

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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Agenda Item 10

**CX/ASIA 99/11
August 1999**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twelfth Session

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 23 - 26 November 1999

CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING AT THE CODEX AND NATIONAL LEVEL

BACKGROUND

1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission discussed the involvement of consumers in the work of Codex at its 20th, 21st and 23rd Sessions. The Commission at its 23rd Session after discussions proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points.
2. Information was requested by a Codex circular letter (CL 1999/12-ASIA) on consumer participation in the elaboration of national food legislation and that of national positions in relation to the work of Codex. Information provided will be presented either orally at the Session or in a paper.
3. This paper presents the conclusions of the Commission on consumer involvement in the work of Codex, made at its 23rd Session and relevant to the work of this Committee.

CONSUMERS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. The Commission:
 - Agreed to consider the development of a "checklist" of measurable objectives to assess consumer participation in Codex work at the national and international levels and asked the Committee on General Principles to review the proposal contained in the document;
 - Recommended that consideration be given by FAO and WHO, in co-operation with consumer organizations, to the development of guidelines or models for enhancing consumer participation in Codex and food standards work at the national and international levels;
 - Noted that there was little support for the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and related FAO and WHO programmes to identify funds to support expanded participation of consumer International Non-Governmental Organizations in Codex, stating that any resources available to Codex should be directed first to developing Member countries of the Commission;

- Recommended that FAO, WHO and national governments work with national and international consumer organizations to improve the dissemination of Codex information to consumers;
- Recommended that FAO, WHO and national governments invite consumer organizations to participate in national, sub-regional or regional workshops and seminars relevant to Codex matters; and
- Proposed that Regional Coordinating Committees continue to take the opportunity to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on the ways and means of developing consumer input into National Codex Committees and Contact Points.