



Promotion of the Participation of the Americas in Codex Alimentarius

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IICA

1. Description of project

- ▶ **Name:** Promotion of the Participation of the Americas in Codex Alimentarius Committees
- ▶ **Objetives:** To promote the development of capacities in Member Countries to increase their EFFECTIVE participation in and advantageous use of Codex Alimentarius, and to promote a hemispheric/regional outlook on it
- ▶ **Scope:** 32 IICA Member Countries (excludes the U.S.A and Canada) belonging to the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)
- ▶ **Financing:** At the end of 2011, US\$400,000, of which \$100,000 were contributed by IICA and US\$300,000 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture


2. Conditions for participation

- ▶ This is a **COMPETITIVE fund**
- ▶ There must be a **national justification** (based on national interest and agenda items)
- ▶ There must be a **national position** on agenda items of interest = National Codex Committee and/or Sub-Committee met and set a position – the position is a country's decision
- ▶ **Active participation** in debate; formation of alliances
- ▶ **Only one delegate** per country meeting and only **one source of financing** (the project)

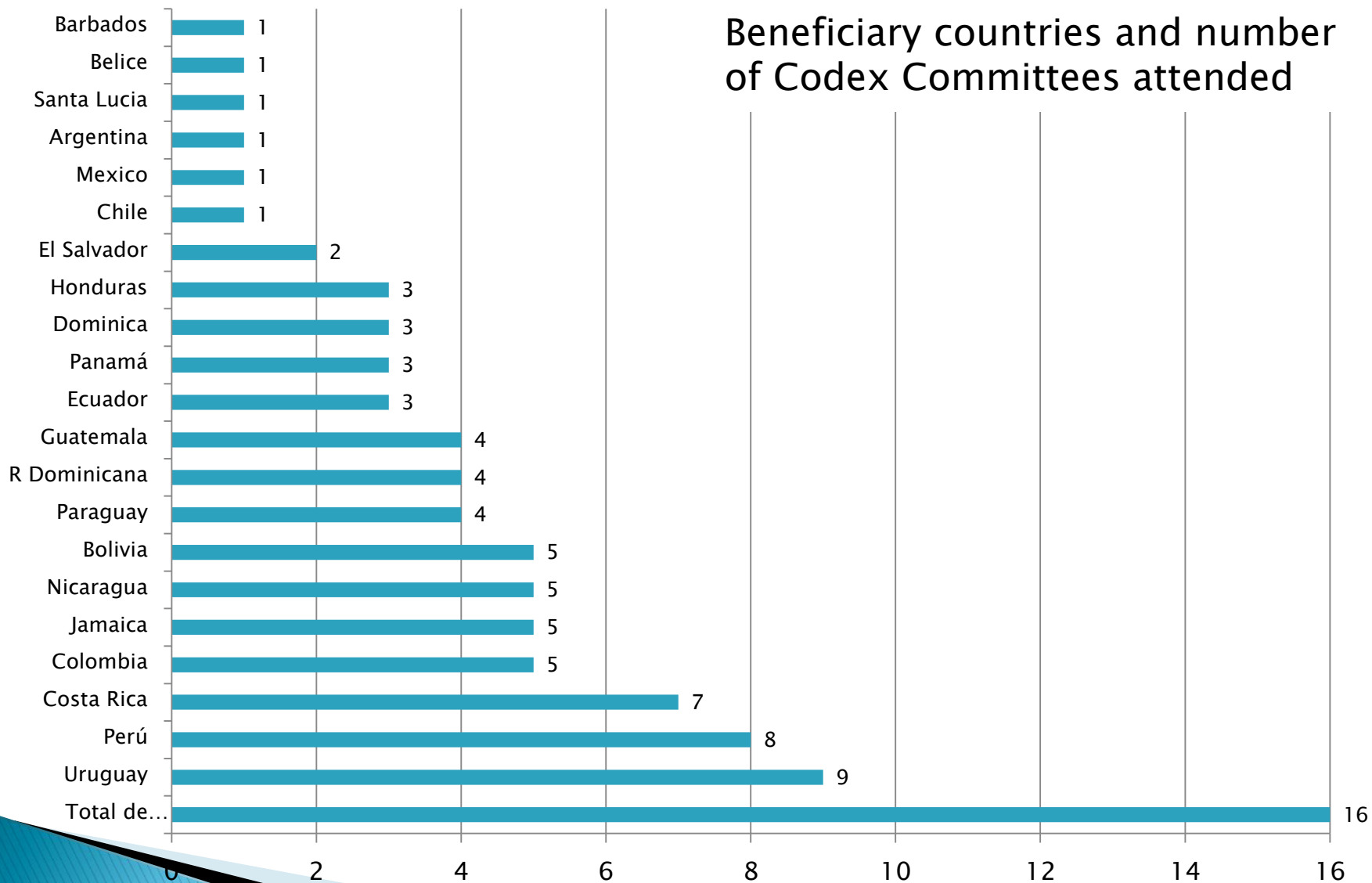
Conditions (cont.)

- ▶ There is a **profile for designating delegates**
- ▶ Delegate must **know IICA's Manual on Good Participation Practices** (there is a previous conference call with delegates) and/or have taken a course on the Codex standard-setting process
- ▶ Delegate must **attend coordination meetings** (IICA representative accompanies the delegates to provide support)
- ▶ **Report to National Codex Committee and other stakeholders** upon returning home (15 days)

3. Results

- ▶ Sixteen meetings have been attended by the end of 2011
 - ▶ Nine different Codex Committees have been attended
 - ▶ In all 76 delegates have been supported
 - ▶ 21 countries have received benefits
 - ▶ Approval or rejection/posponement of various international and regional standards of interest has been achieved or supported
 - ▶ Regional or hemispheric collaboration has been secured
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3. Results (cont.)




3. Results (cont.)

Committee attended
and number of times

Labeling	1
General Principles	1
Food Additives	2
Pesticide Residues	2
Food Hygiene	2
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	2
Contaminants in Foods	2
Nutrition and Foods for Special Uses	2
Inspection and Certification Systems for Food Export and Import	2

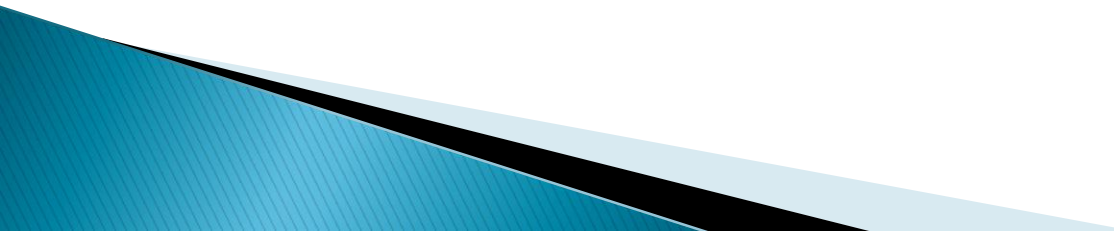
4. Some Conclusions

1. Support of active participation in international standard-setting fora (Codex in this case) must be linked to capacity building
 2. Countries must “earn” their opportunity to assist through accountability and demonstration of impact generated – otherwise, the effect of the resources used may be minimal or nil
 3. A minimal national structure (i.e., functional National Codex Committee) is fundamental to achieve good results from this type of initiative
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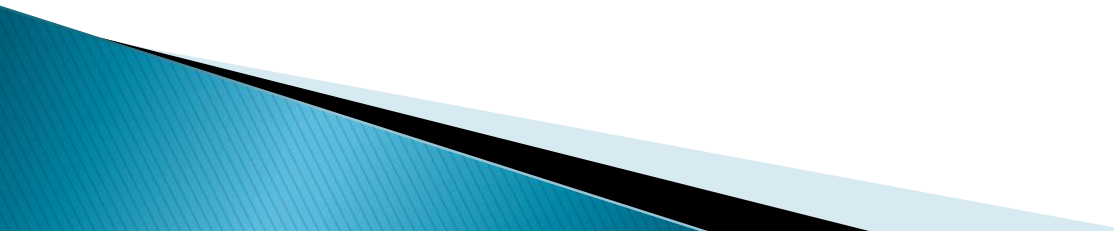
4. Some Conclusions (cont.)

4. Exchange of experiences between countries with differing levels of institutional development is extremely effective and helps accelerate the process of change and empowerment in countries taking their first steps in international negotiation fora
5. Due to political and institutional changes that take place within countries, it is essential to conduct training on international issues such as Codex at least every three years, since attrition and personnel rotation erode a country's capacity very fast, bringing inexperienced staff to replace those that have gained experience representing their countries

4. Some Conclusions (cont.)

7. Due to the characteristics of some countries, it is advisable to consider implementing regional or sub-regional capacity building strategies
 8. The project brought about a strengthening of the negotiating capacity of CCLAC countries
 9. Two years is too short a time for a project of this type to show solid results, since a Codex standard, on average, takes about three years to be developed and approved
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5. What is in the future?

- ▶ Possible continuation of the project in 2012??
 - ▶ Development of capacities:
 - Strengthening of National Codex Committees
 - Standard-setting courses (Codex, OIE, IPPC)
 - Good Practices courses
 - ▶ Support for CCLAC
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THANK YOU!