



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Twenty-third virtual
meeting
22-26 July 2024**

**Codex strategic plan 2020-2025:
implementation in the Latin America and Caribbean region**

(Document prepared by the CCLAC Chair and Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. At its forty-second meeting¹ (CAC42, 2019), the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted the “Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025” and annual implementation reports that had been submitted at meetings of the Commission Executive Committee (CCEXEC) since that time. The Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO support these organizations in attaching high priority to food safety and quality and guide the CAC in carrying out its responsibilities and its unique mandate to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. It reported to Members, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders on how the CAC intends to fulfil its statutory purpose and meet the needs of Member States during the period 2020-2025, as well as on emerging issues and expectations.

2. The Strategic Plan lists five goals which are detailed below. These include addressing current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner for the development of standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles and increasing their impact through the use of Codex standards. This means encouraging all Codex Member States to take part throughout the standard-setting process and improving work management systems and practices that support the efficient and effective achievement of all the strategic plan objectives.

3. The region reviews Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 implementation every two years during the CCLAC meeting, which provides an opportunity to review and fine-tune the Plan based on results achieved, current circumstances and other relevant factors.

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 ACTIVITIES FOR THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION

4. During the twenty-second meeting of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC22), it was not possible to discuss agenda item 7 “Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025” due to lack of time, so it was agreed to establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) that would work in Spanish and English, under the leadership of Ecuador as Coordinator of the CCLAC, in which members and observers from the region could participate, with the following terms of reference:

- i. review and update the Regional Workplan 2022-2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025;
- ii. review and update the Regional Communications Workplan 2022-2024;
- iii. finalize the update of the workplans within six months in order to facilitate their implementation before the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.

5. Through this EWG, the activities to be carried out in the CCLAC region from 2022 to 2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 were agreed and are set out in the workplan (**Appendix I**). Activities planned in the region for Strategic Plan implementation met significant challenges,

¹ REP19/CAC

mainly because most Codex Committees had gone back to holding in-person meetings. The information from the EWG report is set out in **Appendix III**.

6. In order to evaluate implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the CCLAC Coordination organized the “Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2020-2024”, on 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 February 2024, in which 31² countries from the region participated. The activities are set out in **Appendix I**.

7. During the Workshop, Member States were asked to focus mainly on the following points:

- setting up of a National Committee (if no National Committee has been set up, outline the way the Codex Secretariat operates in your country).
- your physical, virtual or hybrid participation in Committee meetings held in the period 2022-2024.
- your participation in Electronic Working Groups.
- events held.
- general activities carried out in relation to Strategic Plan goals.
- general activities carried out in relation to Strategic Plan objectives.
- general recommendations and considerations.

8. Information gathered through the above workshop for each goal is set out below.

Goal 1: “Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner”

9. Several Codex General Subject Committees and Commodity Committees discussed the prioritization criteria they used to guide their work, so CCLAC applied similar approaches when considering principles for establishing prioritization criteria. The following factors were considered:

- the statutory purpose of the Codex Alimentarius, as well as the mandate of the FAO/WHO FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and thus the adoption of standards with the dual purpose of protecting consumer health and establishing fair practices in world food trade.
- contribution to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its influence on the food security and food safety scenario in the region. The SDGs involved are:
 - SDG 2: Zero Hunger;
 - SDG 3: Health and well-being;
 - SDG 12: Sustainable production and consumption;
 - SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals
- forming partnerships and raising awareness among stakeholders to prioritize needs.

Goal 2: “Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles”

10. The region supports the statutory purpose of Codex, and therefore upholds the principle of science-based decision-making when adopting Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines and codes of practice. To this end, it has succeeded in strengthening capacities at the national and delegate levels.

11. The efficient running of National Codex Committees and Codex Contact Points (CCPs) is being strengthened through initiatives sponsored by international organizations such as FAO, WHO, the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF), the Codex Programme for the Americas of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), among others. Some of the initiatives are listed below:

1. The in-person event “Food Safety Risk Management – decisions based on scientific evidence. Establishing maximum levels for chemical contaminants in food (MLs).”
2. The virtual seminar “Analytical Measurement Uncertainty in the Codex Alimentarius.”

² Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

3. A virtual training on the use of the Global Environment Monitoring System / Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme (GEMS/Food) database in virtual format.
12. Member States agree that the provision of science-based data lies at the heart of the standards, relying on scientific advice provided by Codex subsidiary bodies (JECFA, JEMRU, JMPR, JUMNU). However, this is one of the main challenges in the region due to limited resources for data generation.

Goal 3: “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”

13. CCLAC Member State CCPs maintain a continuous presence in various committees, depending on the priorities of each country, in order to make use of Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice. Member States use the same participatory approach to promote the use of Codex standards at the national level in various places: governments, chambers of commerce, food quality assessment institutes, universities, industry, consumer service institutions, scientific and public institutions, etc.
14. The Latin American and Caribbean region is a well-known global breadbasket³, with great export prowess. It is also a food importer, and we recognize that the use of Codex standards leads to safer and more transparent international trade.
15. One of the main mechanisms for popularizing Codex standards has been the organization of workshops, training activities and events in all formats (in-person, virtual and hybrid). These include celebrating World Food Safety Day (WFSD) every year with the aim of increasing knowledge and awareness of Codex among public, private and academic stakeholders (policymakers, the media, the food supply chain, consumers, etc.). In 2023, we marked the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, and events were focused on highlighting this event.
16. Communication between National Committees and stakeholders at the national level has helped greatly in developing awareness-raising activities and celebrating achievements. One of the main events in this biennium was the celebration of Codex’s sixtieth anniversary. Member States used the “Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2022-2024” to showcase activities carried out. These included: training, workshops, talks with stakeholders at all levels, recreational activities for better learning and sporting activities involving civil society in general.
17. The CCLAC coordination used the above resources to organize 17 events, from September 2022 to May 2024, with the participation of more than 8,600 delegates from the region (public, private and academic sectors), virtually and in-person, with simultaneous interpretation into Spanish, French (from the beginning of 2022) and English. It was supported by FAO, WHO, PAHO/PANAFTOSA, IICA and OIRSA.

Goal 4: “Encourage the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard-setting process”

18. During the “Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2022-2024”, organized in February 2024, it became evident that CCLAC Member States have maintained the same overarching approach throughout the standard-setting process, which is reflected in the responses to circular letters, leadership or joint leadership in EWGs, and the publication of CRDs.
19. Some members worked on proposals to adapt and update national regulations in line with the Codex Alimentarius.
20. Experience was also exchanged on the organization and functioning of the National Committees. One of the main challenges in the Region is keeping delegates updated with relevant Codex information due to high staff turnover.
21. The need to maintain strong national organizations within Member States by increasing the active participation of their delegates in the various Codex committees and reducing participation barriers was recognized, especially as economic factors prevent the region from being active in all the Codex forums despite its best intentions.
22. The most significant activities carried out in the last biennium are as follows:
 - **Regional event on World Food Safety Day:** for the third consecutive year, the international and regional organizations CCLAC, IICA, FAO, OIRSA and PAHO/PANAFTOSA came together to celebrate World Food Safety Day (WFSD) and highlight the importance of food safety for better health. Two activities were held to celebrate this day: a webinar attended by various experts from the region and a digital drawing competition. Both were intended to promote food safety to improve our health. The event was held in a virtual format on 5-6 June 2023, with some 350 delegates participating. The 2024 edition will take place on 5 June.

³ <https://publications.iadb.org/es/publicacion/17428/la-proxima-despensa-global-como-america-latina-puede-alimentar-al-mundo-un>

- **Food Safety Risk Management - decisions based on scientific evidence:** PANAFTOSA/SPV-PAHO and the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) are holding a series of regional training workshops, specifically designed to meet the needs and requirements of countries and Codex. The workshops are part of activities organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide Member States, industries and consumers with better scientific knowledge, technical tools and messages. These workshops are aimed at Member States at different levels of progress in their national Codex systems, while taking into account their available risk management capacity. The first series of workshops will focus on the establishment of maximum limits for chemical contaminants in food (MLs). This workshop was designed to create an environment where attendees can acquire new skills and knowledge in a dynamic and engaging way, using a combination of different training formats including short lectures, discussions, brainstorming sessions, practical exercises, role-plays and case studies. The workshop was attended by experts from the WHO Standards for Scientific Advice on Food and Nutrition Unit in Geneva, who taught participants about the following topics using presentations and practical exercises:
 - working principles for risk analysis to be conducted within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius.
 - risk assessment of chemicals in food: hazard identification and characterization, exposure assessment and risk characterization - Introduction with examples.
 - chemical risk: problem definition, scope of risk assessment.
 - basic statistical concepts necessary for chemical risk assessment.
 - sampling strategies
 - assessment of dietary exposure to chemicals: different approaches, data required, estimation of chronic and acute exposures, interpretation of exposure estimates and their limitations.
 - ML setting procedures, data requirements and criteria used.
 - tools for data gathering and organization: surveys and monitoring of food contamination and consumption.
 - risk management options (case studies).

Thirteen countries from the region participated: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. The event was held in person in Quito, Ecuador, from 19-23 June 2023, with some 25 delegates taking part every day.

- **Codex ABC regional training:** the Latin American and Caribbean Region (CCLAC) held a Codex ABC training session with the support of the Codex Secretariat and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The topics covered were the foundations of Codex, its importance in food safety, fair trade in food and standard setting. The eight steps for setting standards and each of the factors involved in the process were reviewed. The session simulated an Electronic Working Group (EWG) in order to introduce new delegates to this topic and explain how to add comments and the roles of each Member when setting up an EWG. One Member State also helped describe the operation of the Codex Online Comment System (OCS). Costa Rica and Guyana presented in 2023 and Honduras and Saint Lucia in 2024. These countries described the setting up of their National Committees and their internal processes for generating information on Codex. This was a great opportunity for the countries to showcase their own success stories. The main objective of the training was to reinforce the knowledge of delegates from the region, encouraging active participation in each of the Codex activities. The event was held virtually with translation into Spanish, English and French on 31 August and 5 September 2023 and on 03 and 05 April 2024. More than 250 delegates participated in each event on each day.
- **Analytical measurement uncertainty in Codex Alimentarius:** this webinar was an opportunity to learn about challenges and methods for addressing uncertainty in food measurement according to the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius and to gain insight into a document of great relevance to food measurement.

The event targeted staff from governmental laboratories dealing with health, agriculture, environment and metrology institutes in the Latin American and Caribbean region (CCLAC). The first session focused on general aspects of measurement uncertainty, providing a theoretical basis for understanding the importance of the subject. The second session explored the content and applications of Codex CXG 54-2004 in greater depth, providing attendees with a practical and up-to-date guide to uncertainty management in a laboratory setting. Exhibitors from Germany, Chile and Uruguay took part. The event was held on 12-13 September 2023 and was attended by some 800 delegates.

- **South-South cooperation: comparative visit to the Codex Contact Point in Ecuador:** this visit took place as part of the binational *Codex Alimentarius* Trust Fund project “*Development of capacities for the strengthening and effective management of the Codex Contact Points, the National Codex Commission and the national Codex mirror committees in Guatemala and El Salvador*”, based on the principles of South-South Cooperation. A delegation from El Salvador and Guatemala visited Ecuador in order to learn about the responsibilities and competencies of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee, its Contact Point and its technical subcommittees, with the aim of identifying areas for improvement in their national programmes and processes. The event was held in person from 18-22 September 2023, with some 15 delegates participating every day.
- **Celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius:** throughout 2024, the National Committees of Member States in the region are prioritizing sixtieth anniversary celebrations with the aim of highlighting the work done for the Codex Alimentarius. This is taking place through National Symposiums, workshops, lectures, and training activities, which will highlight important actions in this field. The main objectives of these events have been:
 - to establish an information forum highlighting the importance of the Codex Alimentarius, through the application of its standards, guidelines and codes of practice, and emphasizing the importance of food safety.
 - to raise awareness among stakeholders about the aims of the Codex Alimentarius regarding consumer health protection and the application of fair practices in the food trade.
- **Capacity building on Codex topics for the Latin American and Caribbean region:** Ecuador’s Plant and Animal Health Regulation and Control Agency (AGROCALIDAD), acting as Chair of the Codex Coordination Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, and FAO’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean are joining forces under the project Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT) to offer a series of webinars to popularize and promote the application of Codex Alimentarius standards to strengthen food safety system in the countries. The seminar series is being broadcast from 2022 to 2025 throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, in Spanish and English. Some 950 delegates have taken part to date.

Five modules have been delivered as webinars. These were:

Module 1: Guide and orientation for new Codex Alimentarius participants.

Module 2: Basic Codex texts.

Module 3: Future challenges in food safety.

Module 4: Application of Codex.

Module 5: One Health.

Module 6: Contaminants in fishery and aquaculture products.

- **Training on the use of the Global Environment Monitoring System / Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme (GEMS/Food) database:** this virtual training event took place on 07 May 2024 with the support of OIRSA. Member State delegates must learn about the database to boost participation and encourage the generation of scientific data in support of Codex expert bodies. The next training event will be held on 21 May 2024. The topic is Quantitative evaluation of chemical risks for the preparation of country positions in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and Committees.

23. Through the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Codex Trust Fund (CTF), the Pan American Centre for Foot and Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health (PAHO/WHO-PANAFTOSA), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), more than 4,000 participants have attended the various activities held in the last biennium. These are just a portion of the 8,600 participants that we have reached out to under Ecuador’s period as Coordinator of the CCLAC, from the beginning of its term until May 2024.

24. Ecuador wishes to express its deep gratitude to all government delegates from the CCLAC and other regions, to international, regional and local organizations, as well as to observer organizations and their affiliates in the region and in Ecuador for their invaluable support for the country’s work as coordinator of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN 2024-2025

25. This regional plan aims to build on the experience in CCLAC22 for the implementation of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, while providing countries of the region with enough flexibility to carry out this task.

26. Based on work undertaken and completed in the region over the past two years, **Appendix III** proposes possible activities to be implemented by the CCLAC for consideration by Member States during the period 2024-2025.

CODEX COMMUNICATION WORKPLAN 2022-2024

27. A communication work plan was also agreed through the above EWG with the aim of establishing clear communication channels between Member States and the Codex Secretariat.

28. Indicators were used to evaluate the activities carried out and highlight possible areas for improvement. Member States have been in direct communication with the Codex Secretariat for the publication of news, stories and capacity building initiatives in the region, with support from institutions such as FAO, WHO/PAHO and CTF, OIRSA and IICA. This has proved a simple and effective communication method for reporting on the progress of activities in the region.

29. **Appendix II** describes progress in achieving our goals and countries are invited to review and analyse the information provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS

30. CCLAC is invited to:

- i. take note of work done in the region to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (**Appendix I** and **Appendix II**);
- ii. rate the timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications as “excellent” or “good” (**Appendix II**, Objective 2);
- iii. discuss and adopt suggested activities for implementation in the region in 2024-2025, to provide guidance for the implementation of activities in line with the region’s priorities (**Appendix III**); and
- iv. discuss how Member States can improve participation, information-sharing and communication regarding activities implemented under the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

Appendix I

Activities carried out in CCLAC in 2022-2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner.	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	<p>1.1.1 Survey to identify emerging issues and needs related to Codex topics, including those related to national food control systems, considering the report of the twenty-second CCLAC meeting.</p> <p>1.1.2 Regional workshop to gather information on identified needs.</p>	The survey and the regional workshop will identify the needs prioritized by countries in the region. This information will be used to prepare the documents for the twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.	FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator.	<p>A regional workshop was held in February 2024 to raise awareness of the work of the Codex Alimentarius in CCLAC countries in 2022-2024. Thirty-one Member States from the region participated.</p> <p>During February and March, a virtual survey was circulated in order to gather information on the most relevant issues for the region, and responses were received from the region's 33 Member States.</p>

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
					These inputs were used to prepare the documents for the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.
	1.2 Establish an order of priority for needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Identify current and emerging issues in the region based on discussions at the twenty-second CCLAC meeting and comments gathered by the EWG and, if necessary, a regional survey.	Make Member States aware of emerging needs and issues with a view to joint actions to achieve regional positions that can be defended in the framework of the various Codex bodies.	Regional Coordinator. CCLAC Member States.	The survey gathered the emerging needs and emerging issues of Member States in order to draw up joint strategies and adopt regional positions.
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles.	2.2 Promote the presentation and use of globally representative data in the development and review of Codex standards.	2.2.1 Activities organized by FAO and WHO to strengthen the technical capacities of Member States for data generation and publication in the Global Environment Monitoring System / Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme (GEMS/Food) database	The results of the Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2020-2022 led by the CCLAC Secretariat in 2022 showed that Member States require further guidance and assistance regarding the collection, compilation and submission of scientific data used as a basis for risk assessment.	FAO and WHO, Regional Coordinator.	In June 2023, WHO and PANAFTOSA-PAHO held a workshop in Quito, Ecuador entitled “Food Safety Risk Management – decisions based on scientific evidence. Establishing maximum levels for chemical contaminants in food (MLs)” to provide training in analysing scientific data for subsequent decision-making in Food Safety. In May 2024, a regional virtual training session will be held together with OIRSA on the use of the GEMS/Food platform

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
					and the “Quantitative evaluation of chemical risks for the preparation of country positions.”
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards.	3.1 Raise awareness of Codex standards	3.1.1 Hold awareness-raising events on Codex standards for stakeholders throughout the agrifood chain, including academia and the private sector. 3.1.2 Draft information, education and communications materials.	The aim is to raise awareness of Codex standards among stakeholders and encourage their adoption by means of the events and communication materials.	Member States Regional Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	The Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2022-2024 showed that countries in the region organize events in which stakeholders participate to raise awareness of Codex issues. These events involve training materials to ensure the attendees enjoy a more active learning experience. One of the main events marked is World Food Day, when the general public is invited to activities such as running races, musical parades, fairs, painting competitions, etc.
	3.2 Support initiatives that enable the understanding,	3.2.1 Hold regional and national events to	Improve understanding of the benefits of implementing Codex standards.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, FAO,	In 2023, Member States held several events to mark the sixtieth anniversary of Codex.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
	implementation and application of Codex standards.	celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, disseminating the importance of implementing/applying Codex standards. 3.2.2 Encourage the participation of different stakeholders (academics, industry, civil society, academia, observers, public institutions, international organizations and others).		WHO and Codex Secretariat.	The main topic covered was the importance of using and adopting food standards, guidelines and codes of practice.
	3.3 Recognize and promote the effects of Codex standards.	3.3.1. Encourage Member States to participate in the survey on the use and impact of Codex standards.	To be aware of the global survey on the use and impact of Codex standards in Member States of the region.	Member States, Regional coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	Every year, the Codex Secretariat prepares a survey that shows the status of all Codex Member States (agenda item 9).
4. Encourage the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard-setting process.	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex facilities in all Member States. 4.2 Increase sustainable and active participation of	Submit projects to the Codex Trust Fund for eligible countries to access benefits and work in accordance with the process. Develop opportunities for mentoring and exchanging experience and knowledge between countries in the	With the support of the Codex Trust Fund, the Codex programme for the Americas and other projects, more Member States are meeting the requirements and strengthening their national committees for better participation in Codex work.	CTF, FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator and Member States	In August 2023, a virtual training session on preparing for the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) round 8 application was held jointly with the Trust Fund Secretariat, to which four countries in the region applied (one individual country and three in a group).

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
	<p>all Codex members.</p> <p>4.3 Reduce barriers to the active and sustainable participation of developing countries</p>	<p>region and with other countries.</p> <p>Support capacity-building through training courses, seminars and others.</p> <p>Applications in the Codex programme for the Americas to increase in-person participation in the various committee meetings.</p> <p>Encourage participation in electronic working groups (EWGs) and responses to circular letters (CL).</p>			<p>Also, at the Regional Workshop for the popularization of Codex. Alimentarius work in CCLAC countries 2022-2024, countries such as Honduras, Cuba, Guatemala and El Salvador discussed their experience and the benefits they got from being included among the countries chosen for participation in CTF projects.</p> <p>With the partnership of the Codex Secretariat and the IICA, two “Codex ABC” training sessions were held in August/September 2023 and March 2024 with the aim of introducing the basic concepts of Codex as well as the use of digital platforms such as OCS and Forum to increase the participation of Member States in the EWG and responses to circular letters.</p>

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-2024	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Implementation status/approach
					<p>Approximately 8 to 10 regional training activities are held annually. These focus on needs arising in Member States and are supported by international organizations such as WHO, PAHO/Panaftosa, FAO, IICA and OIRSA.</p> <p>It also works closely with the IICA, under the Codex Americas Programme, to allow Member States of the region to participate in the selection process for personal attendance of the various committees held annually according to their priorities.</p> <p>The CCLAC Secretariat also sends out bimonthly e-mails to encourage countries in the region to participate in responding to CLs, the EWG and others.</p>

Appendix II

Activities carried out in CCLAC in 2022-2024 to support the implementation of the Codex Communication Workplan 2020-2025

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-24	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Action taken	Arrangement for providing information
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner.	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.	<p>Identify the priorities of countries in the region.</p> <p>Identify current and emerging issues in the region based on discussion at the twenty-third CCLAC meeting and comments gathered by the EWG after CCLAC22 and, if necessary, a regional survey.</p>	<p>This gathered information will be used to prepare the documents for the twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.</p> <p>The activity is expected to enhance Codex's standards development capacity by contributing to the development of regional positions relevant to members' needs.</p>	FAO, WHO, Regional coordinator, Codex Secretariat	<p>Gather information on emerging, critical and current issues provided by Member States.</p> <p>Identify activities to address emerging issues.</p> <p>Identify issues of common interest in the region that are currently being discussed in the different Codex forums, including those that have been held back for reasons outside the Codex mandate, in order to achieve regional positions.</p>	<p>Regional survey and workshop.</p> <p>Collection of data on interventions, comments and concerns during regional meetings, colloquiums, plenary and post-plenary sessions.</p> <p>Gathering information on needs emerging in different forums.</p> <p>Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.</p>
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk	2.1 Use scientific advice systematically in accordance with Codex risk	Encourage the provision of data obtained through scientific surveys, focused discussions	Members from the region contribute in response to data requests from working groups	Member States.	Promote strategic alliances with international organizations such as FAO, WHO,	Information on the participation of Member States through reports drafted by the different Codex Committees, scientific data

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-24	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Action taken	Arrangement for providing information
analysis principles.	analysis principles.	currently taking place in the different Codex committees, with the support of stakeholders.	and subsidiary bodies.		PAHO, IICA, OIRSA and any others considered necessary to increase data input.	generation, response to calls for data from Codex expert bodies, participation lists for workshops, training activities, meetings, etc.
	2.2 Promote the presentation and use of globally representative data in the development and review of Codex standards.	Continue with the workshops, meetings and training sessions focused on capacity building to contribute to calls for data.	Based on the results of the “Regional Workshop for the popularization of the work of the Codex Alimentarius in CCLAC Countries 2022-2024” led by the CCLAC Secretariat in 2024, it was found that Member States require further guidance and assistance in obtaining, compiling and presenting the scientific data that form the basis of the risk assessment.	FAO and WHO, Regional Coordinator.	Members have provided scientific data, expertise, or other support in response to the needs of Codex scientific advisory bodies. Establish partnerships with international organizations to provide training on topics of interest.	Workshops and documents conducted by FAO, WHO and/or Member States. Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-24	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Action taken	Arrangement for providing information
	2.3 Promote the supply of sufficient, sustainable funding for the expert bodies that provide scientific advice.	Raise awareness of the importance of funding for Codex matters through the use of legislation in Member States.	Emerging issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts continue to revive the domestic economy.	Member States, FAO and WHO	Raise awareness of the importance of funding for Codex issues by showcasing achievements made possible by implementing Codex standards in the different countries of the region.	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards.	3.1 Raise awareness of Codex standards.	Continue to strengthen participation in events such as workshops, seminars and training activities with stakeholders - government actors, private industry, scientific researchers, academia, civil society actors - related to Codex with the aim of promoting the use of Codex standards. Encourage countries of the region to participate in the	Use of Codex standards in any instance for the benefit of the Member State.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO.	Various events with the participation of National Codex Committees, promoting and raising awareness of the importance of active and effective participation in Codex's work. Participate in the annual survey to measure the use and impact of Codex texts,	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-24	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Action taken	Arrangement for providing information
		annual survey on the use and impact of Codex standards.				
	3.2 Support initiatives that enable the understanding, implementation and application of Codex standards.	Promote activities within each Member State aligned with the different work done by Codex.	Improve the understanding of the benefits of implementing Codex standards.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, Codex Secretariat, FAO/WHO	Organize events, seminars, conferences and marking World Food Safety Day.	Illustrative reports on action published on the Codex/CCLAC website (www.codexalimentarius.org) Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.
	3.3 Recognize and promote the effects of Codex standards.	Continue holding these workshops and other regional activities for sharing experiences and mutual support.	Support activities relating to the use of Codex standards.	Member States, Regional Coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	Hold regional workshops with the aim of identifying work done and that could be done regarding the use of Codex standards.	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.
4. Encourage the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard-setting process.	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex facilities in all Member States.	Encourage applications to the Codex Trust Fund and provide support in all instances to strengthen its various national and training committees in Member States where this body has	Strengthen the response to the different work requests with the support of the Codex Trust Fund.	Member States, Codex Secretariat, Regional Coordinator and Secretariat. FAO/WHO, CTF.	Support countries in the region that are eligible for the Codex Trust Fund through lectures and training to teach how to present projects properly.	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting. Applications to the Codex Trust Fund, subject to compliance with requirements.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2022-24	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Action taken	Arrangement for providing information
		been impacted or weakened.			Promoting capacity building and activities of Member States regarding participation in Codex work.	
	4.2 Increase the sustainable and active participation of all Codex members.	Support new work proposed by the region, encourage participation in the various bodies and electronic working groups, response to circular letters and draft standard progress.	Encourage the formation and implementation of National Committees for each Member for consistent participation in all Codex work.	Member States and Regional Coordination.	Virtual participation. Develop opportunities for mentoring and exchanges of experience and knowledge among countries of the region.	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.
	4.3 Reduce barriers to the active participation of developing countries.	This has been encouraged, and we expect an increase in advisory reports and exchanges of experience on Codex matters between countries.	Raise government actors' awareness of support for and recognition of Codex standards.	Member Countries and Regional Coordination, Member States	Virtual participation. Submission of applications to the Codex Americas Programme of IICA, OIRSA and other international cooperating in-person participation by Member States from the region in Codex Committees.	Relevant documents and final report of twenty-fourth CCLAC meeting.

Appendix III

Activities planned for the period 2024-25 for Implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2024-2025

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2024-2025	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2025	Arrangement for providing information
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner.	1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues	1.1.1 Survey to identify emerging issues and needs related to Codex topics, including those related to national food control systems, considering the report of the twenty-second CCLAC meeting. 1.1.2 Regional workshop to gather information on identified needs.	The survey and the regional workshop will identify the needs prioritized by countries in the region. This information will then be processed.	FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator.	Work with Member States, based on gaps identified through the FAO/WHO survey and the workshop led by the Regional Coordinator.	Drafting of a survey on emerging issues in early 2024. Regional workshop in the first quarter of 2024. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.
	1.2 Establish an order of priority for needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Identify current and emerging issues in the region based on discussions at the twenty-second CCLAC meeting and comments gathered by the EWG and, if necessary, a regional survey.	Make Member States aware of emerging needs and issues with a view to joint actions to achieve regional positions that can be defended in the framework of the various Codex bodies.	Regional Coordinator, CCLAC Member States	After prioritizing the issues identified, encourage Members to communicate proactively in order to actively participate in Codex work (committees, EWG, meetings and other scheduled activities)	Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2024-2025	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2025	Arrangement for providing information
<p>2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk analysis principles.</p>	<p>2.2 Promote the presentation and use of globally representative data in the development and review of Codex standards.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Activities organized by FAO and WHO to strengthen the technical capacities of Member States for data generation and publication in GEMS/Food.</p>	<p>The results of the workshop led by the CCLAC Secretariat in 2022 showed that Member States require further guidance and assistance regarding the collection, compilation and submission of scientific data used as a basis for risk assessment.</p>	<p>FAO and WHO, Regional Coordinator</p>	<p>Thematic capacity-building activities, such as workshops, meetings and others, will be carried out to meet the requirements of Codex standard-setting.</p>	<p>Workshops and documents conducted by FAO, WHO and/or Member States. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.</p>

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2024-2025	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2025	Arrangement for providing information
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards.	3.1 Raise awareness of Codex standards.	3.1.1 Hold awareness-raising events on Codex standards for stakeholders throughout the agrifood chain, including academia and the private sector. 3.1.2 Draft information, education and communication materials.	The aim is to raise awareness of Codex standards among stakeholders and encourage their adoption by means of the events and communication materials.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Increased recognition and understanding of Codex work and standards.	Relevant information published on the CCLAC page of the Codex website. Relevant documents and final report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.
	3.2 Support initiatives that enable understanding and implementation of Codex standards.	3.2.1 Hold regional and national events to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, disseminating the importance of implementing/applying Codex standards. 3.2.2 Encourage the participation of different stakeholders (academics, industry, civil society, academia, observers, public institutions, international organizations and others).	Improve understanding of the benefits of implementing Codex standards.	Member States, Regional Coordinator, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Increase recognition and understanding of Codex texts. Inform the region of events organized by the various Member States, FAO, WHO and Codex Secretariat.	Marking the sixtieth anniversary of Codex, with national and regional events. Relevant information published on the Codex website.

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2024-2025	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2025	Arrangement for providing information
	3.3 Recognize and promote the effects of Codex standards.	3.3.1. Encourage Member States to participate in the survey on the use and impact of Codex standards.	To be aware of the global survey on the use and impact of Codex standards in Member States of the region.	Member States, Regional Coordinator and Codex Secretariat.	Active participation of Member States in the survey on the use and impact of Codex standards, increasing the percentage of participation compared to previous years.	Relevant documents, survey report and final report of the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.
4. Encourage the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard-setting process.	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Member States. 4.2 Increase the sustainable and active participation of all Codex members. 4.3 Reduce barriers to active participation of developing countries.	<p>Submit projects to the Codex Trust Fund for eligible countries to access benefits and work in accordance with the process.</p> <p>Develop opportunities for mentoring, exchanging experience and knowledge between countries in the region and with other countries.</p> <p>Support capacity building, through training courses, seminars and others.</p> <p>Applications in the Codex programme for the Americas to increase in-person participation in the</p>	With the support of the Codex Trust Fund, the Codex programme for the Americas and other projects, more Member States are meeting the requirements and strengthening their national committees for better participation in Codex work.	CTF, FAO, WHO, Regional Coordinator and Member States	<p>Promoting capacity building and activities of Member States regarding participation in Codex work.</p> <p>Increased participation in committees, EWGs, as well as increased response rate to CLs.</p> <p>Alerts by the CCLAC Regional Coordinator on the existence of EWGs, establishing a space for the exchange of positions prior to publication in the forum.</p>	<p>Applications to the Codex Trust Fund, subject to compliance with requirements.</p> <p>Number of Member States participating in Codex meetings recorded in participant lists.</p> <p>Documents relating to the twenty-third CCLAC meeting.</p>

Priority goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2024-2025	Justification of the proposed activities	Responsible party or principal	Expected achievements by 2025	Arrangement for providing information
		<p>various committee meetings.</p> <p>Encourage participation in electronic working groups (EWGs) and responses to circular letters (CLs).</p>				