

2ND ANNUAL PAN-AFRICAN MEETING OF NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT POINT OFFICERS

SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ The 2nd Annual Panafrican Meeting of the National Codex Contact Point Officers was held, in Accra, Ghana from 27 to 29 January 2011, under the PAN-SPSO Project.
- ❑ The meeting was opened by Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director of the AU/IBAR.
- ❑ The meeting was organized with the objective of facilitating the effective participation of CCAFRICA members in the work of *Codex Alimentarius* Commission
- ❑ The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Kwamina Van-Ess of Ghana and Dr. Ben Manyindo of Uganda

Issues discussed

- ❑ The PAN-SPSO Project
- ❑ Permanent Mechanism for Coordination of African Position on Food Safety Standards
- ❑ Ensuring functional CCPs and NCCs to drive national Codex activities
- ❑ Risk Analysis
- ❑ Issues of relevance in upcoming Codex meetings and proposed actions
- ❑ Identification of other Codex Committees where Regional Expert Group meetings are required and their TOR

Issues discussed

- ❑ Revision of the Codex Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children
- ❑ Proliferation of Private standards
- ❑ Proposed draft Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (Section on Smoked Fish)
- ❑ Proposed draft layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- ❑ Developing Regional Position Papers

RECOMMENDATIONS

AU/IBAR₁

- ❑ Standards and Trade Secretariat being established in AU/IBAR (food safety and animal health desk). The standards and trade secretariat is created and will be permanent. AU/IBAR will sustain the Secretariat.
- ❑ AU/IBAR and the RECs should develop a mechanism for ensuring the establishment of food safety (Codex) desks/offices at the individual RECs for smooth coordination of food safety matters

AU/IBAR₂

- ❑ Get a fixed location for the CCAFRICA website. Regarding the focal country, Ghana could be made to continue with the administration of the website, otherwise the next Coordinator or the proposed food safety and animal health desk at AU/IBAR .
- ❑ AU/IBAR should support more African Experts to participate in priority Codex meetings.

Setting up permanent mechanism for coordination of African Position on food safety standards

- ❑ The Meeting adopted the permanent mechanism for coordination of African Position on food safety standards and also endorsed the establishment of a Standards and Trade Secretariat at AU-IBAR
- ❑ The Meeting recognized the need for Regional Expert meetings be based on harmonizing National Positions on various Codex draft standards. However, given the lack of adequate capacity at the national level to formulate national positions, Expert Meeting will in the interim develop positions for CCAFRICA countries to guide them in the commenting process.

Setting up permanent mechanism for coordination of African Position on food safety standards₂

- ❑ The number of expert meetings should not be fixed but be based on the relevance of issues being discussed by Codex committees.**
- ❑ One NCCP meeting should be held to review CAC decisions and re-identify issues of interest to the Region.**
- ❑ RECs are also encouraged to organize NCCP meeting for the member states.**
- ❑ The 3rd Annual NCCP meeting will be hosted by the next Coordinator for CCAFRICA.**

Ensuring Functional National Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points For Codex Activities₁

- ❑ CCAFRICA members should adopt the African Regional Guidelines for Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees (CAC/GL 43:2003)
- ❑ AU/IBAR should collaborate with FAO/WHO to conduct assessment on NCC and CCP situation in African countries with the view of providing specialized assistance to underprivileged countries

Ensuring Functional National Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points For Codex Activities ²

- ❑ Ghana, the current Coordinator for CCAFRICA and the FAO/WHO should seek political support for Codex activities in the Region by explaining Codex issues at the AU Summit, FAO, WHO Regional meetings and in meetings of the RECS
- ❑ The AU should initiate action through the FAO/WHO to obtain membership status for AU. The status of this activity should be reported at the 20th Session of CCAFRICA

Overview of International Risk Analysis Framework and FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Activities

- ❑ Member countries should strengthen food control systems including surveillance and research laboratories for generation of scientific data for Codex work
- ❑ Strengthen NCCs including Technical Committees to provide technical support

Identification of other Codex Committees where Regional Expert Group meetings are required and their ToR

- ❑ CCFFP, CCFA, CCFL and CCFFV in addition to CCCF, CCPR and CCFH were identified as Committees where Regional Expert Meetings will be needed.
- ❑ The ToR for these Regional Working Groups should be consistent with ToR of the Committees as found in the Codex Procedural Manual

Outcome of CCCF Expert Meeting

- ❑ Participants endorsed recommendations presented by the Expert Committee on Contaminants in Foods**
- ❑ The recommended Positions are to be circulated by the Coordinator to all CCPs and also posted on the CCAFRICA website**
- ❑ Member countries should submit their comments before the deadlines. The CCAFRICA Coordinator should continue to send reminders to members on this issue**

Recommendations from the Expert Meeting on Pesticide Residues₁

- ❑ ACTION: Support advancement of the recommended MLs, countries within the African region that have these pesticides registered could provide copy of the official labels/letters of authorization of this pesticide for papaya, mango and okra. The letters of confirmation from registrars are needed and outlining the use patterns should be submitted to the Coordinator not later than 18th February 2011.
- ❑ Countries within the African region that have Bifenthrin and difenoconazole registered should provide copy of the official labels/letters of authorization of this pesticide for papaya, mango and okra. We need letters of confirmation from registrars that this pesticide is being used and the use pattern submitted to the Coordinator by 18th February 2011.

Recommendations from the Expert Meeting on Pesticide Residues₂

ACTION for African countries: With regard to the Draft Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds at Step 7: Tree nuts, Herbs and Spices member countries should consider what is grown and traded and propose inclusions for those that are not included. Where there are omissions, we request the Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee to identify any omissions from the list to be included and provide this information at the earliest possible time.

AU/IAPS C and the FAO in collaboration with the AU/IBAR will be organizing a training workshop for African Experts in Pesticide Residues