

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 5

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

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

Seventh Session, Vancouver, Canada, 29 October – 1 November 2002

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2003-2007

BACKGROUND

1. In response to the request by the 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to begin early work on the development of a Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007, the Executive Committee, between its 47th and 48th Sessions, developed a structured model consisting of a strategic vision statement; a strategic framework described by objectives; and a detailed medium-term plan described by specific activities.

2. The 24th Session of the Commission (July 2001) amended the draft Strategic Framework, including the Strategic Vision Statement and adopted it so as to set out the strategic priorities for the Commission and provide the basis for the elaboration of the Medium Term Plan for the period 2003-2007. It also agreed that the draft Medium-Term Plan should be revised by the Secretariat in the light of the Strategic Framework, the discussion at its 24th Session and the written comments received, and that it should incorporate the elements of the Chairperson's Action Plan agreed to by the Commission. It agreed that the activities envisaged in the Medium-Term Plan should include cost estimates to determine whether the objectives could be achieved within available resources. The revised draft Medium-Term Plan would then be circulated for the input of Codex Coordinating Committees, other Codex Committees, Member governments and international organizations for further consideration and finalization by the Commission.¹

3. The Revised Draft Medium-Term Plan and comments received in response to Circular Letter CL 2001/26-EXEC² were considered at the 50th session of the Executive Committee (June 2002).³ The Executive

¹ ALINORM 01/41, paras. 68-69.

² Comments were received from Brazil; Canada; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; United States of America; European Community; and Consumers International.

³ ALINORM 03/3A, paras. 32-61.

Committee noted that Regional Committees would have to opportunity to contribute to the development of the Medium-Term Plan, and that it would be subsequently considered by the next regular sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Executive Committee noted that as a result of the Codex Evaluation, further changes might be required to the Medium-Term Plan and that this would have to be addressed prior to its finalization. It encouraged Regional Coordinating Committees to provide further input to the development of the Medium-Term Plan in view of its importance for Codex work.

4. The Executive Committee noted some questions on the structure of the Medium-Term Plan and whether it should describe activities in general terms for planning purposes or include specific proposals for new work. The Secretariat recalled that, following the decisions of the Commission, the structure of the Medium-Term Plan had been amended to follow the Objectives of the Strategic Framework. Specific activities had also been included to take into account the comments received, while some ongoing activities had been retained. The Chairperson stressed the importance of the Medium-Term Plan in order to provide an overall orientation to Codex work and to ensure that the activities of individual Committees were consistent with the objectives on the Strategic Framework. The Medium-Term Plan should also serve to assist in decision-making by the Executive Committee and the Commission when considering new work proposals submitted by Committees.

5. The Executive Committee agreed that the Medium-Term Plan should include activities that were generally recognized as important in the framework of Codex and that this might include both ongoing activities and new work to be considered in the future, with the understanding that Committees would establish their specific programme of work and that some flexibility should be allowed in the process.

6. The Executive Committee agreed that the Draft Medium-Term Plan should be revised by the Secretariat in the light of the comments made at the session, preferably by the end of July 2002. It would be circulated for consideration by the Regional Committees, as already agreed by the Commission, and for further consideration by the next (regular) session of the Executive Committee (to be held in June 2003). The Executive Committee re-emphasized that the Plan should be flexible enough to allow the introduction of new activities during its operational period.

ACTION REQUIRED

7. Regional Coordinating Committees are invited to review the Medium-Term Plan and in particular are invited to propose activities of regional importance. As noted above, activities should be stated in general terms rather than specific items of work, so as to allow individual Codex Committees and Task Forces the opportunity to implement the Plan within their own programmes of work. Regional Coordinating Committees may also wish to recommend priorities within the Medium-Term Plan.

DRAFT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN 2003-2007

1. The Codex Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007 sets out specific activities leading to the fulfilment of the Objectives described in the Strategic Framework adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 24th Session (2001). The activities are grouped by these strategic objectives as well as by the Programme Areas used in previous Medium-Term Plans. The Medium-Term Plan is indicative of the work to be undertaken in the period and provides a general orientation for this work. It is the responsibility of individual Codex Committees and Task Forces to implement the Plan within their own programmes of work. The Plan is intended to be flexible because it is impossible to foresee specific needs over the five-year period covered by the Plan. Although this means that some activities may not be undertaken or completed in the period, it also should not restrict work being undertaken on new activities as required.
2. As indicated in the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities* new work proposals should be considered within the framework of the Medium-Term Plan. Proposals arising from Codex Committees and Task Forces should, when submitted to the Commission or Executive Committee for approval, indicate the relationship between the new work and the activities and objectives set out in the Medium-Term Plan.
3. The Draft Medium-Term Plan annexed to this document is presented in two formats; a full description of each activity together with the comments of the Executive Committee in some cases, and a list of activities by title only. This second list may serve as a useful check-list when considering the Medium-Term Plan in committee.

Annex 1: Revised Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007

Objective 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	4	<p>Review the terms of reference of "General Subject" Committees to clarify mandates and responsibilities, achieve efficient distribution of work.</p> <p><i>Terms of reference for all General Subject Committees reviewed and amended as necessary.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$24,000 Staff Time P/m: 1</p> <p> Consultants: \$12,000</p> <p> Contracts: \$0</p> <p> Travel: \$4,500</p> <p> Documents: \$7,500</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>

Comments of Executive Committee:

Some Members supported the written comments of the United States concerning the need to retain the sections of the Procedural Manual on endorsement by General Subject Committees, and the Executive Committee retained the current text. (para 38)

18	<p>Review the Criteria for Establishment of Work Priorities to provide for an integrated set of criteria covering commodity and general subject areas</p> <p><i>Revised criteria adopted by the CAC.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$17,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p> Consultants: \$0</p> <p> Contracts: \$0</p> <p> Travel: \$4,500</p> <p> Documents: \$12,500</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee recalled that although the entire section on Criteria in the Procedural Manual had been revised in 1999, only the Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had been the object of a detailed review. The Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities had been transferred to a separate section but had not been reviewed per se, and the Executive Committee agreed that such a review should be retained as a specific activity. (Para. 39)

Standards development	22	<p>Establish international principles/guidelines for tracing of food products/ingredients through various links in the food chain for public health reasons as a risk management option ar having a legitimate objective in a technical measure: First consideration to be given to product tracing as a risk management option.</p> <p><i>Guidelines drafted by CCGP and CCFICS in association with CCMAS and other Committees as required adopted by the CAC.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$21,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p> Consultants: \$0</p> <p> Contracts: \$0</p> <p> Travel: \$9,000</p> <p> Documents: \$12,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee agreed to add the term "product tracing" in the title as it was consistent with the terms under consideration in other Codex Committees. Some Members supported the written comments of the United States and proposed to consider traceability as a priority for public health reasons and secondarily as a legitimate objective in a technical measure. The Member from Europe expressed the view that both aspects should be addressed and that no distinction should be established as to their importance. After an exchange of views, the Executive Committee agreed to retain both aspects without mentioning priorities and to indicate that first consideration should be given to the use of traceability as a food safety risk management option, as already agreed at its 49th Session. (Paras 41-42)

25	<p>Elaborate international standards or guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of foods derived from biotechnology</p> <p><i>Standards or guidelines for specific foods or food groups adopted by CAC in 2007.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2007</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$26,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p> Consultants: \$0</p> <p> Contracts: \$0</p> <p> Travel: \$6,000</p> <p> Documents: \$15,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$5,000</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee had an exchange of views on whether the future work of the Commission would include international standards or guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of foods derived from biotechnology, but decided that more information at the regional level was required before coming to a final conclusion. (para. 43)

Standards development 27 Development of guidelines on the judgement of equivalence for specific purposes such as equivalence of measures to ensure food hygiene or measures to ensure conformity with essential quality requirements

Specific guidelines on SPS measures to be developed by relevant Codex Committees as required. Generic guidelines for the judgement of equivalence of systems associated with measures other than sanitary requirements completed by 2005.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP/Secretariat

Status: Time limited **Begin:** Prior work **End:** 2007

Estimated Costs: **\$15,500** **Staff Time P/m:** 2

Consultants: \$5,000

Contracts: \$0

Travel: \$4,500

Documents: \$6,000

Other Costs: \$0

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee agreed to describe the activity as the "development of guidelines" rather than their "application". Some Members questioned the need to develop specific guidelines for the judgement of equivalence of measures. The Executive Committee also discussed the proposal for specific Committees to develop such guidelines, although it was noted that the Committee on Food Hygiene was considering some aspects of equivalence of food hygiene measures. The Executive Committee did not come to a conclusion and agreed that further consideration should be given to this complex question. (Para 44)

42 Providing Secretariat services to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Executive Committee

Origin of proposal: Secretariat

Status: On-going **Begin:** **End:**

Estimated Costs: **\$289,000** **Staff Time P/m:** 6

Consultants: \$10,000

Contracts: \$15,000

Travel: \$25,000

Documents: \$189,000

Other Costs: \$50,000

Comments of Executive Committee:

Standards development 44 Providing Secretariat services to Codex General Subject and Commodity Committees and Task Forces

Origin of proposal: Secretariat

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs:	\$629,000	Staff Time P/m: 75
Consultants:	\$0	
Contracts:	\$0	
Travel:	\$105,000	
Documents:	\$500,000	
Other Costs:	\$24,000	

Comments of Executive Committee:

Total Biennial Costs for this Objective:

Time:	90 Person/months
Consultants:	\$27,000
Contracts:	\$15,000
Travel:	\$158,500
Documents:	\$742,000
Other Costs:	\$79,000
Total Estimated Cost:	\$1,021,500

Objective 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	9	<p>Implement the Action Plan on Risk Analysis on a consistent, Codex-wide basis.</p> <p><i>Relevant Committees develop risk assessment policies and exert an appropriate risk management role in relation to expert bodies. Implementation report to be provided to CAC in 2007.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2007</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$33,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p> Consultants: \$9,000</p> <p> Contracts: \$4,500</p> <p> Travel: \$4,500</p> <p> Documents: \$15,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>

Comments of Executive Committee:

Standards development	6	<p>Develop systematic principles and guidelines for pre-harvest and post-harvest measures (including safe production and processing technologies) for ensuring consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.</p> <p><i>Guidelines extending the application of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene adopted by the CAC 2005; consequential amendments to other Codes and guidelines by 2007.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP/CI</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2007</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$70,000 Staff Time P/m: 6</p> <p> Consultants: \$31,000</p> <p> Contracts: \$0</p> <p> Travel: \$11,000</p> <p> Documents: \$28,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia expressed the view the provisions for pre-harvest measures in such guidelines should not be too prescriptive but should allow enough flexibility to be applicable in developing countries. The Executive Committee agreed that a reference should be included to "taking into account the particular needs of developing countries" and recognized that this was a relatively new area of work that would require detailed consideration. It was also agreed that coordination with other international organizations should be ensured as required according to the type of production covered. (Para. 47)

Secretariat Note: Activity 24 from the former Draft MTP has been incorporated into this activity.

Standards development	7	<p>Establish guidance for the safe and prudent use of antimicrobial substances in food production and other measures to contain antimicrobial resistance.</p> <p><i>Guidelines adopted by CAC in 2005.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP/CI</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$28,500 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Consultants: \$15,000</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contracts: \$0</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">Travel: \$4,500</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Documents: \$9,000</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

As regards Activity 7, the Executive Committee recalled that the establishment of guidance for safe and prudent use of antimicrobial substances required a multidisciplinary approach, coordination between Codex Committees concerned and cooperation between all agencies concerned (FAO, WHO, OIE and perhaps the IPPC). (Para. 48)

11	<p>Review MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs in light of new information on safety and Good Agricultural/Veterinary Practices, including that from developing countries. Extension of coverage of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs and limits for contaminants to include products of particular interest to developing member countries while giving priorities to compounds most likely to impact on the health of consumers.</p> <p><i>MRLs, MLs or other recommendations for at least 15 commodities of interest to developing countries developed by CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFAC and CCFH and adopted by the Commission.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2007</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$57,500 Staff Time P/m: 6</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Consultants: \$6,000</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Contracts: \$0</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">Travel: \$15,000</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Documents: \$36,500</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

Secretariat Note: This revised activity combines two similar activities (Activity 5 and Activity 11) from the Draft MTP presented to the Executive Committee.

Standards development	20	<p>Ensure that global data on dietary intake and other important nutritional parameters are used in the establishment of new standards and in reviews of existing standards, including the prediction of dietary intake based on probabilistic models in the case of residues and contaminants.</p> <p><i>Guidelines on the development and use of intake data, including the use of probabilistic modelling. Consideration to be given to i) Guidelines for use by Codex and FAO/WHO, and ii) guidelines for use by governments.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$48,500 Staff Time P/m: 4</p> <p> Consultants: \$10,000</p> <p> Contracts: \$10,000</p> <p> Travel: \$4,500</p> <p> Documents: \$24,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

Secretariat Note: Indicators have been modified.

	30	<p>Guidelines on reliability of sampling and test methods to determine compliance with standards</p> <p><i>Guidelines on sampling adopted by CAC (2003); data base on test methods established (2005) and updated regularly.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: Prior work End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$31,500 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p> Consultants: \$6,000</p> <p> Contracts: \$15,000</p> <p> Travel: \$4,500</p> <p> Documents: \$6,000</p> <p> Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

Standards development	33	Develop guidelines and/or recommendations for management of microbiological risk(s) for specific pathogen-commodity combinations on the basis of risk assessments or other available information <i>Framework document for management of microbiological risk by 2005; where appropriate specific guidelines and/or recommendations for managing microbiological risk(s).</i> Origin of proposal: Draft MTP	
	Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
	Estimated Costs:	\$33,000	Staff Time P/m: 4
	Consultants:	\$15,000	
	Contracts:	\$0	
	Travel:	\$6,000	
	Documents:	\$12,000	
	Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

Communication, advocacy and promotion	1	Develop guidelines for risk communication on appropriate means of consulting/communicating with consumers and other interested parties. <i>Guidelines developed and published.</i> Origin of proposal: EC	
	Status: Time limited	Begin: 2003	End: 2007
	Estimated Costs:	\$26,500	Staff Time P/m: 2
	Consultants:	\$10,000	
	Contracts:	\$0	
	Travel:	\$1,500	
	Documents:	\$15,000	
	Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Latin America and the Caribbean proposed to delete Activity 1 - Guidelines for Risk Communication as it was already covered by the section on risk communication included in the Draft Working Principles for Risk Analysis. The Member from Europe proposed to retain it and to develop additional recommendations in this area. The Executive Committee could not come to a conclusion and agreed that this question required further consideration. (Para 50).

Total Biennial Costs for this Objective:

Time:	28 Person/months
Consultants:	\$102,000
Contracts:	\$29,500
Travel:	\$51,500
Documents:	\$145,500
Other Costs:	\$0
Total Estimated Cost:	\$328,500

Objective 3: Promoting Linkages between Codex and other Multilateral Regulatory Instruments and Conventions

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	12	<p>Establish guidelines for the development of standards and related texts in cooperation with other international intergovernmental organizations, either as joint standards or as Codex standards <i>Guidelines adopted by CAC in 2005.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: CAC24</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$12,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p>Consultants: \$0</p> <p>Contracts: \$0</p> <p>Travel: \$6,000</p> <p>Documents: \$6,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Members from Africa and from Latin America and the Caribbean proposed to delete Activity 12 concerning the development of standards in cooperation with other international governmental organizations because such guidelines were under development in the Committee on General Principles, as decided by the 24th Session of the Commission. Other Members proposed to retain it with additional clarification. The Executive Committee decided to retain the Activity for the time being; however, if a final text in this area would become available in 2003, the Activity would be deleted from the MTP. (Para 50).

	13	<p>Integrate and align food risk analysis principles with other areas of biosecurity (animal and plant health) as envisaged in the FAO Strategic Framework</p> <p><i>Review of the Codex Principles on Risk Analysis for consistency with other international instruments (2005); amendments as appropriate by 2007.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2007</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$30,500 Staff Time P/m: 1</p> <p>Consultants: \$6,000</p> <p>Contracts: \$0</p> <p>Travel: \$12,500</p> <p>Documents: \$12,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

Some Members proposed to delete Activity 13 concerning the alignment of risk analysis principles with other areas of biosecurity. (Para 51)

Working principles and procedures 32 Review and up-dating of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius (and their associated Guidelines) to take into account other multi-lateral Agreements and Conventions
General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius revised to take into account SPS/TBT and other legally binding international instruments, and published in the Procedural Manual.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status: Time limited **Begin:** 2003 **End:** 2007

Estimated Costs: **\$10,500** **Staff Time P/m:** 2

Consultants: \$0

Contracts: \$0

Travel: \$4,500

Documents: \$6,000

Other Costs: \$0

Comments of Executive Committee:

It was also proposed by the Member from Latin America and the Caribbean to amend the title of Activity 32 - Review of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius to make it clear that only the SPS and TBT Agreements should be considered in the process. (Para. 32)

Standards development 34 Integration into the Codex Alimentarius of OIE standards and other recommendations for the management of food-borne zoonoses (and vice versa).
References to relevant sections of the OIE Animal Health and Aquatic Animal Health Codes in the Codex Alimentarius, perhaps in joint publications. Reference in the OIE codex to relevant sections of the Codex Alimentarius dealing with residue management (pesticides and veterinary drugs).

Origin of proposal: Secretariat

Status: Time limited **Begin:** 2003 **End:** 2007

Estimated Costs: **\$36,000** **Staff Time P/m:** 3

Consultants: \$12,000

Contracts: \$0

Travel: \$6,000

Documents: \$18,000

Other Costs: \$0

Comments of Executive Committee:

As regards Activity 34, the Member from Asia and the Coordinator for the Near East did not support the integration into the Codex Alimentarius of OIE standards, and proposed that OIE standards should be taken into account in the framework of cooperation with OIE. (Para 53)

- Interactions and linkages 8 Promote and encourage collaborative efforts with other relevant international standards bodies to minimise duplicative efforts and ensure greater consistency of outputs
General Guidelines adopted by CAC in 2005. Specific protocols for development of common or joint texts with OIE and other bodies by 2007.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs:	\$24,000	Staff Time P/m: 2
Consultants:	\$0	
Contracts:	\$0	
Travel:	\$12,000	
Documents:	\$12,000	
Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Members from Africa and from Latin America and the Caribbean proposed to delete Activity 8 as it applied specifically to OIE and was already covered in Activity 34. The Executive Committee did not come to a conclusion on these Activities and agreed that they would require further consideration after review at the regional level. (Para 53).

Total Biennial Costs for this Objective:

Time:	10 Person/months
Consultants:	\$18,000
Contracts:	\$0
Travel:	\$41,000
Documents:	\$54,000
Other Costs:	\$0
Total Estimated Cost:	\$113,000

Objective 4: Enhance Capacity to Respond Effectively and Expeditiously to New Issues, Concerns and Developments in the Food Sector

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	3	<p>Revise the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts to enable adoption of texts within a maximum of five years (including Internet conferencing). <i>CAC to adopt new Procedure(s) by 2005. Internet Conference sites established for CCGP, CCFAC, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCFH and CCFL by 2005</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$14,500 Staff Time P/m: 1</p> <p>Consultants: \$0</p> <p>Contracts: \$0</p> <p>Travel: \$2,500</p> <p>Documents: \$12,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to amend Activity 3 as follows: "Review and where necessary revise the Procedure...utilizing modern information technologies and other mechanisms to increase the efficiency of Codex work and enhance the capacity of developing countries to respond to Codex issues" . (Para 55)

19	<p>Establish systematic procedures for review of existing standards to ensure their continued relevance and application including revision where necessary and removal of overly prescriptive or unnecessarily stringent provisions. <i>Systematic procedures adopted for publication in the Procedural Manual.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$31,000 Staff Time P/m: 2</p> <p>Consultants: \$0</p> <p>Contracts: \$6,000</p> <p>Travel: \$0</p> <p>Documents: \$25,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee noted that Activity 19 on the systematic review of existing standards was closely related to Activity 36 (Objective 3) that also concerned the review of standards to eliminate overly prescriptive provisions, and recommended combining these activities. (Para 54)

Secretariat Note: Activity amended.

**Total Biennial Costs for
this Objective:**

Time:	3 Person/months
Consultants:	\$0
Contracts:	\$6,000
Travel:	\$2,500
Documents:	\$37,000
Other Costs:	\$0
Total Estimated Cost:	\$45,500

Objective 5: Promoting Maximum Membership and Participation

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	37	Develop guidelines for the consideration of written comments by Codex Committees and ensure their consistent application across all committees. Origin of proposal: United States Status: On-going Begin: End: Estimated Costs: \$7,200 Staff Time P/m: 2 Consultants: \$0 Contracts: \$0 Travel: \$1,200 Documents: \$6,000 Other Costs: \$0

Comments of Executive Committee:

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- 38 Develop guidance for the conduct of, and attendance at, working groups, drafting groups, etc. taking into account the situation of developing countries, and ensure that such guidance is applied consistently across Codex committees.

Origin of proposal: United States

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs: \$19,500	Staff Time P/m: 2	
Consultants: \$12,000		
Contracts: \$0		
Travel: \$1,500		
Documents: \$6,000		
Other Costs: \$0		

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia supported Activity 38 (Guidance for the conduct of, and attendance at working groups..) and indicated that the Guidelines should address the problems of developing countries participation in such groups but that it was premature to consider the relationship of the outputs of such groups to committee activities. (Para. 58).

Standards development	43	Providing Secretariat services to Regional Coordinating Committees.
		Origin of proposal: Secretariat
		Status: On-going
		Begin:
		End:
		Estimated Costs: \$566,000 Staff Time P/m: 10
		Consultants: \$24,000
		Contracts: \$85,000
		Travel: \$45,000
		Documents: \$400,000
		Other Costs: \$12,000

Comments of Executive Committee:

Participation and transparency	14	Encourage host countries to hold more Codex Committee sessions in developing countries to assist their participation <i>At least 2 meetings of Codex Committees per year to be held in developing countries by developed country Host Governments.</i>
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Origin of proposal: Action Plan

		Status: On-going		Begin:		End:
		Estimated Costs: \$24,500 Staff Time P/m: 2				
		Consultants:		\$0		
		Contracts:		\$15,000		
		Travel:		\$4,500		
		Documents:		\$0		
		Other Costs:		\$5,000		

Comments of Executive Committee:

Participation and transparency 29 Encourage the participation of non governmental organizations at international and national levels
Quantifiable increases of 20% in national stakeholder NGO's participating in national delegations and 10% of international NGOs in Codex meetings.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs:	\$28,500	Staff Time P/m: 1
Consultants:	\$6,000	
Contracts:	\$12,000	
Travel:	\$4,500	
Documents:	\$6,000	
Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

Total Biennial Costs for this Objective:

Time:	17 Person/months
Consultants:	\$42,000
Contracts:	\$112,000
Travel:	\$56,700
Documents:	\$418,000
Other Costs:	\$17,000
Total Estimated Cost:	\$645,700

Objective 6: Promoting Maximum Application of Codex Standards

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Participation and transparency	16	<p>Maintain and improve the Codex website as a ready source of information on food standards and related issues</p> <p><i>Codex website to be available in 5 languages; all Codex standards to be available on request; links to other standards bodies and food regulatory bodies; website to be used for Internet conferencing as part of standards development.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Action Plan</p> <p>Status: On-going Begin: End:</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$42,000 Staff Time P/m: 3</p> <p>Consultants: \$12,000</p> <p>Contracts: \$15,000</p> <p>Travel: \$0</p> <p>Documents: \$15,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Communication, advocacy and promotion	23	<p>Encourage FAO/WHO to assist in the collection of information about consumer requirements, perceptions, beliefs and motivations concerning food, nutrition and food safety to facilitate risk communication</p> <p><i>Report or monograph available by 2005.</i></p> <p>Origin of proposal: Draft MTP</p> <p>Status: Time limited Begin: 2003 End: 2005</p> <p>Estimated Costs: \$6,500 Staff Time P/m: 1</p> <p>Consultants: \$0</p> <p>Contracts: \$0</p> <p>Travel: \$1,500</p> <p>Documents: \$5,000</p> <p>Other Costs: \$0</p>
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Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Communication, advocacy and promotion 31 Ensure availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties
Provision of "print-on-demand" technology to FAO and WHO country offices, Codex Contact Points and WTO enquiry points for Codex standards by 2005.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status:	On-going	Begin:		End:	
Estimated Costs:		\$97,000	Staff Time P/m:	4	
Consultants:		\$0			
Contracts:		\$25,000			
Travel:		\$0			
Documents:		\$60,000			
Other Costs:		\$12,000			

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Application and use of Codex Standards 10 Promote training and technical assistance programmes aimed at improving understanding and application of risk analysis principles to food safety decision making in developing countries
Annual reports to the CAC on FAO, WHO and other technical assistance.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status:	On-going	Begin:		End:	
Estimated Costs:		\$6,000	Staff Time P/m:	1	
Consultants:		\$0			
Contracts:		\$0			
Travel:		\$0			
Documents:		\$6,000			
Other Costs:		\$0			

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Application and use of Codex Standards 15 Encourage member countries to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties
Reports to Codex Regional Coordinating Committees and regular published status reports.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs:	\$10,000	Staff Time P/m: 1
Consultants:	\$0	
Contracts:	\$0	
Travel:	\$0	
Documents:	\$10,000	
Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

17 Work with FAO and WHO to strengthen Codex structures and processes at the national level and to promote wider acceptance and use of Codex standards by members for domestic regulation and trade

Reports to Codex Regional Coordinating Committees and regular published status reports.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status: On-going	Begin:	End:
Estimated Costs:	\$9,000	Staff Time P/m: 2
Consultants:	\$0	
Contracts:	\$0	
Travel:	\$4,500	
Documents:	\$4,500	
Other Costs:	\$0	

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Application and use of Codex Standards 26 Promote the application of HACCP and GMP based on the General Principles of Food Hygiene and covering the entire food chain including feedstuffs

Reports to Codex Regional Coordinating Committees and regular published status reports.

Origin of proposal: Draft MTP

Status:	On-going	Begin:		End:	
Estimated Costs:		\$6,000	Staff Time P/m:	1	
Consultants:		\$0			
Contracts:		\$0			
Travel:		\$0			
Documents:		\$6,000			
Other Costs:		\$0			

Comments of Executive Committee:

The Member from Asia proposed to retain only Activities 16 (Codex website) and 31 (Availability of Codex standards) and expressed the view that the other activities could not be carried out in the framework of Codex. (Para. 59)

Total Biennial Costs for this Objective:

Time:	13 Person/months
Consultants:	\$12,000
Contracts:	\$40,000
Travel:	\$6,000
Documents:	\$106,500
Other Costs:	\$12,000
Total Estimated Cost:	\$176,500

MTP Total Biennial Costs:

Time:	161 Person/months
Consultants:	\$201,000
Contracts:	\$202,500
Travel:	\$316,200
Documents:	\$1,503,000
Other Costs:	\$108,000
Total Estimated Cost:	\$2,330,700

Annex 2: Checklist of Activities by Strategic Objective

Objective 1: Promoting Sound Regulatory Framework

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	4	Review the terms of reference of "General Subject" Committees to clarify mandates and responsibilities, achieve efficient distribution of work.
	18	Review the Criteria for Establishment of Work Priorities to provide for an integrated set of criteria covering commodity and general subject areas
Standards development	22	Establish international principles/guidelines for tracing of food products/ingredients through various links in the food chain for public health reasons as a risk management option ar having a legitimate objective in a technical measure: First consideration to be given to product tracing as a risk management option.
	25	Elaborate international standards or guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of foods derived from biotechnology
	27	Development of guidelines on the judgement of equivalence for specific purposes such as equivalence of measures to ensure food hygiene or measures to ensure conformity with essential quality requirements
	42	Providing Secretariat services to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Executive Committee
	44	Providing Secretariat services to Codex General Subject and Commodity Committees and Task Forces

Objective 2: Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	9	Implement the Action Plan on Risk Analysis on a consistent, Codex-wide basis.
Standards development	6	Develop systematic principles and guidelines for pre-harvest and post-harvest measures (including safe production and processing technologies) for ensuring consumer health protection and fair practices in food trade, taking into account the particular needs of developing countries.
	7	Establish guidance for the safe and prudent use of antimicrobial substances in food production and other measures to contain antimicrobial resistance.

Standards development	11	Review MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs in light of new information on safety and Good Agricultural/Veterinary Practices, including that from developing countries. Extension of coverage of MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs and limits for contaminants to include products of particular interest to developing member countries while giving priorities to compounds most likely to impact on the health of consumers.
	20	Ensure that global data on dietary intake and other important nutritional parameters are used in the establishment of new standards and in reviews of existing standards, including the prediction of dietary intake based on probabilistic models in the case of residues and contaminants.
	30	Guidelines on reliability of sampling and test methods to determine compliance with standards
	33	Develop guidelines and/or recommendations for management of microbiological risk(s) for specific pathogen-commodity combinations on the basis of risk assessments or other available information
Communication, advocacy and promotion	1	Develop guidelines for risk communication on appropriate means of consulting/communicating with consumers and other interested parties.

Objective 3: Promoting Linkages between Codex and other Multilateral Regulatory Instruments and Conventions

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	12	Establish guidelines for the development of standards and related texts in cooperation with other international intergovernmental organizations, either as joint standards or as Codex standards
	13	Integrate and align food risk analysis principles with other areas of biosecurity (animal and plant health) as envisaged in the FAO Strategic Framework
	32	Review and up-dating of the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius (and their associated Guidelines) to take into account other multi-lateral Agreements and Conventions
Standards development	34	Integration into the Codex Alimentarius of OIE standards and other recommendations for the management of food-borne zoonoses (and vice versa).
Interactions and linkages	8	Promote and encourage collaborative efforts with other relevant international standards bodies to minimise duplicative efforts and ensure greater consistency of outputs

Objective 4: Enhance Capacity to Respond Effectively and Expeditiously to New Issues, Concerns and Developments in the Food Sector

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	3	Revise the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts to enable adoption of texts within a maximum of five years (including Internet conferencing).
	19	Establish systematic procedures for review of existing standards to ensure their continued relevance and application including revision where necessary and removal of overly prescriptive or unnecessarily stringent provisions.

Objective 5: Promoting Maximum Membership and Participation

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Working principles and procedures	37	Develop guidelines for the consideration of written comments by Codex Committees and ensure their consistent application across all committees.
	38	Develop guidance for the conduct of, and attendance at, working groups, drafting groups, etc. taking into account the situation of developing countries, and ensure that such guidance is applied consistently across Codex committees.
Standards development	43	Providing Secretariat services to Regional Coordinating Committees.
Participation and transparency	14	Encourage host countries to hold more Codex Committee sessions in developing countries to assist their participation
	29	Encourage the participation of non governmental organizations at international and national levels

Objective 6: Promoting Maximum Application of Codex Standards

Programme Area	ID	Activity
Participation and transparency	16	Maintain and improve the Codex website as a ready source of information on food standards and related issues
Communication, advocacy and promotion	23	Encourage FAO/WHO to assist in the collection of information about consumer requirements, perceptions, beliefs and motivations concerning food, nutrition and food safety to facilitate risk communication
	31	Ensure availability of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations to all interested parties
Application and use of Codex Standards	10	Promote training and technical assistance programmes aimed at improving understanding and application of risk analysis principles to food safety decision making in developing countries

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| Application and use of Codex Standards | 15 | Encourage member countries to establish sound structures and processes for consultation on Codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties |
| | 17 | Work with FAO and WHO to strengthen Codex structures and processes at the national level and to promote wider acceptance and use of Codex standards by members for domestic regulation and trade |
| | 26 | Promote the application of HACCP and GMP based on the General Principles of Food Hygiene and covering the entire food chain including feedstuffs |
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