

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 4.1, 4.2, 6, 7, 8, 10

CRD08

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

17th Session

Nadi, Fiji

3 – 7 February 2025

COMMENTS FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Agenda Item 4.1 Food Safety and Quality Situation in the Region

-Papua New Guinea (PNG) notes that Food safety and quality issues are very fundamental from the production to consumption along the value chain.

-We need research to determine which organizations are responsible for food borne illness. Due to drinking contaminated water, we believe typhoid caused by *Salmonella typhi* is one of the major caused in PNG.

-Food fraud is common to us by importing from other countries without proper inspection and certification system in place.

-Agrofood Safety at the farm level is essential to look into agro chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides residues that needs to be fully investigated in PNG.

-Persistent environmental contamination monitoring in meat, poultry, fish and dairy products has not been fully done in PNG.

-Food labelling and allergens issue not fully enforce even its in our National Food Law.

-PNG has been importing food without following local food safety standards. All imported food should be tested in the accredited laboratory before allowed for public consumption.

-PNG is starting to develop food safety standards for indigenous and traditional foods.

-Most of our sea foods are tested in the accredited lab before its exported to EU and other markets.

-PNG creates awareness during World Food Safety Day (WFSD) on 7th June each year.

-We are working with EU STREIT program in PNG to identify and develop Geographic Indications (GI) for our local food and develop Book of specifications in the near future.

-We need to increase our capacity to advocate and manage our food safety regulation and frameworks as far as domestic consumption and export is concern.

-Our food safety systems are still fragmented; thus, PNG strongly need to develop National Food Authority as recommended by EU EDES Report in 2025 to address most of the food issues.

-Nevertheless, climate change has an impact to our low-lying islands and atolls in PNG as a result of sea level rise and submerge of some of our small island Provinces and sand build up in our reefs where fish was found before.

-Some friendly insects such as cocoa pod borer is becoming a pest of Cocoa today.

-Codex food standards are used as the basis for food production in PNG. It is equally important to develop national food standards, where no national food standards exist, PNG will domesticate and use Codex food standards as the basis for food production. There is a need to develop regional food standards for the new emerging crops and conduct food safety assessment and evaluations to determine and evaluate any food contamination effects.

-The increased foodborne disease transmission due to molecular biology using genome editing and sequencing has to be fully coordinated to prevent the development of emerging pathogens as a result of mutation and climate change.

-In PNG we are addressing food safety, AMR and Zoonosis as One Health approach by our four main agencies DAL, DOH, CEPA and NAQIA as Quartriplate with FAO, WHO and USAID and UK Fleming Fund Grant.

Previously we had the National Action Plan on AMR 2029-2023.

-PNG need to improve food consumption data collection and sharing and upgrading of food analysis lab capacity.

-PNG will continue to engage in WFSD activities to create more awareness to consumers.

-There is a need for capacity building courses and scholarships relating to adopt and strengthen food safety

-We should agree to adopt and strengthen food safety and use of Codex Alimentarius guidelines for national food control system (CAC/GL82-2013 & other relevant control measures have to be adopted by PNG to use in producing food.

Agenda Item 4.2 Food Safety and Quality in the Region

-PNG missed out on strengthening national capacities on Codex standards and food systems from 2023-2025.

-national Codex Committee (NCC) is in DAL where office of the CCP is located can be assisted to create more awareness on food safety in PNG. Although, food safety mandate is under NDOH it's been given very low priority over the years.

-The Food Sanitation Council (FSC) was in existence for a year recently and it developed a Draft National Food Safety Policy. However, the NCC under DAL has an Agro Food Safety and Codex SPS Compliance Policy that is in placed to address food safety issues in PNG in collaboration with Dept of Health (DOH) and other stakeholders.

-PNG applied for Codex Trust Fund for several times but the application is unsuccessful. However, PNG needs training in enhance participation in Codex for new officers due to people moving on in life.

-World Food Safety Days (WFSD) are normally addressed by Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee and other relevant stakeholders. We involve govt policy officers, private sector, food industries, academia and staff and students from selected high schools. It's usually on the 7th June each year and it considered as one of our annual events to engage various food processors, to create awareness on Codex HACCP and several other Codex texts as well as to demonstrate activities of food industries.

-The upcoming 2025 National Food Systems assessment must be done as One Health approach to reach out to all relevant stakeholders in PNG.

- More food safety awareness has to be made in the traditional food markets to produce food in hygienic manner to prevent food contamination by microorganism. Thus, five keys to safer food are critically important in this respect.

Agenda Item 6: Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Implementation in the Region

-CAC Strategic Plan was adopted during CAC42 session in 2019 was for 2020-2025 and it will expire towards the end of this year.

- CAC Strategic Plan has five goals to address Codex critical issues in a timely manner and science based in consistent with risk principles to ensure codex members participate in the Codex standard setting process with improve work management systems and practices.

-CCNASW16 endorsed progress report of Codex Work Plan.

-What are the views of 2025 to implement CAC Strategic Plan

Status of the implementation of the activities in the NASWP during 2023-2024

-Virtual platforms are effective way for NASWP region to participate.

-In PNG, we have NCC in placed and meets four times a year with the NCC to plan and implement national food control activities and participated in some zoom meetings to progress agendas such as the Development of Galip Project Document

and Kava Regional strategy, AMR and Agriculture Biotechnology. PNG carried out those activities to improve the understanding of Codex work eg WFSD celebrations.

Regional Activities to be implemented in 2025.

-Need to improve the capacity of CCP and NCC in the PICs including PNG

-PNG must continue to implement Codex texts for optimum results

-It is important to work with other CCPs for exchange of ideas and building scientific capacity

-Capacity building programs are either conducted physically or virtually in the region

-PNG supports working with other countries to develop regional positions to achieve some tangible results as per the CRD from USA.

-Its essential to continue with virtual meeting to involve most PICs

-PNG believes that it is paramount importance to propose another CCNASWP colloquium next year in preparation for CCNASWP18.

-Priority Goal 1. Address current emerging issues in a timely manner

Objective 1,2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues

Adoption by CAC43 (2020) of the Regional standard for Kava Product for Use as a beverage when mixed with water. Apart from reviewing the standard operating procedures (SOPs.), the PICs meet and discuss the development of Kava Regional strategy in Vanuatu and Fiji respectively under funding organized by SPC and PIFS.

-PNG and Solomon Islands with assistance from New Zealand developed and submitted new work proposal for Galip Nut and Breadfruit flour by Samoa.

Priority Goal 2. Develop standards based on Science and Codex Risk base principles

Objective 2.1 Use Scientific Advice Consistently inline with Codex Risk Analysis Principles

-The hosting of the regional workshop with support from FAO and WHO with the Use of Expert Advice by the development of Codex standards is one of the major achievements in 2023-2024 was great and PNG would request for similar workshop to be planned for next year

Priority Goal 3. Increase Impact the recognition and use of codex standards

Priority Objective 3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards

-PNG uses Codex standards in National Food Regulations

-PNG also participate at the second NASWP Codex colloquium that was held in Nadi, Fiji from 26-28 February 2024.

-PNG coordinated national WFSD on 7th June 2023 & 2024 respectively.

Priority Objective 3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/ application of codex standards

-PNG participated in the Development of Regional Kava Strategy

Priority Goal 4 Facilitate the participation of all Codex members throughout the standard setting process

Priority Objective 4.1 Enable sustainable national codex structures in all Codex member countries

-PNG did not participated well by NCC through virtual training sessions to promote the FAO/WHO diagnostic tools for assessing status of Codex Programmes

-PNGs application was not successful after three consecutive applications submission were made to the CTF.

Codex Communication Work Plan 2023-2024 - Progress Report

-Apart from Activity 1.2 Regional WhatsApp communication groups. PNG would like us to meet virtually by means of zoom link boost communication work in the region.

Summary of progress

Objective 1. Establish clear communication channels

-The coordinator has to have good communication chancels with CCP in the region and develop net working

Proposed regional communication work plan 2025

-Apart from Activity 1.2 Regional WhatsApp communication Group. PNG would like to include virtual/zoom meeting to enhance communication.

Agenda Item:7 Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031

-It has to be aligned with previous Codex strategic plan with inclusion of gaps, challenges and emerging issues. It must include Goals, Objectives and activities with work plan.

-New strategic plan has to have mid term review in 2028 to determine achievement to-date and determine grey areas to develop further plans to achieve it. It is equally important to examine needs of member states in developing new food standards and reviewing the exiting standards. Developing countries PNG must be able

to generate data to contribute to scientific advice. Member countries must be encouraged to develop and implement Codex standards and revise outdated standards as a result of development and industrialization. Thus, it is important to identify priority goals, objectives and outcomes and developing work plans that is tied to the specific activities.

-PNG is in agreement with the core values (Inclusiveness, collaboration, Consensus building and transparency) that guides the strategic plan.

-The CAC strategic plan has to be in consistent with the Codex Procedural Manual.

-In PNG, our UN agencies such as FAO, WHO and other donor countries are assisting us to develop One Health strategy that caters for Food safety, AMR and Zoonosis. Meetings are still in progress.

- Codex develops standards, guidelines and Code of practices (Codex texts). Codex standards are incorporated into policy frameworks for countries to achieve food safety outcomes. Thus, effective risk communication, public private partnerships, harmonizing of regulations are essential elements to achieve food safety and contamination monitoring. Thus, PNG must develop national food standards in alignment with regional and Codex standard to protect health of consumers and facilitate trade.

Strategic Goals and Outcomes

-PNG agrees with current new goals and outcomes in principle with work plans and activities will be developed and incorporated to determine how to implement and achieve tangible outputs in the future.

Agenda Item 8: Use and impact of Codex standards in the region

-PNG participated in the survey on use and impact of codex standards in the region in 2022 and 2023.

-The survey was to determine which Codex standards are used frequently to ensure its reviewed regularly to meet the needs of the users.

-PNG agree that Codex texts are used widely for domestic food production to protect health of consumers and facilitate trade.

-Continuous survey is required over the years to appreciate general trend in the use of Codex text.

-In some cases, the proposal to implement gaps using codex text were identified but not actioned due to lack of financial support.

-In PNG, during WFSD we engage high level support to promote WFSD theme and promotion of Codex texts.

-In this regard, PNG wish to request FAO/WHO to assist us in the capacity building programs to implement gaps and challenges areas to implement codex text in other Provinces in the country.

-Codex secretariat must continue to conduct survey to identify regional FAO or WHO to develop capacity to assist member countries in addressing codex texts by having capacity building workshops and trainings.

-FAO & WHO can assist member states using the virtual /zoom meetings to promote codex texts, gaps, challengers & barriers.

Agenda Item 1: NASWP17/CRD)02 Discussion Paper on the Development of Regional standard for Galip Nut prepared by PNG, Solomon Islands and supported by New Zealand.

-The Codex Contact Point from PNG would present on behalf of Solomon Islands and New Zealand by virtual using the zoom link provided by the Codex Secretariat otherwise our PNG delegation will present on our behalf.