



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**Twenty-fourth Session**

**Virtual,**

**5 – 9 and 13 September 2022**

**CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION AND ITS PRIORITIZATION**

(Prepared by the Coordinator for CCAFRICA)

**A. CODEX STANDARDS AND RELEVANT TEXTS**

1. The 44<sup>th</sup> Codex Alimentarius Commission meeting held in November 2021 adopted more than 900 new and revised Codex standards (including numerical standards), guidelines and codes of practice. The new Codex text continue to be an integral part in the provision of science based solutions that are useful in enhancing the quality and safety of food while ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
2. This comes at a time during entry into force of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement which is a critical turning point for Africa and food standards elaborated through the Codex system are key enablers in facilitating fair trade in food and agriculture commodities and products across the continent and ensuring that the health of the over 1.3 billion people is protected.
3. Of significant interest to the region include but not limited to Principles and guidelines for the assessment and use of voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPA) programmes, Guidance on paperless use of electronic certificates, General standard for the labelling of non-retail containers of foods, Guidelines on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, Code of practice to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance, Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance, Standards for dried oregano; dried or dehydrated ginger; dried cloves; and dried basil, MLs for cadmium in chocolates containing or declaring < 30% or ≥30% to <50% total cocoa solid on a dry matter basis, Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of lead contamination in foods, MRLs for different pesticides and veterinary drugs in various food and feed and food additives for use in the food industry.
4. Additionally, substantial work is still in the development pipeline for which Members in the region should take keen interest in order to contribute to the process in order to ensure favourable outcomes to the benefit of the region. The completed and ongoing work speaks to the outcome of a regional survey conducted in 2017/18, which identified emerging food safety issues in the region as aflatoxins, pesticide residues in foods and Antimicrobial Resistance.

**B. CODEX TRUST FUND (CTF)**

5. Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) was officially launched in 2016 at CAC39. CTF2 is focused on in-country capacity building to promote more effective participation in Codex, in contrast to CTF1, which focused on increasing participation at Codex meetings by developing countries.
6. As at July 2022, up to 31 Countries in the region have received funding from CTF the three beneficiary countries in Round 1 (Ghana, Senegal and Madagascar) having completed implementation of activities identified in the different projects.
7. Out of the fourteen (14) applications that were submitted to CTF Secretariat in Round 6, funding was approved for the applications submitted by Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Additionally, conditional approval for funding, pending clarifications and/or substantial modifications of their proposals has been given to Niger and Comoros among other countries from different regions.
8. CCAFRICA, CTF Secretariat, FAO and WHO Regional Offices for Africa plan to undertake a regional webinar in August 2022 targeting the remaining 18 eligible countries<sup>1</sup> in the region focusing on the application of the Diagnostic Tool and the CTF2 application process to ensure that strong applications are developed by

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1. <sup>1</sup> Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DR Congo, Djibouti Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Togo

Members. This is addition to the ongoing mentoring/coaching programme administered by FAO and WHO Regional Offices for Africa.

9. Current CTF Support to CCAFRICA members as at July 2022 is indicated in the **Appendix**

#### *Conclusion*

10. As members recover from the impacts of COVID-19, there is need to widen the scope of CTF to include an element of a very limited time bound assistance in participation in Codex meetings as CCAFRICA member states explore alternate sources of funding including factoring Codex work in their budgets as well as specific support on proposal writing.

### **C. OTHER TOPICS ON CODEX STANDARDS AND RELATED TEXTS**

11. Other topics of special interest to the region are as indicated below

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Examples of topics of Special Interest (list not exhaustive)</b>
CCFL	Labelling of pre-packaged foods in joint presentation and pre-packaged multi-packaged foods
	Provision of information on sustainability labelling
	Proposed draft guidelines on Internet sales of foods and e-commerce
	Development of a discussion paper on labelling options to support the reduction of trans fatty acids
	Proposed guidelines on innovation – use of technology in food labelling
CCNFSDU	General Principles for the establishment of NRVs-R for persons aged 6 – 36 months
	Review of the Standard for Follow-up Formula: preamble and structure
CCCF	Establishment of ML for HCN in cassava and cassava-based products and occurrence of mycotoxins in these products
	MLs for total aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan
	Development of a Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of mycotoxin contamination in cassava and cassava-based products
	ML for lead in ready-to-eat meals for infants and young children
	MLs for total aflatoxins and ochratoxin A in nutmeg, dried chili and paprika, ginger, pepper, and turmeric and associated sampling plans
	Sampling plans for total aflatoxins for cereals and cereal-based foods, including foods for infants and young children
CCPR	MRLs for pesticides in food and feed at different stages of development
	Establishment of MRLs for pesticides for okra
	National registrations of pesticides
	Management of unsupported compounds without public health concern scheduled for periodic review
CCSCH	Proposed draft Standard for spices derived from dried fruits and berries (Allspice, Juniper berry, Star anise and Vanilla)
	Proposed draft Standard for small cardamom
	Proposed draft standard for dried chili pepper and paprika
	Draft standard for dried seeds - nutmeg
CCFFV	Proposed amendment to the Standard for Bananas
	Proposed draft standard for onions and shallots
CCFICS	Proposed draft guidelines on recognition and maintenance of equivalence of National Food Control Systems (NFCS)
	Proposed draft Guidelines on Internet sales / e-commerce
	Development of guidance on the prevention and control of food fraud
	Use of remote audit and verification in regulatory frameworks

CCFA	Comments on the use of trisodium citrate (INS 331(iii)) in Food Category 01.1.1 "Fluid milk (plain)"
	Food additive provisions of the GSFA
CCFO	Proposed draft revision to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils (CXS 210-1999) – Inclusion of Avocado oil

#### D. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. The Committee is invited to consider and review the above topics as outlined in this paper and in particular address the following issues:

- a) Note the topics highlighted above with a view to support the ongoing work,
- b) Encourage countries to consider adoption/adaption of the recently completed Codex text and other relevant standards within their respective national frameworks in order to support effective implementation of the AfCFTA
- c) Encourage countries to jointly prepare and submit new work proposals of common interest; possibilities of information exchange amongst the countries of the region, including relevant data and scientific expert advice for preparing new work proposals.
- d) Encourage members to consider co-hosting arrangements with a view to enhance participation of the region in the topics relevant to the region.
- e) Identifying suitable ways for engagement of eligible countries of the region with Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) round 7, to be launched at CAC45, for their capacity building, including establishment of national level Codex structures; possibilities of submission of joint applications;

**APPENDIX**

<b>Round 1 (Projects completed)</b>	<b>Round 2 (Under implementation)</b>	<b>Round 3 (Under implementation)</b>	<b>Round 4 (Started implementation)</b>	<b>Round 5 (completing contracting / starting project implementation)</b>	<b>Round 6 (preparation of contracts is underway)</b>	<b>Round 7 (Eligible)</b>
Ghana	Burkina Faso	Benin	Mauritius	Eritrea	Comoros	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, DR Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, Togo
Madagascar	Cabo Verde	Côte d'Ivoire		Ethiopia	Niger	
Senegal	Guinea	Nigeria		Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone	
	Mali	Malawi		Liberia	Zambia	
	Rwanda	The Gambia			Zimbabwe	
		Uganda-Kenya-Tanzania-South Sudan-Burundi				