

C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S C O M M I S S I O N



Food and Agriculture
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Agenda Item 9

**CX/LAC 14/19/9
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
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REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CCLAC STRATEGIC PLAN

At the 18th meeting of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2012, the Chairperson informed the Committee that, under the existing arrangement, the country serving as the Coordinator was not required to inform the CCLAC of the activities carried out during its appointed term. She proposed that the country in question submit a report on its activities with the member countries in the region to the meetings of the CCLAC covering the period for which it had been appointed. The Committee endorsed the proposal. Therefore, Costa Rica, as the Coordinator for the region for the period 2011-2015, is presenting the report on the work carried out between July 2011 and October 30, 2014, according to the objectives set in the Strategic Plan approved by the CCLAC in November 2012.

1. Codex Contact Point in Costa Rica

Costa Rica has been a member of Codex Alimentarius since June 1970, following the enactment of Law No. 8279 on the National Quality System, which entered into force on May 21, 2002. The legislation established the Codex Contact Point in Costa Rica and created the Technical Secretariat of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee (Article 42), under the supervision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Trade. On January 20, 2003, the President of Costa Rica and the Minister of Economic Affairs, Industry and Trade issued Executive Decree No. 30989 of 2003, in which they established the new composition of the Technical Secretariat and specified its duties. In 2006, another executive decree was issued establishing the procedure for the operation of the national Codex subcommittees and for determining the country position on the different matters presented to the Codex Alimentarius at the international level. Recently, the government assigned more human, economic and technological resources and approved the creation of the Codex Department, whose principal

function is to serve as the Technical Secretariat, in order to ensure the sustainability of the work required.

2. Report on Activities

In 2012, in its capacity as Coordinator, Costa Rica presented to the Committee a proposed regional 2013-2019 Strategic Plan for the CCLAC, which was discussed and approved during the latter's 18th meeting (CX/LAC 12/18/14; REP13/LAC. Para. 189-201). The efforts have focused on the activities set out in the plan for the region and the main results are described below under each of the strategic objectives proposed linked to the strategic goals set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in its Strategic Plan:

CAC Strategic Goal: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 1: *Foster effective communication and collaboration between the CCLAC Members, with other regions and Codex Members, the Codex Secretariat and relevant organizations.*

Major efforts were made to achieve a better, more effective exchange of information among the countries and facilitate greater cohesion and coordination, both within the region and with other regions, as described below:

Specific Objective 1.1 Improve mechanisms for the exchange of information and the use of electronic resources

The following activities were implemented to improve the mechanisms for the exchange of information and the use of electronic media:

- Under the cooperation agreement between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry and Trade (MEIC) of Costa Rica, a regional module was designed and implemented (in Spanish and English) for the automatic sharing of information on Codex Alimentarius. Known as the *Digital Notification System for the CCLAC*, it was designed to be administered by the Coordinator of the CCLAC. In this regard, the new Coordinator will have the following options at its disposal:
 - ✓ Maintenance of the profile of regional users
 - ✓ The comments and position module
 - ✓ Publications, search function (matters pending and addressed by the committees)
 - ✓ Reports and statistics of countries that reply to comments and upload positions, among others.

The system was created to promote more and better participation by the CCLAC countries in the work of studying proposed Codex standards; foster linkages and coordination among all

the countries of the region, to enable them to participate in and use Codex Alimentarius effectively. It is an important tool for more efficient administration of Codex documents by the Contact Points. This system sends out automatic emails (color-coded - green, yellow or red) to alert users to the expiry date of documents, so that countries can prepare their comments and send them in before the deadline.

- Organization and implementation of hands-on training under the agreement. As a member of the Executive Committee, elected to represent the Caribbean, Jamaica visited Costa Rica to gain hands-on experience. It took part in a videoconference with Argentina and another one with Mexico, to learn about those countries' experience as the Coordinator of the CCLAC, with emphasis on the challenges, proposals and recommendations of Costa Rica's predecessors for effective coordination.
- Training for the coordinators of the Codex Contact Points of the Caribbean countries to enable those nations to play a more effective role in Codex Alimentarius. This activity was carried out thanks to FAO, with the collaboration of Jamaica's Bureau of Standards and Costa Rica's Codex office. The three-day course-workshop took place in Kingston, Jamaica from August 23-25, 2011.
- Production of a leaflet, in English and Spanish, entitled "Responsibilities of the national delegates and the CCLAC," which was shared with the region. It lists a series of responsibilities that delegates should carry out to play a more active and effective role in the meetings of the different committees or subsidiary bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in order to assist the Contact Points and National Codex Committees in selecting their delegates at international Codex meetings.

CAC Strategic Goal: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

Establish international food standards that address current and emerging food issues

CCLAC Strategic Objective 1: *Foster effective communication and collaboration between the CCLAC Members, with other regions and Codex Members, the Codex Secretariat and relevant organizations.*

Specific objective 1.2. Improve regional cohesion in order to harmonize positions and strengthen the participation of countries in Codex meetings.

The following activities were carried out to improve regional cohesion, among other things to harmonize positions and strengthen the participation of the countries in Codex meetings:

- Definition of a clear, simple procedure to enable the CCLAC member countries to establish agreements and reach consensus on regional positions on strategic issues and matters of mutual interest for presentation to the consideration of Codex, respecting the interests and

sovereignty of each country. At the 2012 meeting (REP13/LAC), the *“Procedure to reach and present Regional Positions”* was approved.

Taking advantage of the procedure outlined in subsection 2.1 of that agreement, during the 18th meeting of the CCLAC the region adopted several regional positions. Addressing subjects such as prioritization of hazards in feed, Note 161, the Coordinator’s annual report, defense of the scientific principle, the drafting of private standards, the Review of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCPR, and the activities of the Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, these were presented at the international meetings of the corresponding committees. These efforts have permitted the region to achieve better coordination, systematization and performance, and play a stronger role in the different Codex forums.

Several joint positions were also agreed through documents prepared by various countries in the region under subsection 2.2 *Procedure for support on issues of interest*. The subject matter of some of those positions is indicated below:

- ✓ Ractopamine at step 8.
- ✓ Note 161.
- ✓ Standards held at step 8.
- ✓ Elimination of the note that would permit exceptions to the ML of melamine in liquid infant formula.
- ✓ Review of the mandate of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.
- ✓ Specific comments about standards and related texts held by the Commission at step 8.
- ✓ Reservations with regard to the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan: REP13/CAC (para. 172, 173) of the report of the CAC.
- ✓ Draft Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed at step 8 (Brazil and Costa Rica).
- ✓ Form for expressing concerns.
- ✓ At the meeting of the CCRVDF, Costa Rica presented the regional agreement of the CCLAC in support of the form for expressing concerns (paragraph 108).
- ✓ Costa Rica, as the coordinator of the CCLAC, expressed appreciation on behalf of the region for the activities of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques In Food and Agriculture relevant to Codex Work (paragraph 26 of the 2014 CCRVDF report (Rep14/RVDF)).

Use of this procedure also made it possible to raise concerns expressed by several countries in the CCLAC region, which were presented as positions agreed by the countries at the respective international meetings. Such concerns included those related to the document containing the revision of the *“Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues”* (para. 164 of REP14/PR) and the document *Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in meat of Suidae* (para. 151 of REP14/FH).

- Promotion of new standards for products that are of interest for the region, such as golden

passion fruit, non-centrifugated sugar cane, potatoes, processed cheese, *yacón* and *pirarucú*,; and issues like cadmium in cacao, the revision the *“Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues”* and the *“Discussion paper on burden of multiple questionnaires directed at exporting countries,”* among others.

- Implementation of six colloquia or regional coordination meetings, in 2012: in Costa Rica, another in Costa Rica with the Caribbean, and in Brazil. In 2013, one in Panama, and in 2014, one in Costa Rica and another in Chile. These activities allowed the countries of the region that took part to exchange positions on each of the issues being discussed at the Codex committee meetings. They were carried out thanks to support from IICA and the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America (USDA).
- Preparation and distribution of the annual schedule of coordination activities, covering both CCLAC coordination periods and informing the countries of the region of the dates on which the videoconferences would be held prior to the different international Codex meetings. This allowed the delegates to seek points of agreement, strengthen coordination and integration among the countries of the region, facilitate the exchange of information and country positions and concerns, and identify issues of mutual interest. These videoconferences are held with support from IICA (which provides the necessary technological tools, such as Elluminate and Webex). After the CCLAC Secretariat sends out the notice of meeting, IICA also assists by sending out reminders through its offices in the different countries and provides any logistical support the countries need to participate in the videoconferences. If necessary, the delegates travel to IICA’s premises in their country, where they receive all the technological and logistical support they require. During the period 2012-2014, 53 virtual coordination sessions were held, in both Spanish and English.
- Incorporation of concerns and promotion of priority issues for the region into Codex’s proposed 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, with a view to strengthening the active and effective participation of developing countries in Codex and obtaining more support from the most advanced countries.
- Facilitation and increase in the distribution of country positions among the member countries (see Annex 1).
- Generation of a series of automatic emails, in addition to those sent out via the regional module of the Codex Information System, related to each document circulated. The countries are encouraged to send in their positions or comments and urged, where applicable, to participate in the electronic working groups.

CAC Strategic Goal: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 1: *Foster effective communication and collaboration between the CCLAC Members, with other regions and Codex Members, the Codex Secretariat and relevant organizations.*

Specific objective: 1.3 Establish a strategy to improve communication with other Regional Coordinating Committees.

Under the strategy implemented to improve communication with the Coordinating Committees of other regions, the following activities were carried out:

- During the CAC meetings held during this coordination period, various strategies were used to enable the CCLAC to establish closer ties with other regions or the contact points of countries in other regions. Some of these were as follows:
 - ✓ Sending of letters to the contact points, which were processed and delivered via Costa Rica's embassies or consulates in the countries concerned, to seek support on specific issues.
 - ✓ Conversations with the delegates of other regions during Codex meetings.
 - ✓ Dialogue with the delegations of other regions, to ascertain their positions and work together as a bloc.
 - ✓ Visit to the Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Committee for Europe and Germany's contact point, in 2013.
- Development of closer ties with other regions, achieved with support from Brazil. Given the scale of Brazil's trade with other regions, Costa Rica requested its assistance in seeking alliances to defend issues that were presented that were of interest to both regions. In response to this request, Brazil and Costa Rica swapped proposals regarding the mechanisms to be followed to seek closer ties. It was concluded that the first step should be to identify possible subjects of interest to both CCLAC and other regions, and then work on them before approaching the regions concerned.
- Planning of proposal for the regions to hold coordination meetings on the Sundays before CAC meetings; and for the chairs of the Coordinating Committees to hold informal meetings to share experiences and concerns. Accordingly, during the meeting of chairs of all the Codex committees prior to the CAC meeting held on July 18, 2014, Costa Rica proposed and advocated the need to facilitate a place for such meetings.

As a result, for the 19th CCLAC meeting, in document CX/LAC 14/19/7, Costa Rica has requested the support of the countries of the region for the presentation, at the 38th meeting of the CAC, of a regional proposal to hold informal meetings (on the Thursday of the week of the CCEXE meeting before the CAC) of the coordinating countries. It is considered

vitaly important that the countries that serve as Regional Coordinators for Codex share their experiences and increase interregional coordination.

CAC Strategic Goal: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 2: Achieve the active and effective participation of all countries of the Region in the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in particular in the CCLAC.

Specific Objective 2.1: Foster improved communication and greater cohesion between the Spanish- and English-speaking member countries.

A number of activities were carried out to improve communication and ties among the Spanish- and English-speaking members, including the following:

- A videoconference before each Codex meeting. Thus, between July 2012 and October 2014 16, 13 and 13 videoconferences were held, respectively, in English and Spanish (a total of 42 - see Annex 2 for details).
- Implementation of coordination meetings during each session of each day of the different Codex committee meetings, in order to coordinate matters that emerged during the discussion. Between July 2012 and October 2014, 194 prior coordination meetings were held with the participation of all the countries of the region that were attending the different meetings.

The results of this coordination activity were as follows:

- ✓ Strengthening of coordination on issues of regional interest, through the exchange and analysis of information prior to the Codex meetings, to seek consensus, in both Spanish and English.
- ✓ Promotion of the exchange of country positions, to provide feedback or strengthen national positions, taking the analysis of other delegations into account when establishing positions.
- ✓ Facilitation by the CCLAC coordinator of the establishment of priorities and a negotiating strategy, or the presentation of issues of mutual interest in meetings of the committees.
- ✓ Improvement of communication within the region. A major effort was made to ensure that all communications distributed to the region, by email or other means, were sent in both English and Spanish.
- ✓ Strengthening of the integration of the countries of the Caribbean subregion into the CCLAC. This was achieved through the Caribbean countries' participation in hands-on experiences, colloquia, visits and organized training activities; and also through the

contribution of technical criteria and comments of other members in the CCLAC region to the discussions of the CCLAC's members in the Caribbean.

It should be pointed out that, in order to complement the videoconferences and enable the countries that were not able to participate to review the discussions, concerns, positions shared and agreements reached on the most important issues, after each videoconference a summary/report of what took place was circulated in Spanish/English. Links to the audio and video recordings of the videoconferences were included.

In addition to the above, the following activities were carried out:

- Generation of a series of emails in English and Spanish with reminders to the region of the expiry dates of the different Codex documents. Also, reminders of the dates of the videoconferences. And before each meeting, messages are sent with details of the site, dates and schedules of the various prior coordination meetings.
- Reactivation of the Twitter account to announce events of importance for the region.
- Promotion of horizontal cooperation among the CCLAC member countries, to improve participation in, and the use of, Codex Alimentarius by the CCLAC member countries through capacity building. A twinning system was developed that could be used by other Codex Alimentarius regions. Costa Rica, as the coordinator of the CCLAC and in a joint effort with IICA, presented the proposed "Twinning Program" to the region, for use in technical cooperation processes involving aspects of Codex for the CCLAC countries. The proposal recognizes the different levels of development of the CCLAC member countries in their many and varied spheres of action: i) institutional development; ii) regulatory frameworks; iii) technological capabilities; iv) human resources, etc. It thus makes it possible to consider the many different forms of cooperation that are possible among the members, in order to help close the gap in the use of Codex Alimentarius for the countries and for the region in general.
- Implementation of several activities to enable the region to establish closer ties with the CAC chairperson and vice-chairpersons, and the coordinators of specific committees and experts within Codex, such as:
 - Implementation of a prior meeting with them for the entire region, to provide an opportunity to comment on issues of interest on the CAC's agenda and express concerns in more detail and thus facilitate consensus.
 - Organization of workshops, meetings and training activities with the CAC vice-chairpersons, committee coordinators or experts on specific topics, to improve communication and strengthen the CCLAC region's participation in Codex.

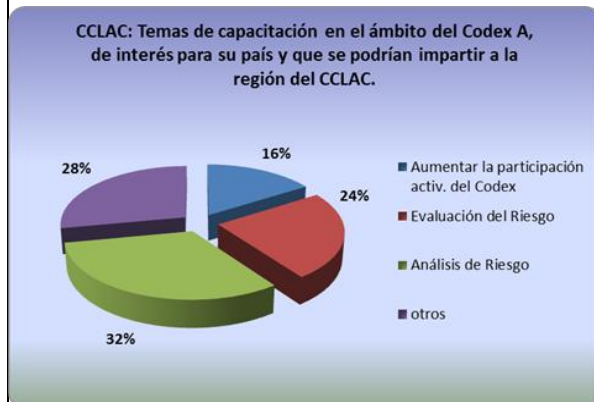
CAC Strategic Goal: Ensure the application of risk analysis principles in the development of Codex standards.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 3. Promote the development and strengthening of the capacities of the National Codex Committees and/or Contact Points in CCLAC Member Countries.

Specific Objective 3.1. Define a strategy for capacity building, to fit the needs of each country or group of countries.

Several activities were carried out as part of the capacity-building strategy for the region, including:

- Gathering of information on the most important aspects of a number of topics in the region (capacity building, information systems, training, generation of data, sensitization and support for the development of public policies), in order to detect the region's main needs. This was achieved by compiling the replies from the countries of the region to circular letters CL 2012/20-LAC and CL 2010/18-LAC and the questionnaire distributed by Costa Rica. The coordinator presented the results to the rest of the region at the 18th meeting of the CCLAC (see REP13/LAC, para. 90 - 110. CRD 18). Based on this information, a consensus was reached and the following priorities established as those of greatest interest to the region:



CCLAC: Codex issues in which your country requires training and that could be offered to the CCLAC region.

Increase active participation in Codex

Risk evaluation

Risk analysis**Others**

What do you expect the CCLAC to do for the region and for your country?

Coordination among countries**Technical assistance****Others****Did not reply**

- Design and implementation of the regional automatic information-sharing tool already mentioned, which permits the countries to participate in forums and is also used to circulate alerts of issues or situations of interest, share countries' positions and compile statistics on their participation and keep a record of the number of documents sent by countries in the region. Moreover, the system's database contains information about each contact point, a collection of documents related to country positions, Codex documents and the comments of the countries going back some considerable time.
- Organization of videoconferences for the national technical subcommittees in the region, to facilitate the exchange of technical information for regional positions that needed to be developed and reach agreement on strategies to be followed (see Annex 2 for details).
- Organization and implementation of several hands-on training activities, to share experiences regarding the operation of Codex in Costa Rica and different countries of the region:
 - ✓ Visit to Costa Rica, in November 2011, of two officials from the Contact Point of Jamaica, as the geographical representative of the Caribbean region, as one of the strategic issues identified by the CCLAC coordinator was the need to consolidate and strengthen the integration of the Caribbean countries into the CCLAC's work. Therefore, the visit was arranged to enable the two countries to develop their capacity for coordinated and integrated work and thereby strengthen Codex's operations in the CCLAC countries and optimize the activities of the Coordinator (CR) and the Geographical Representative (Jamaica). The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) backed this effort and IICA provided logistical support.
 - ✓ Three-day visit to Costa Rica by an official from Paraguay (November 2012).
 - ✓ Two-day visit to Costa Rica by officials from several Central American countries

(Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama and Honduras). The activity took place from April 16-17, 2012, under the agreement with IICA, to enable the CCLAC Coordinator to ascertain and analyze the situation of each country with regard to Codex issues and establish a work plan.

- ✓ Visit to Costa Rica, in October 2014, of three officials from Belize's Contact Point, to learn about the operation and situation of Codex in each country and share certain experiences that could help strengthen their work.
- ✓ Videoconference with simultaneous interpretation held during Jamaica's visit to Costa Rica, to provide training with the Codex Secretariat on the CAC's Procedural Manual.
- ✓ Visits to three Caribbean countries (Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago) to meet with the national Codex committees, to motivate them and raise of awareness of the importance of participating in Codex. Workshops were held to draw up work plans for each of the countries visited.
- ✓ Visits to share experiences with the national Codex committees of a number of CAC member countries (Peru, Ecuador, Guatemala, Brazil, El Salvador, Honduras and Paraguay). The visits made it possible to share experiences regarding the operation of the respective national Codex committees and comment on the benefits that the countries derive from Codex, and the challenges that we face as a region. Also, the importance of using new information technologies (videos, digital system, email, among others) that facilitate the exchange of information and thus strengthen the formulation of country positions, at both the national and international levels.

CAC Strategic Goal: Facilitate the effective participation of all Codex Members.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 4: Take advantage of the technical and scientific capacities existing in CCLAC Member Countries.

Specific Objective 4.1: Strengthen the capacity of the countries of the region to participate in the meetings of the FAO/WHO committees of experts, by generating data and scientific information of interest.

The following activities were carried out in relation to the region's training and capacity-building needs for the generation of data and presentation of information to the FAO/WHO expert committees, according to the priorities established at the 18th meeting of the CCLAC:

- Preparation of a questionnaire for a JECFA/WHO expert, with input from all the CCLAC countries, to clarify doubts about the process and the format to be followed to present scientific information or data to that expert committee. Mr. Philippe Verger, a member of the

JECFA/WHO, answered the questionnaire.

- Organization by Costa Rica of a videoconference, via Skype, with Mr. Philippe Verger and CCLAC in order to clarify doubts.
- Preparation, by Ecuador and Colombia, of the document, *“Guide for the generation of data requested for implementation of the Evaluation of dietary exposure to cadmium from cocoa and cocoa products”* by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), which was circulated in the region for feedback, to reach agreement on a single guide to be used by cocoa-producing countries to generate the data requested by the JECFA in order to establish the maximum levels of contaminants such as cadmium.
- Organization by Costa Rica of a videoconference with simultaneous interpretation (English and Spanish) to enable Colombia and Ecuador to present to the CCLAC the methodology that must be followed in sending information to the JECFA.
- Preparation of a questionnaire on the proposed draft *Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in meat of Suidae* by Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica, to clarify the concept and interpretation of the term “compartment” used in the document and aspects related to sections b, c and d of section 9, *“Monitoring and review,”* of the same document.
- Organization of videoconference with simultaneous translation involving the CCLAC, New Zealand WHO expert Dr. Steve Hathaway and the Chairperson of the CCFH, to answer this questionnaire and clarify the region’s doubts.

Specific Objective 4.2: Propose cooperation projects or other mechanisms for the provision of technical advisory services among the countries of the region, in order to strengthen and increase the capacities of the National Codex Committees and Subcommittees in the region.

A major effort was made to generate cooperation projects that would enhance the capabilities of the national committees. As already mentioned, training activities were carried out on participation in meetings and how to present data to the expert committees. The progress made through the exchange of experiences has already been described under the previous objectives. Another activity already mentioned was the promotion of the twinning program to strengthen interregional cooperation. Other efforts included the following:

- Management of resources of the Codex Trust Fund by Costa Rica as the coordinator of the CCLAC, and the FAO offices in Chile and in Costa Rica, for participation in certain workshops and strategic meetings. A case in point was the Workshop Prior to the 18th meeting of the CCLAC, held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2012, entitled *“Risk management to reduce food safety problems within national control systems”* and attended by 29 countries. Financial assistance was also obtained to enable the members to take part in the 18th meeting of the CCLAC.

- Workshop Prior to the 19th Meeting of the CCLAC, entitled “Addressing the framework of risk analysis through risk-based control,” that will take place on November 9 in San Jose, Costa Rica. Financial support was also obtained for this meeting, to ensure that each country in the region had sufficient resources to enable two delegates to participate.

CAC Strategic Goal: Implement effective and efficient work management systems and practices.

CCLAC Strategic Objective 5: Ensure the continuity, development and sustainability of the committee’s tasks.

Specific Objective 5.1 Design a Plan of Operation, to be implemented between the meetings of the CCLAC, consistent with this Strategic Plan.

Realizing that a mechanism was needed to give continuity and sustainability to the CCLAC’s work and the coordination of its activities (i.e., a plan of operation or work plan agreed by the region that included matters of interest), Costa Rica drafted a plan that was submitted to the CCLAC at its 18th meeting for discussion and approval. This plan has provided the basis for the work of the CCLAC coordinator and technical secretariat over the last three years. Thus, the national structure of Codex has promoted and provided follow-up to different activities approved in the Regional Strategic Plan, to implement the plan and adopt any corrective measures that were required. Great progress was made, as explained in the present report pursuant to the agreement adopted during the 18th meeting of the CCLAC with regard to the Coordinator’s report.

Specific Objective 5.2: Promote the use of the regional module of the Codex digital information system.

- The regional module of the Codex Information System was presented at the 18th meeting of the CCLAC. A videoconference was also held to explain how it functions, in which 17 countries took part (see Table 2). Furthermore, the module was disseminated in all the hands-on training activities, workshops and visits in which Costa Rica has participated that have been

mentioned in this report.

- The Information System has a user's manual (available in English and Spanish) that is to be found at <http://www.tramites.go.cr/CodexAlimentarius/Default.aspx>.

Conclusions:

Costa Rica wishes to thank the entire region for having chosen it to serve as regional coordinator for the periods 2011-2013/2013-2015, and express its appreciation to IICA, FAO and WHO for the support provided during the periods in question. We urge the countries to continue to participate actively in the work of Codex, creating greater synergy through our joint work that will benefit the entire region.

Costa Rica has the satisfaction of a job well done during the two periods in which it has served as coordinator, and has seen great progress achieved in the region. The region is now more solid, united and organized, even considered a "go-to" group by other regions. We know that the progress could have not been made without the support of the region's members, for which we are grateful.

We wish to continue to work together for the benefit of the region, in the knowledge that much remains to be done and improved, and that everything depends on the effort that we continue to make as a bloc, as a single family.

Annex 1

The following table details the positions that the countries shared from 2013 to October 30, 2014.

Countries 2013	Countries 2014
Brazil and Cuba: Draft Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade (section related to principles).	El Salvador: "Review of the Guidelines for Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake."
Brazil, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic: Processed cheeses.	Brazil: Review of the specification for steviol glycosides proposed by Malaysia.
Brazil: Proposed "form to express concerns" to the CCRVDF.	El Salvador : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed draft revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (Codex STAN 193-1995). • Proposed draft annex for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)) (at Step 4). • Discussion document on aflatoxins in cereals.
Brazil: Importance of the scientific principle, for the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.	Costa Rica: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed draft revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (Codex STAN 193-1995). • Proposed draft annex for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)). • Proposed draft code of practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed.
Costa Rica: Note 161.	El Salvador: Country position for meeting of the Committee Codex on Additives.
Brazil: Proposed Draft Codex Standard for Non-Centrifugated Dehydrated Sugar Cane Juice.	El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico: country position for the Codex meeting on Contaminants in Food.
Costa Rica, Brazil: Strategic plan	Brazil: Proposed Draft Risk Management Recommendations for Veterinary Drugs for which no ADI and/or MRLs could be set by JECFA due to specific health concerns: chloramphenicol, malachite green, carbadox, furazolidone, nitrofur, chlorpromazine, stilbenes and olaquinox (REP14/RVDF para. 81 and Appendix IV).
Paraguay, El Salvador: Food labeling	Costa Rica: Country position for Codex meeting on General Principles.
Brazil: Food hygiene	Costa Rica: Report, Codex meeting on General Principles.

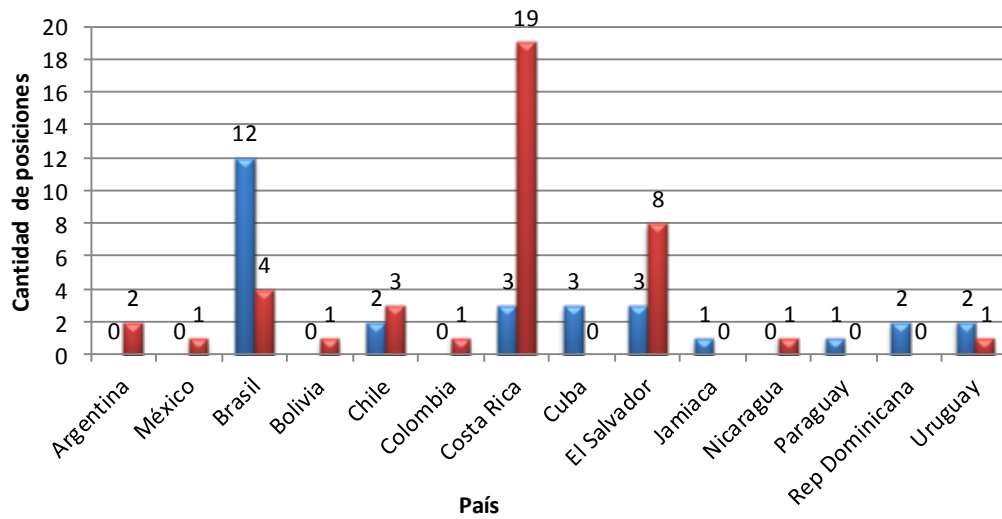
Chile: Pesticide residues	Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia: Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of Trichinella spp. in meat of Suidae.
Brazil: Establishment of Codex schedules and lists of priorities for pesticides.	Brazil: two EWG (draft revised and additional nutrient reference values for vitamins, minerals - -first consultation paper; review of the standard for follow-up formula (Codex STAN 156 – 1987) - first consultation paper).
Brazil: “Concern form.”	Costa Rica: Country position for next meeting of the CCPR to be held in China.
Brazil: Form to express concerns.	Argentina, Uruguay: Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Codex Standards at different steps.
Uruguay: Proposed draft code of hygienic practices for spices and dried aromatic plants.	Costa Rica: Country position for next CAC meeting.
El Salvador, Dominican Rep.: Country position for 35th Meeting of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Costa Rica: Risk Analysis principles applied by the CCPR.
Brazil: “Discussion document on aflatoxins in cereals”	Costa Rica: Report CCPR meeting.
Chile: Methods of Analysis	Brazil: Brazil’s comments on CL 2013/26-RVDF Part A: Matters for adoption by the 37 th Session of the CAC.
Brazil, Jamaica, Cuba, Uruguay: Subject: Explanatory Notes related to the Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade.	Chile: “Cooperation between commodity committees and general committees”
El Salvador: Food additives	Costa Rica: Review of the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Committee on Pesticide Residues.
	Costa Rica: Definition of a procedure to be followed when the Procedural Manual is applied incorrectly.
	Chile: Comments from Chile, Draft standards and related texts.
	Chile: Draft performance criteria for screening methods for marine biotoxins (Section I.8.6 Determination of biotoxins) of the Standard for Raw And Bivalve Molluscs
	Costa Rica: Country position, 37th Meeting of the CAC
	Costa Rica: Report of Codex meeting on the CAC
	El Salvador: Country position, 8th Meeting of Codex Committee on Food

	Additives (CCFA)
	<p>Costa Rica:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CX/CF 14/8/5: Proposed draft revision of the maximum levels for lead in selected commodities in the General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (Codex STAN 193-1995). • CX/CF 14/8/10: Proposed draft annex for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxins and ochratoxin A contamination in sorghum (Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cereals (CAC/RCP 51-2003)). • CX/CF 14/8/11: Proposed draft code of practice for weed control to prevent and reduce pyrrolizidine alkaloid contamination in food and feed.
	Bolivia: Proposed Codex Standard for Ware Potato.
	El Salvador-Costa Rica: Country position for next CCFICS meeting.
	Costa Rica: Proposed draft Guidelines for the Control of <i>Trichinella spp.</i> in meat of Suidae.

The following figure shows the number of positions that the countries shared between 2013 and October 22, 2014.

Number of positions presented by country 2013-2014

Cantidad de posiciones presentadas por país 2013-2014



2013: 29 posiciones

2014 (a oct): 41 posiciones

Number of positions

Mexico

Brazil

Dominican Rep.

Country

2013: 29 positions

2014 (through Oct.): 41 positions

Annex 2

The following table details the videoconferences held from 2012 to October 30, 2014.

Committee	2012 No. participants	2013 No. participants	2014 No. participants
CCFICS	15: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and T.	14: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay	<u>Videoconference before Brussels workshop:</u> 11: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay. <u>Videoconference before CCFICS meeting (Australia)</u> 12. Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, Trinidad, and T&T, Jamaica.
CCFNDU	13: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Jamaica.	12: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru.	Scheduled for November 20, 2014
CCFH	19: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Barbados, Jamaica, T&T.	14: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, Uruguay	2 Videoconferences with CCLAC country experts on Proposed draft Guidelines for the Control of Trichinella spp. in Meat of Suidae: 12 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay. 1 Videoconference: WHO/CCLAC Expert 14 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, T&T, Uruguay. WHO New Zealand Expert, CCFH Chairperson Videoconference before CCFH: Scheduled for November 6, 2014
TFAF	9: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama	6: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay.	This group has already concluded its work.

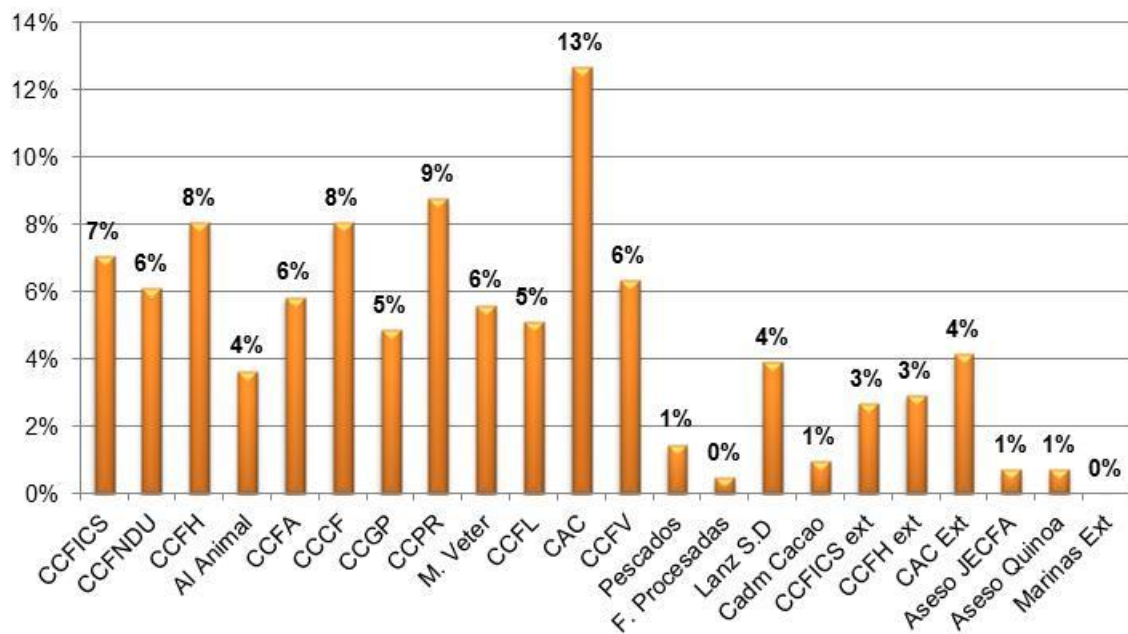
Committee	2012 No. participants	2013 No. participants	2014 No. participants
CCFA	10: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Chile, Paraguay, Ecuador, Venezuela.	8: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Peru.	6: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay.
CCCF	10: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Venezuela.	12: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, T&T, Uruguay.	11: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay.
CCPG	9: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru	No meeting was held this year	11: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay.
CCPR	17: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Dominica, Jamaica, T&T, Bahamas.	7: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru, Jamaica	12: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, T&T.
CCVDRF	13: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela, Uruguay, Bahamas, Jamaica.	10: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay	No meeting is scheduled for this year
CCFL	11: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay.	10: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.	14: Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, T&T.
CEXE/CAC (1)	14: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Panama, Dominica, T&T.	16: Antigua and B, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, T&T, Uruguay	22: Antigua and B, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, T&T, Uruguay.

Committee	2012 No. participants	2013 No. participants	2014 No. participants
CAC (2) Special videoconference to determine strategy to be followed in defense of the scientific principle within Codex.	17: Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Antigua & B, Dominica, Grenada, Nicaragua, St. Kitts & N, St. Vincent & the Grenadines.	-	-
CCFFV	13: Argentina, Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Chile, Peru Honduras, Panama, Venezuela.	No meeting was held this year	13: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Dominican Rep.
CCFFP	6: Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.	No meeting was held this year	No videoconference was held this year
CCPFV	2: Brazil, Costa Rica.	No meeting was held this year	No videoconference was held this year
Launch Digital Codex System for CCLAC	16: Argentina, Bolivia, Bahamas, Brazil, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines. T & T.	-	-
Assessment of exposure to cadmium in cocoa and cocoa products	-	4: Colombia, Ecuador Costa Rica.	-
Technical assistance for sending information to the JECFA	-	3: Colombia, Costa Rica JECFA	-
Technical assistance steps for preparation of	-	3: FAO Chile, Bolivia, Costa Rica.	-

Committee	2012 No. participants	2013 No. participants	2014 No. participants
“Codex standards on Quinoa”	-	-	-
“Draft performance criteria for screening methods for marine biotoxins”	-	-	10: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

The following figure details the number of videoconferences carried out between 2013 and October 2014.

Participación según Comité dentro del total de videoconferencias previas a reuniones internacionales realizadas del 2012 al 2014



Percentage of videoconferences held for each committee before international meetings (2012 – 2014)

From 2012 to October 2014, 411 videoconferences were held prior to international meetings. The biggest percentage (13%) were videoconferences related to the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). At the other end of the spectrum, the figures for the Committee on Processed Fruits and the Committee on Fish and Fishery Products were low (almost 0% and around 1%, respectively).

Annex 3

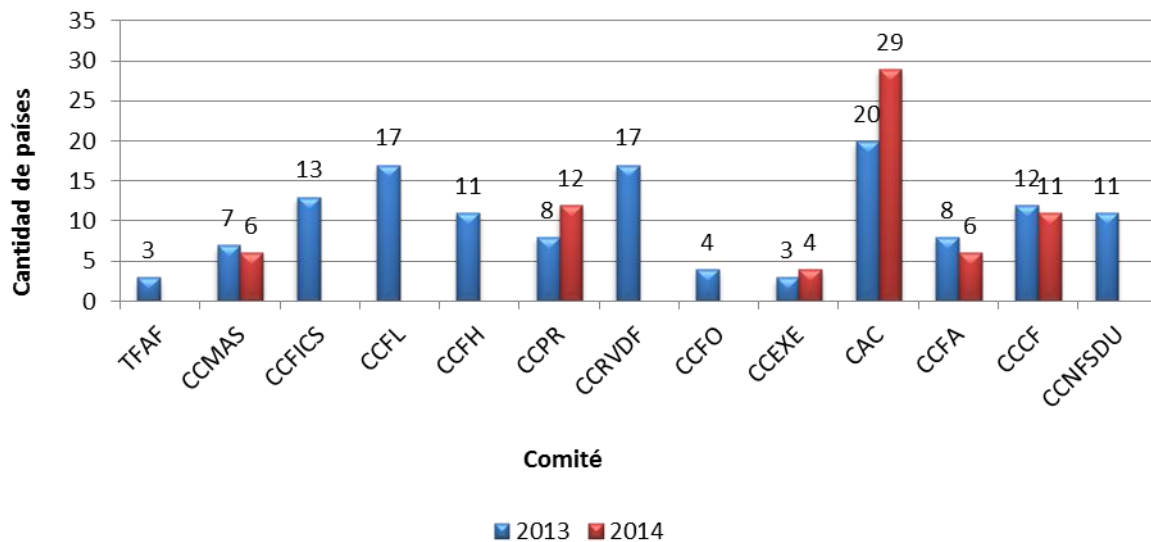
The following table details the countries that attended international Codex meetings from 2013 to September 2014, broken down by committee.

Committee	Countries	2013	2014
TFAF	Argentina, Brazil, Chile.	3	-
CCMAS	2013: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Uruguay. 2014: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay.	7	6
CCFICS	2013: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay.	13	
CCFL	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, Peru, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, T & T, Uruguay, El Salvador.	17	
CCFH	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Dominica, Honduras, St. Lucia, Dominican Rep., Uruguay.	11	
CCPR	2013: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa R, Honduras, Dominican Republic, T & T. 2014: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay.	8	12
CCRVDF	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, T & T, Uruguay.	17	
CCFO	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia.	4	
CCEXE	2013: Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica. 2014: Brazil, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Paraguay.	3	4
CAC	2013: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay. 2014: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras,	20	

	Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.		29
CCFA	2013: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, El Salvador. 2014: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru.	8	6
CCCF	2013: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago. 2014: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Uruguay.	12	11
CCNFSDU	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago	11	

The following figure shows the number of countries from the region that attended international Codex meetings from 2013-September 2014, broken down by committee.

Cantidad de países que atendieron reuniones internacionales del Codex según Comité 2013 y 2014



**Number of countries that attended international Codex meetings,
broken down by committee**

Number of countries
Committee

Annex 5

The following table lists the CCLAC coordination meetings held prior to Codex committee meetings between July 2012 and April 2014.

REUNIONES PREVIAS CCLAC 2012- abril 2014			
AÑO	REUNIONES INTERNACIONALES ATENDIDAS	PAÍS QUE COORDINÓ	PREVIAS
2012	CCEXE	CR	3
	TFAF	CR	6
	CCFA	CR	6
	CCCF	Chile	6
	CCGP	CR	6
	CCPR	CR	6
	CCRVDF	Brasil	6
	CCFL	CR	6
	CCEXE	CR	3
	CAC	CR	6
	CCFFV	CR	6
	CCPFV	CR	6
TOTAL	12		66
AÑO	REUNIONES INTERNACIONALES ATENDIDAS	PAÍS QUE COORDINÓ	PREVIAS
2013	TFAF	CR	6
	CCFICS	CR	6
	CCFA	CR	6
	CCCF	CR	6
	CCPR	CR	6
	CCFL	CR	6
	CCEXE	CR	6
	CAC	CR	6
	CCRVDF	CR	6
	CCNFSDU	CR	6
	CCFH	CR	6
	GTP CCEXE	CR	4
	GTP CCFICS	CR	3
GTP CCFH	CR	0	
TOTAL	14		73
AÑO	REUNIONES INTERNACIONALES ATENDIDAS	PAÍS QUE COORDINÓ	PREVIAS
2014	CCFFV	México	6
	CCFA	CR	6
	CCCF	CR	6
	CCGP	CR	6
TOTAL	4		24
		163	

CCLAC MEETINGS HELD PRIOR TO CODEX MEETINGS JULY 2012 - APRIL 2014

YEAR

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

COORDINATING COUNTRY

PRIOR MEETINGS

Brazil

Mexico