

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

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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

REVISED REGIONAL WORK PLAN – PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW BY CCNASWP17

(Prepared by the Chair of the In-Session Working Group, Canada and the Codex Secretariat)

Strategic Goal (2020-2025)	Objective (2020-2025)	Regional Activity (2023-2024)	Major Achievements (2023-2024)	Planned Activities (2025-2026)	Strategic Goal (2026-2031)	Outcome 2026-2031
1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner	1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.	1.2.1 Improving the linkages with the Codex Secretariat through the CCP in Member countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of the region in all Codex meetings including subcommittees of CCEXEC was active. Mailing lists were updated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued active participation of the region in all Codex meetings. 		
		1.2.2 Pacific Islands countries establishing or participating in relevant discussion groups or EWGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EWG on the Kava Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) completed the assessment of reviewing and amending the methods of analysis as proposed by CCMAS41 (report to be discussed at CCNASWP17). Members of the region participated actively in relevant discussions or established EWGs of Codex meetings : Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), Executive Committee of CAC (CCEXEC), Codex Committee of Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH7), and Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27). Members in the region participated actively in CCEXEC's work on developing the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2030. Two new work proposals for regional NASWP standards were prepared and submitted for discussion at CCNASWP17; 1) on galip nut (prepared by Papua New Guinea and Salomon Islands) and 2) on breadfruit flour (prepared by Samoa). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the SOP for Kava to CCMAS44 in May 2025 for endorsement. Active participation of the Pacific Islands countries in Codex EWGs relevant to the region. Progress work on the two new work proposals. 		
2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based principles	2.1 Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles	2.1.1 Hosting a regional workshop with support from FAO and WHO on the use of expert scientific advice in the development of Codex standards	<p>The Second Codex Colloquium for North America and the Southwest Pacific was held in Fiji from 26-28 February 2024, with participation from 35 Contributors representing 12 Codex Members from the North America and the South West Pacific regions. The Second Colloquium intended to gather all representatives from CCNASWP Codex Members to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss opportunities to enhance engagement in Codex standard setting procedures. Better map roles and responsibilities of food competent authorities from the region. Enhance efforts of regional coordination in preparation for Codex processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up on agreed activities at the second Codex colloquium. Continue convening meetings at regional level to discuss work plan implementation and next steps 		

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on select capacity building initiatives identified as a priority by food regulators in the region. • Chart a path forward for the Codex South West Pacific Initiative to be further leveraged in order to enhance the performance of food regulatory programs in the NASWP region. 			
	2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards	<i>2.2.1 Developing and implementing a work plan to generate relevant data to elaborate Codex standards, specifically referring to scopoletin in the Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication activities were promoted on scientific data to support the food safety risk assessment by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) on scopoletin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue promoting the submission of scientific data to support the food safety risk assessment by JECFA on scopoletin. 		
	2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.	<i>2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding for scientific advice for use by Codex actively promoted by NASWP Members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable funding for scientific advice for use by Codex. 		
3. Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards	3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards	<i>3.1.1 Conduct targeted activities (e.g. virtual sessions) that increases understanding of Codex standards within governments and among national stakeholders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of Codex standards in National Food Regulations was promoted. • A Second North America and South West Pacific Codex Colloquium was held in Nadi, Fiji from 26-28 February 2024. The Colloquium was organized to identify a series of recommendations for action, to support the strengthening of Codex capacities in the region and to leverage such efforts in order to enhance the performance of food control systems and food regulatory programs in the South West Pacific. • Coordination of nation-wide food safety events such as World Food Safety Day to raise awareness of Codex standards and its use and impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for roundtable meetings to support Members of the region to effectively participate in future Codex meetings under the Codex capacity building initiative in the region. • Organize regional and national events to discuss collaborative 		

				approaches to improved food safety across sectors and the promotion of Codex standards.		
	3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation /application of Codex standards	3.2.1 Promote coordination among relevant authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Standard for Kava Products for Use as Beverage when Mixed with Water (North America and South West Pacific) (CXS 336R-2020) which was adopted by CAC43 in 2020 has significantly impacted the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Commercial Kava Pilot Program which has progressed to Phase 2 allowing the commercial importation of Kava into Australia for use as a food; (ii) Kava Legalization in Germany; and (iii) Formulation of the Regional Kava Strategy. The Regional Standard for Fermented Noni Fruit Juice (North America and South-West Pacific) (CXS 356R-2023) was adopted by CAC46 in 2023, as proposed by CCNASWP16 (2023). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promoting coordination among relevant authorities to support initiatives that enable the understanding and implementation of Codex standards. Continue the activities already initiated on Kava and consider a case study on the adoption of the regional standards on Kava and/or Noni Juice 		
4. Facilitate the participation of all Codex Members throughout the standard setting process	4.1 Enable sustainable national Codex structures in all Codex Member countries.	4.1.1 Strengthening the National Codex Committee (NCC) through training sessions including virtual sessions that promote the use of the FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training sessions were held to strengthen NCCs in all Member countries throughout the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promoting the strengthening of capacities of NCCs to ensure Codex work in the region remains successful. 		

		<p><i>4.1.2 Improving the performance of the CCPs by assigning qualified staff to that position; providing sufficient funding and resources</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating meetings for Members in the NASWP region were regularly held prior to each Codex committee meeting to go over key agenda items and share positions between members of the region, and where possible, develop regional positions if appropriate. Successful applications for CTF support in Rounds 5 and 7, by Fiji, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The five (5) Pacific island countries had agreed to be part of a CTF group project, tailored to the specific challenges and needs of the region, taking into consideration the national priorities identified in the individual country applications and including joint activities at regional level that are aimed to strengthen the cohesion of Codex work in the region. This would include the strengthening and retaining of capacities at regional coordination level. Due to a sharp decline in financial commitments from the CTF donor community in 2024, the CTF Steering Committee decided that the inception of new projects is put on hold until further notice, i.e. until CTF2 project. additional funding has been secured. Once the current funding shortage has been overcome, the countries from the South-West Pacific that successfully applied for Round 7 support, will be first in line to start their CTF2 project. CTF country projects have been ongoing in Samoa and Tonga. The CTF project in Samoa has ended in October 2024 while the project in Tonga is expected to continue until February 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation by all CCPs in the NASWP region in the virtual coordination meetings. Ongoing resource mobilization efforts of the CTF to accelerate disbursement of funds for the implementation of CTF projects in the region. Engagement with regional partners to identify in-kind and other forms of support to address identified capacity strengthening needs. 		
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