



## Agenda item 6

CX/AFRICA 17/22/7  
December 2016

### JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Session

Nairobi, Kenya, 16 - 20 January 2017

#### CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

(Prepared by the Coordinator for CCAFRICA)

#### A. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

1. In 2016, Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) acknowledged that AMR is a serious public health threat requiring action by Codex; and that a coordinated approach by Codex was required at the international level to combat AMR.

2. CAC39 (2016) agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR to be hosted by the Republic of Korea. The CAC observed the roles of the FAO and WHO in the prevention and containment of AMR. This is best echoed by the 68<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly Resolution which endorsed the 2015 Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR and the 39th Session of FAO Conference (June 2015) which adopted resolution C 2015/28 Rev.1 on AMR.

##### *Relevance of the AMR to CCAFRICA*

3. The 2015 WHO Report on the Burden of Food Borne Disease revealed that Africa contributes one third (1/3) of all global food borne diseases while half (1/2) of all global death toll from Non-typhoidal Salmonella is found in the same region. AMR will consequently negate efforts being made by Africa in the public health field and economic gains.

International trade in food will be negatively affected by AMR. The compliance tests required by importing countries to assure that the exported food does not harbor antimicrobial resistant organisms will make our product less competitive in the global commerce.

The CCAFRICA delegates at CAC39 (2016) supported the Codex work to address the AMR.

#### B. CODEX TRUST FUND (CTF)

4. Codex Trust Fund was established in 2004. By the time it lapsed in 2015, it had globally assisted 2300 delegates to participate in Codex meetings and trained 1200 persons.

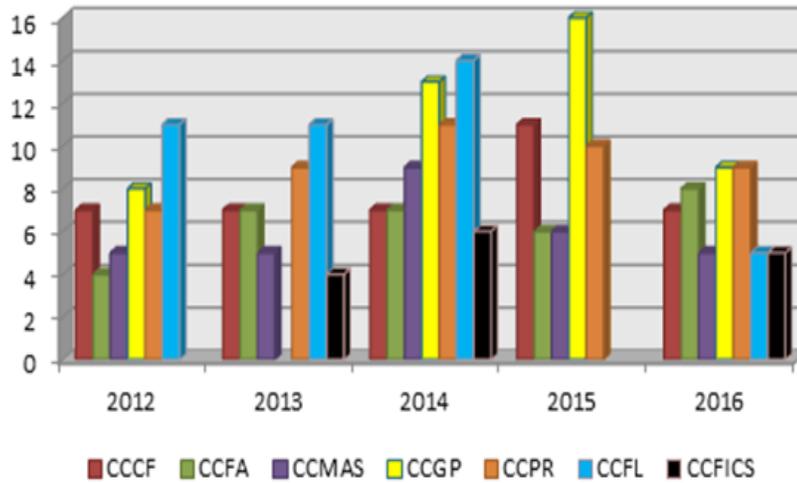
The CAC39 launched the successor of CTF-1 in 2016. The main objective of CTF-2 is to help build capacity to engage fully and effectively in Codex work.

##### *Situation Analysis*

5. Three (3) African countries namely; Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal will benefit from the fund. The lapse of CTF-1 has signaled a potential drop of participation of CCAFRICA in the Codex work process. Consider the following graphics: -

## Participation in Codex Meetings

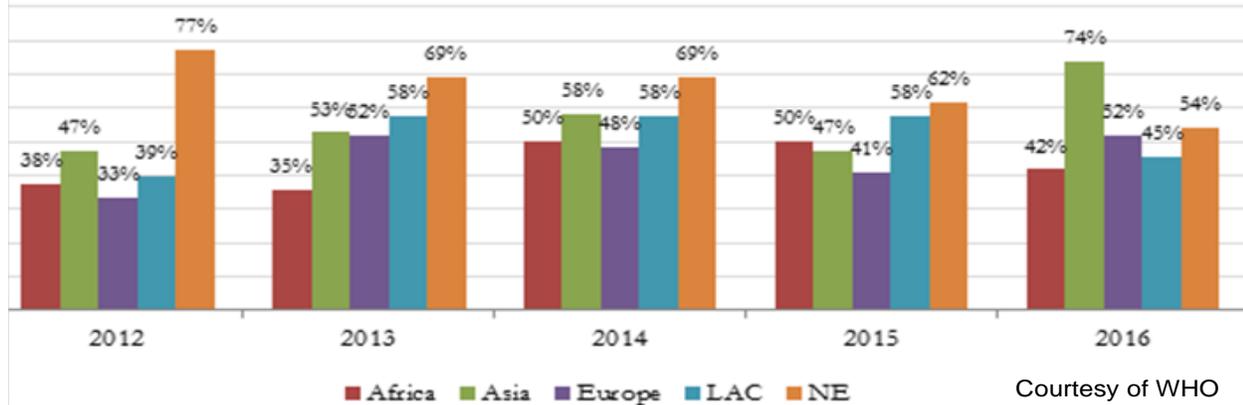
**Graph 1. Total number of developing countries from the African Codex region participating in Codex meetings (2012-2016)**



Courtesy of WHO

## Participation in Codex Meetings

**Graph 2. Percentage of developing countries participating in Codex meetings per region (CCCF, CCFA, CCFICS, CCFL, CCGP, CCMAS, CCPR)**



Courtesy of WHO

### *Conclusion*

6. There is need to widen the scope of CTF to include an element of a very limited time bound assistance in participation in Codex meetings as CCAFRICA member states explore alternate sources of funding including factoring Codex work in their budgets.

### **C. OTHER TOPICS ON CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS.**

#### *Prevention and Control of Non-typhoidal Salmonella*

7. The adoption of the Prevention and Control of Non-typhoidal Salmonella in Beef and Pork will help African countries address public health and trade concerns.

#### *Microbiological Criteria Guidelines*

8. The adoption of Microbiological Criteria Guidelines and related Codex information materials is of importance to CCAFRICA as they facilitate intra-Africa trade through harmonization of development of food standards.

#### *Processed Cheese*

9. The Physical Working Group (PWG) on Processed Cheese held in Uruguay in December, 2015, made a fair amount of consensus among the delegates leading to the development of the revised draft standard. However, it appears from the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of CAC that there is loss of the good progress witnessed at the PWG in Uruguay. The Coordinator recommends that the work on the General Standard for Processed Cheese should be continued and, if necessary, the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) may physically meet to discuss the issue.

#### *Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)*

10. New work on the Guideline for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) resonated with CCAFRICA's needs as it will give guidance to governments and producers on RUTF used in the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). RUTF products are already produced in some countries and/or used in the management of SAM not only in refugee populations, but also for malnourished infants and geriatrics.