



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

STATUS OF THE CCLAC WEBPAGE

(Prepared by Costa Rica)

1. Subject

1. Proposed new hosting of the CCLAC webpage.

2. Brief summary of the issue

2. Major efforts have been made to improve cohesion and coordination between the countries of the region, producing significant advances in communication, for example through videoconferences and the Regional Information System. However, there has been no success in reactivating the regional webpage. This topic was raised and examined at the last meeting of the CCLAC (REP13/LAC).

3. The webpage of the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) was created by Argentina as stated in the report of the 14th session of the CCLAC held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2004, ALINORM 05/28/36, with the aim of enhancing communication between the Members of the region. From its creation until the end of 2011 it was hosted by the Government of Argentina.

4. In this connection, a discussion paper (CX/LAC 12/18/10) was presented at the 18th session of the CCLAC (REP13/LAC), recommending that the CAC be asked for authorization to accept the offer of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with headquarters in Costa Rica, to host the CCLAC webpage and that the Chairperson of the CCLAC at any given time be responsible for updating and maintaining the page.

5. At the session it was indicated that, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, different options were being explored for the hosting of the website: FAO Headquarters in Rome; the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Chile; and the Pan-American Health Organization, with headquarters in the United States of America. Given that "a number of delegations indicated that, as the Codex programme is implemented under the umbrella of FAO and WHO, the CCLAC website should remain within one of the parent organizations", the Chairperson concluded that: "the Coordinator, in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, will evaluate the best place for hosting the CCLAC website, taking into account the comments made at the session".

6. This led Costa Rica, as regional coordinator, to organize the following actions:

- On 22 November 2012, the Assistant Director-General of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Santiago de Chile, issued a formal communication notifying Costa Rica of his approval for hosting the page, and that the country coordinating the CCLAC at any given time should be responsible for updating and maintaining the page.
- On 25 April 2013, through official communication, Costa Rica accepted FAO Chile's offer to host the webpage.
- On 17 September 2013, FAO Chile and Argentina, with the support of Costa Rica, took steps to initiate the formal transfer of the page (source codes).

- On 16 January, the Codex Secretariat informed Costa Rica that, before transferring the webpage to any other body outside or within FAO, they needed to evaluate the status of the page and similar pages produced under the umbrella of Codex for other regional coordinating committees to determine whether it was possible to use a common approach with those pages; in other words, that the regional offices provide the site, or having a common system for all the coordinating committee pages currently available.
- On 23 January, Costa Rica sent an email to the Codex Secretariat expressing its concern about the hosting of the website and also stating that the CCLAC would be meeting the following November and that no progress had been made on this matter in a year and a half.
- On 27 January 2014, the Secretariat informed Costa Rica that the CCLAC webpage was not an isolated matter but also concerned similar pages of other regional coordinating committees for whose creation the Codex Secretariat had also provided funds and the necessary technical support. The solution did not therefore only apply to the CCLAC page but also involved how to host the webpages of the existing regional coordinating committees, which meant finding a similar approach, i.e. that they be hosted by the FAO regional offices, by FAO headquarters in Rome or by Codex, among other options. The Codex Secretariat was grateful for the support to the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Finally, to date there has been no response on the part of the Codex Secretariat.

3. Conclusions

- The CCLAC webpage is not in operation.
- The Codex Secretariat envisages finding common solution for all the regional committees before taking a final decision on the matter.
- This tool is urgently needed for the region.

4. Recommendation

- Determine an alternative for hosting the page until FAO takes a common decision for all the regional committees.
- Evaluate the possibility of transferring the responsibilities of the existing site in Argentina, or developing a new one.