

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR PARTICIPATION AT THE 42ND SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE, 29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2010

INTRODUCTION

The FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) is one of the subsidiary Committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. CCAFRICA is currently made up of 49 African countries.

It has been observed that most CCAFRICA delegates attend the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene meetings without adequate preparation thereby member states more often attend meetings without actively participating in the plenary session. This deprives such meetings of the position of Africa and critical decisions of food safety.

Inadequate preparation may also result from lack of coordination, infrastructural challenges making access to documentation near impossible, non existing formalized National Codex Committees to coordinate the activities of Codex at the national level and the frequent changing of delegates.

STRATEGIES

To ensure that delegates attend the 42nd Session of CCFH in a manner where they will be more informed and effectively participate, the following strategies are recommended:

Strategy 1 – Copies of the African Position Paper developed by the Food Safety Experts in respect of the 42nd Session of CCFH will be circulated to each of the CCAFRICA Contact Points for discussions in their countries before arrival in Uganda.

Strategy 2 – There will be a pre-session meeting of CCAFRICA members in Uganda before the 42nd Session of CCFH to:

- i. Further deliberate on the African Position Paper and clarify issues for better understanding
- ii. Identify strategic Speakers who can articulate the position paper and assigning them portions of the Position Papers to be tabled during the plenary
- iii. Encourage members to support interventions made by African delegates in order to garner support

Strategy 3 – Coordinate inter-plenary meetings on controversial issues that may arise during the plenary and may need further discussions in order to formulate African position.

Strategy 4 – Strategize on ways to sensitize Policy Makers in order for them to recognize the importance of the work of Codex in food safety and international trade and therefore the need for sponsorship or support for continuity of participation for the benefit of member countries.