/33 APPENDIX II)

African countries should send written submissions to support the adoption of this document.

4. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for *Vibrio* spp. in Seafood and Proposed Draft Annex on Control Measures for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in Molluscan Shellfish at Step 5/8

Decision: CCPs to engage in discussions in home countries to endorse or oppose the idea of moving these documents forward and submit written responses to this effect. CCPs to respond when FAO/WHO's call for data is announced on environmental and water conditions for molluscs.

5. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Control of Viruses in Food at Step 3

Decision: Consider participation in the physical working group led by The Netherlands from 23-25 March 2010 to consider comments received at last session and additional information to be gathered. African countries are encouraged to identify experts who would provide inputs to Uganda as lead of CCAFRICA working group. Uganda would then advice CCAFRICA on whether we need to solicit funds to participate in the WG in The Netherlands.

6. Discussion and sensitization on the proliferation of private standards and their role in food safety

It was noted that

- Some private standards are more stringent than Codex Standards
- Some requirements of private standards are not science based

It was resolved that

- African countries continue to rely on Codex standards for public health protection and fair trade in food
- African countries affected with implementation of private standards communicate their concerns to WTO-SPS Committee
- African countries to ensure private sector is involved in standard setting activities
- African countries improve cooperation among themselves with a view to strengthen and harmonize Food Safety regulation systems at national and regional levels

OTHERS

1. Countries requested AU-IBAR support to host and maintain the CCAFRICA Website
2. Consistent with “1” above, Countries requested support for AU/IBAR to hire a secretariat for coordination of Codex work in Africa for smooth transition of the CCAfrica Coordination which moves from country to country every two years.
3. Countries requested support from AU-IBAR to organize Codex preparatory meetings in Africa for technical Experts
 - Pesticide Residues May 2010
 - Contaminants in foods March 2010
 - CCPs to meet before the Codex Alimentarius Commission
4. Consistent with the strategic plan countries pledged to provide regular updates of CCPs to Codex Secretariat in Rome and CCAFRICA Coordinator.
5. Working Groups to examine strategic aspects
 - CCPR- Kenya assisted by Nigeria
 - CCFICS- Ghana assisted by Tanzania
 - CCFH-Uganda assisted by
 - CCCF-Morocco assisted by Tanzania
 - CCGP-Mali assisted by Ghana & Uganda
 - CCNFSU- Ghana assisted by South Africa & Senegal
 - CCFFV - Kenya assisted Togo
 - CCFL- Guinea assisted by Nigeria
6. OIE inputs
Following the presentation of the inputs of OIE to the CCFH and CCFICS on different subjects (Salmonella, Draft principles and guidelines for national food control systems...) CODEX contact officers, encourage both OIE and CODEX to enhance this already close collaboration in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum.