



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

19th Session

San José, Costa Rica, 10 - 14 November 2014

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FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 18th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2. Under their respective mandates, goals and workplans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; and are supporting its successor, the Codex strategic plan 2014-2019. The capacity building activities also contribute to the regional strategic plan for the CCLAC, which will be addressed at its 19th Session.
3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:
 - upgrading the capacity of developing member countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
 - enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
 - strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.
4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided below in tables shown in paragraph 8 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/en/>; www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns, www.fao.org/ag/aginfo/home/en/index.htm, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/> and <http://new.paho.org/panaftosa/index>.
5. Important information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and is available in CX/CAC 14/37/14 Add.1 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC37/cac37_14e_add1.pdf).

Working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials including guidelines, manuals and online resources, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include ongoing work to address issues related to foodborne pathogen contamination and antimicrobial resistance, strengthened efforts to support countries in managing food safety emergencies; promotion of the adoption of safe food practices by food chain operators, among others.

6. Joint FAO/WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners for the period in question appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which were submitted to the 69th Session of the CCEXEC and the 37th Session of the CAC (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/CAC/CAC37/cac37_13_Add1e.pdf).
7. On the occasion of the 19th Session of the CCLAC, FAO and PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the Codex Trust Fund, are organizing a pre-CCLAC workshop to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 9 November 2014 to discuss: "Approaching the risk analysis framework through risk-based food control". It is hoped that the delegates will be able to identify key stakeholders and decision makers along the food chain to increase awareness and support across sectors and stakeholders for food control activities at the national level.
8. Activities completed or ongoing since the 18th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean are detailed in the following tables.

Table 1: REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Subregional Workshop on Comprehensive Disasters Management and Risk Reduction Plans in the Caribbean to address Nutrition and Food Safety issues, for institutions involved in emergencies, nutrition and food safety at the national level.	PAHO/WHO	11-15 November 2013	Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
Development of guidelines for intersectoral collaboration between animal and public health sectors on surveillance for food borne and zoonotic diseases.	PAHO/WHO	Ongoing 2013	Subregional Caribbean
National workshops with staff from MoH and MOA in various Caribbean countries for enhanced surveillance for acute gastroenteritis, detection of pathogens, timely notification and investigation of outbreaks. Jointly with the subregional public health and animal health agencies CARPHA-CAHFSA.	PAHO/WHO	Ongoing 2013	Subregional Caribbean
Webinar Disaster management in the Caribbean and main food hazards and nutritional risks.	PAHO/WHO	June 19, 2013	Subregional
Webinar Nutrition Hazards in Emergencies.	PAHO/WHO	July 17, 2013	Subregional
Webinar Social Protection during Emergencies. Disaster Preparedness and Relief.	PAHO/WHO	August 21, 2013	Subregional
Webinar Disaster risk reduction and risk management of food safety in the Caribbean.	PAHO/WHO	September 18, 2013	Subregional
Webinar on International Health Regulations (IHR) and INFOSAN.	PAHO/WHO	June 17, 2013	Regional

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Webinar on Molecular analytical method using PCR and quantitative PCR QPCR for Helicobacter pylori in drinking water and consumption of raw vegetables.	PAHO/WHO	July 10, 2013	Subregional
Webinar on Impact, Validation and Regulatory Implication of Rapid Methods.	PAHO/WHO	August 14, 2013	Subregional
Webinar for Leaders of the INFAL.	PAHO/WHO	August 26 & 27, 2013	Subregional
Subregional workshop for Central America, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Cuba in Campylobacteriosis and Salmonellosis in Risk Management in Poultry Chain	PAHO/WHO FAO	25 – 28 June 2013	Panama, Panama
Regional Meeting of INFOSAN Network.	PAHO/WHO FAO	23-25 September, 2014	Santiago, Chile
Regional Meeting of the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis (INFAL).	PAHO/WHO	28-31 October, 2014	Cuernavaca, Mexico
National Workshop in Needs Assessment of Food Safety System for Aruba and other Dutch Territories.	PAHO/WHO	3-5 November, 2014	Oranjestad, Aruba
National workshop on Risk Management of Campylobacteriosis and Salmonellosis in chicken meat.	FAO IICA PAHO/WHO	8 – 10 July, 2014	Santiago, Chile
National workshop in Burden of Disease for Foodborne Diseases.	PAHO/WHO	11-13 November, 2013	San Jose, Costa Rica
National workshop in Food Safety Risk Management.	PAHO/WHO	3-8 November 2013	Caracas, Venezuela
Regional Workshop in Genomics and Epidemiological Surveillance of Bacterial Pathogens	PAHO/WHO Sanger Institute	2-7 February 2014	San José, Costa Rica
National Food Safety Chemical Risk Assessment workshop.	PAHO/WHO	17-21 March 2014	Brasilia, Brasil
National workshop in Integrated Surveillance for Antimicrobial Resistance.	PAHO/WHO	1-4 April 2014	Mexico, Mexico
National workshop in Surveillance of Foodborne Diseases.	PAHO/WHO	26-30 May 2014	Managua, Nicaragua
National workshop for analysis of the national total diet study in Panama.	PAHO/WHO	28 July- 1 August 2014	Panamá, Panamá

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Capacity building of national staff within the framework of the PAHO/WHO cooperation agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Health and the National Food Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) in various aspects related to Food Risk analysis Chemical Risk assessment FBD surveillance and Burden of disease.	SVS, ANVISA PAHO/WHO	Ongoing 17-19 December 2012 18-22 March 2013 23-25 April 2013	National, Brazil
Subregional Workshop on Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities Capacity for Food Safety in the Caribbean.	PAHO/WHO	11-13 June 2013	Georgetown, Guyana
PAHO/WHO Regional Information System in Foodborne Diseases (SIRVETA).	PAHO/WHO	15-19 July 2013	San José, Costa Rica
Subregional Workshop: Validating a customized self-training course on Nutrition, Food Safety and Health in Emergencies for the Caribbean Region.	PAHO/WHO	29-30 October 2013	St. George's, Grenada
Subregional Workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans to address Nutrition and Food Safety Issues.	PAHO/WHO	25-26 November 2013	Port of Spain, Trinidad
Technical Meeting to Strengthen Capacity in Chemical Risk Assessment for Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Panama).	PAHO/WHO	9-10 December 2013	Brasília, Brasil
Regional Workshop on "Methods for detection and enumeration of pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> spp in bivalve molluscs", Santiago, Chile.	FAO/ILSI/ Kyoto University/ISP	02 December 2013	Santiago, Chile
Technical assistance mission in Georgetown Guyana headquarters, within the context of triangular cooperation, to conduct a diagnosis of the status of food safety, animal and plant health, and recommendations on the next steps in the organization and management of CAHFSA.	FAO/AGCI	15-19 April 2013	Georgetown, Guyana
National e- learning course have been delivered through of "Núcleo de Capacitación" to strengthen systems of Inspection, Monitoring and Control Systems (PIA course 2013) UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	27 May –19 August 2013	Argentina and Chile

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
National e- learning course have been delivered through of “Núcleo de Capacitación” to strengthen systems of Inspection, Monitoring and Control Systems (PIA course 2014) UTF/COL/046/COL.	FAO/RLC	10 March –2 May 2014	Colombia
National Workshop based in risk inspection UTF/COL/039/COL.	FAO/RLC	4-5 December 2013	Bogota, Colombia
Workshop: National Strategy of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in food safety and Quality, Focused in the consumer.	FAO/RLC	24-28 February 2014	Bogota and Cartagena e Indias. Colombia
GM Food Safety Assessment Workshop UTF/COL/046/COL.	FAO/RLC	28-29 April 2014	Bogota, Colombia.
National Workshop for dissemination of Codex activities UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	2 April 2013	Santiago, Chile
Training Workshop: The assurance of the analytical results for the food safety and quality UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	1-3 July 2013	Santiago, Chile
Seminar and Workshop Food Risk Communication UTF/CH/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	10 July 2103	Santiago, Chile
Seminar and Workshop on Food Allergen UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	2 August 2013	Santiago, Chile
Workshop on Hygienic Handling of Food from sea products.	FAO/RLC	16-17 December 2013	Caleta La Pesca, Licantén, Región del Maule, Chile.
Workshop on Hygienic Handling of Food to Mapuche women UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	22-23 April 2014	Licanray, Villarrica, Región de los Lagos, Chile
National Seminar: “Risk Analysis, a Global Look” UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	17 July 2013	Santiago, Chile
Risk Communication Workshop in food safety for journalists and communicators UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	9 December 2013	Santiago, Chile
National Workshop “Methodology for the Internal Validation of Microbiological Test Methods in Food” UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO/RLC	26-27 March 2014	Santiago, Chile

Table 2: PROJECTS/DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Summary of activities	Organizers	Country	Status
FAO/WHO continued their technical assistance activities in the region in strengthening national food safety control systems and Codex knowledge in the MERCOSUR and CARICOM countries, technical assistance in designing new food safety agencies and/or strengthening food safety policies, including modernization of SPS legislation and healthy food markets; capacity building in risk analysis for national health authorities, creation of national network of food analysis laboratories and strengthening laboratory quality assurance of foodborne. The FAO Eat Safely Campaign is part of the communication strategy to enhance the level of information available to consumers with special focus on children.	FAO/WHO	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay.	Ongoing
Eat Safely campaign implemented in Cuba with the cooperation of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative.	FAO	Trinidad and Tobago	Ongoing
TCPF/CUB/3401 Assistance for the analysis and implementation of a National Strategy on Food Safety Risk Analysis.	FAO	Cuba	Ongoing
Eat safely campaign has been implemented in the Caribbean English speaking Caribbean countries with radio spots and comics aimed for children	FAO	Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Virgin British Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago	Ongoing
National project: "Food safety and quality costs in selected small-scale fish chain" TCP/CHI/3302.	FAO	Chile	Ongoing
Telefood Project: Nutrition labeling on producers of agro-processed territory AMDEL.	FAO	Chile	Ongoing
National Project "Strengthening the management of Chilean food safety agency (ACHIPIA)" UTF/CHI/033/CHI.	FAO	Chile	Ongoing
National Project UTF/COL/039/COL "Technical support to the Ministry of Health (MSPS) in the implementation process of OSAN and Food Safety".	FAO	Colombia	Ongoing

Summary of activities	Organizers	Country	Status
<p>National project UTF / COL / 046 / COL:</p> <p>Provide technical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in the implementation process of the Centre for Safety Food and Nutrition and Food Safety and Quality, Research and Social Mobilization in food and nutrition security.</p>	FAO	Colombia	April 2014
<p>An EcoHealth approach to the control of diarrheal diseases in Tumbes, Northern Peru. Project financed by IDRC, with the participation of PAHO/WHO, Research group on zoonosis and public health of the University of Montreal, Universidad de Heredia, Peru.</p>	PAHO/WHO	Peru	Ongoing
<p>Strengthening of the food safety services of Haiti: gap analysis, for strengthening of laboratory capacity; early detection and emergency response capability and FBD Surveillance.</p>	PAHO/WHO CDC Institut Pasteur	Haiti	Started 8 April 2013: Ongoing
<p>Strengthening of National Food Safety System using the Performance Vision Strategy (PAHO/CDC/IICA).</p>	PAHO/WHO	Haiti, Jamaica, Bahamas	Ongoing
<p>PAHO/WHO completed a two years technical assistance activity in capacity building of national food safety laboratories for implementation of the standard ISO/IEC 17025 for microbiological, proximate analysis and trace element testing. Advisory services, 8 training events, 3 proficiency testing panels and audits were delivered to 9 laboratories from 5 countries.</p>	PAHO/WHO	Bolivia, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela	Completed December 2013
<p>PAHO/WHO is supporting five projects in South America in integrated surveillance for antimicrobial resistance in the poultry chain.</p>	PAHO	Argentina, Ecuador, Paraguay, Venezuela and Uruguay	Ongoing
<p>Technical support to Latin America Pesticide Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/436) for strengthening regional capacity to meet pesticide export requirements based on international standards (Codex MRLs).</p>		Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru	2014-2015

Summary of activities	Organizers	Country	Status
FAO TCP project support food safety management within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock TCP/URU/3402.	FAO	Uruguay	Ongoing
FAO sub-regional TCP project to strengthen food safety systems TCP/SLC/3403.	FAO	Antigua, Barbados, Dominica and Grenada	Ongoing

9. Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries. In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO and WHO have a tradition of collaboration and coordination in the implementation of food safety related activities.

Challenges identified in the capacity building work

10. Countries in the CCLAC region are in the process of strengthening their national food safety systems by applying the risk-analysis framework and the integrated food chain approach from farm to fork approach and implementing Codex standards and guidelines. The capacity building activities and FAO/WHO publications are supporting these processes.
11. Most countries in the region are in need for further strengthening of the integrated surveillance systems for foodborne disease. The main surveillance objective is to formalise the integration of data from all sectors across the food chain to conduct regular risk analysis and guide public health action.
12. There is a need for countries to also address food safety aspects in their strategies and action plans related to antimicrobial resistance.
13. There is a need for strengthening food safety reference laboratories of countries and train laboratory staff on relevant methods. The number of internationally accredited, laboratories in the region is limited but increasing facilitating acceptance of data by regional and international risk assessment bodies and trading partners.
14. There is a need for countries to establish mechanisms to ensure coordination, collaboration and information-sharing among the various sectors and authorities involved in food safety to ensure cost-efficient prevention and control of foodborne diseases.
15. Codex work still needs to receive better recognition by high level decision makers in many countries and hence resource allocation is often insufficient. Likewise food safety is often allocated limited funding and as a result actions are often focused on short term issues, rather than being of a strategic nature addressing both health and trade adequately.
16. Given that many countries have now graduated from the Codex Trust Fund, some graduate countries' ability to participate physically in Codex committees and contribute technically is constrained by lack of funds.
17. An evidence based policy development is constrained by lack of data on food consumption and exposure assessment, foodborne disease prevalence, chemical contamination of food, etc.
18. Small and medium size food enterprises (SMEs) struggle to meet international food safety requirements and certified HACCP systems are generally confined to a few larger processors operating in export-oriented markets.
19. Food safety information, training and education for producers and consumers, including better use of food labeling as a source of information for consumers is in high demand. Dedicated food handler training and consumer education materials are required.
20. In many countries there is a need for better integration of food safety aspects into outbreak, emergency and response operations and strengthened inter-sectoral information-sharing and collaboration during food safety emergencies.

Identifying Priorities and Capacity Building Needs

21. Key capacity building issues for government food safety systems include continued support for the further development of risk-based national food safety systems capable of applying sanitary measures along the entire food-chain to decrease foodborne health risks. Furthermore, being harmonized with Codex texts, raising recognition of Codex among high level decision makers, improving coordination and information-sharing among the various sectors involved in food safety, improving capacities on risk analysis, strengthening evidence based policy development including the surveillance of foodborne disease and contamination in the food chain, and considering how national food safety systems can contribute towards the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
22. ***The membership of CCLAC is invited to engage with FAO and WHO to provide feedback on:***
 - ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region
 - priority needs at national and regional level which require further support from FAO and WHO.