

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 4

CX/LAC 08/16/6-Add.1  
October 2008

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

16<sup>th</sup> Session

Acapulco, Mexico, 10-14 November 2008

### NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO CL 2008/16-LAC, PART A FROM  
BARBADOS, BRAZIL, HAITI AND JAMAICA

#### 1. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

- (i) Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)

#### **Barbados**

Food Control in Barbados takes the Multi- agency approach, whereby several governmental agencies are involved in different aspects of the process. The Department of Commerce a division of the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development is responsible for regulating imports and exports of goods, in addition to the sale of foods in the retail market and are the agency responsible for the issuing of import licenses. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the importation and exportation of agro products, the Veterinary Services division having primary responsibility for foods of animal origin. The Ministry of Health is involved in the inspection of goods and produce for compliance to the sanitary and phyto-sanitary regulations and the Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) provides the above agencies with the necessary support by the provision of applicable standards.

#### **Brazil**

a) In Brazil, the bodies responsible for food control are the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (Secretariat of Animal and Plant Health - SDA ) and the Ministry of Health (National Health Surveillance Agency).

#### *Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply*

The general structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) and information on its divisions, sectors and officials can be found on its Web site at: <http://www.agricultura.gov.br> and [https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2004-2006/2005/Decreto/D5351.htm](https://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2004-2006/2005/Decreto/D5351.htm)

The MAPA body responsible for food control is the Secretariat of Animal and Plant Health (SDA) whose structure was set out in the Rules of Procedure approved in 21 January 2005.

The SDA has six departments: the Department of Inspection of Animal Products (DIPOA), the Department of Inspection of Plant Products (DIPOV), the Department of Inspection and Livestock Inputs (DFIP), the Department of Agricultural Inputs (DFIA), the Department of Animal Health (DSA) and the Department of Plant Health (DSV).

***Ministry of Health/National Health Surveillance Agency***

The National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) was created by Law 9782 of 26 January 1999. It operates under special self-governing regime, i.e. as a regulatory agency with administrative independence, financial autonomy and continuity of managerial staff for the duration of their mandate.

In the Federal Public Administration Structure, the Agency is attached to the Ministry of Health. The institutional objective of the Agency is to protect public health through sanitary control of the production and marketing of products and services subject to health surveillance, including associated environments, processes, inputs and technologies.

The Agency is responsible for health control at ports, airports and borders, and for liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, research and analytical laboratories, academia and foreign institutions on international issues relating to health surveillance.

ANVISA coordinates the activities of the National Health Surveillance System (SNVS). Its actions dovetail with those of the state and local governments for the Brazilian Universal Public Health System (SUS).

Thus, there is a major integration between the federal government, its 27 federal units and its over 5600 municipalities (or districts).

The National Health Surveillance System is wide-ranging and complex but is being streamlined with the introduction of successive governmental measures to render its work more rapid, more efficient and based on scientific understanding.

The Agency is responsible for the regulation, control and inspection of products and services made available to the public.

The organizational structure of ANVISA and its food-related offices can be found on its Web site: [www.anvisa.gov.br](http://www.anvisa.gov.br)

ANVISA's food-related offices include the Food Office and its technical offices:

A – Special Products Office, responsible for managing:

- a.1 – food registration procedures;
- a.2 – the formulation of technical regulations for general and special dietary foods, and for general and nutritional labelling;
- a.3 – the coordination of the National Codex Committee's Technical Groups on Food Labelling, Methods of Analysis and Sampling, Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses; Edible Fats and Oils.

B – Science and Technology Office, responsible for managing:

- b.1 – administrative procedures and the evaluation of risk for the registration and/or inclusion and/or extension of food additives and processing aids;
- b.2 – studies and research on food contaminants such as veterinary drug residues;
- b.3 – studies and research on food packaging materials;
- b.4 – Codex issues relating to food additives, processing aids and contaminants;
- b.5 – the updating of technical regulations and other regulatory texts on additives, processing aids and contaminants and packaging materials.

C – Office of Technical Competence in Food Safety: responsible for managing:

- c.1 – food quality monitoring programs based on associated health risks;
- c.2 – the coordination of the National Codex Committee's Technical Groups on Food Hygiene;
- c.3 – Codex issues connected to the Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems;
- c.4 – the federal coordination of food inspection actions by state and municipal health surveillance units;

- c.5 – the formulation of technical regulations on Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP for general and specific industries;
- c.6 – the updating of technical regulations and other regulatory texts on GMP, HACCP and Risk Analysis;
- c.7 – education of consumers and the National Health Surveillance System - SNVS on food safety;
- c.8 – technical training programs on the HACCP and Good Manufacturing Practices at federal, state and municipal level, with in-person and distance courses;
- c.9 – technical training programs on health surveillance, public health and epidemiology of outbreaks of food-borne diseases;
- c.10 – technical training programs on application of the HACCP and Good Manufacturing Practices for technical staff of micro, small and medium enterprises.

The Food Office also liaises closely with the Toxicology Office and Public Health Laboratories Office of the Directorate of Food and Toxicology, and with ANVISA's Ports, Airports and Borders Office, International Relations Office, Information Office and Inspectorate.

**Observation:** The **Office of Inspection and Control of Food Risk** was casting to the **Office of Technical Competence in Food Safety** and the responsibility for both actually is executed by the second Office.

### **Haiti**

Several agencies share the responsibilities in food control: Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry, Customs. These agencies have signed a MOU on 3 April 2008 that creates a mechanism, to coordinate their actions/activities in official food control.

### **Jamaica**

There are three Ministries with the responsibility of national food safety. The following are the Ministries and their respective agencies/department:

1. Ministry of Health (MOH) – [Veterinary Public Health, Public Health Inspectorate, National Public Health Laboratory, Government Chemist, and Pesticides Control Authority]
2. Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) – [Plant Quarantine(*SPS Enquiry Point*), Veterinary Services Division]
3. Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC) – [Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division (FSPID), Bureau of Standards Jamaica(Codex Contact Point)-Food Inspectorate Division]

**Note:** The National Agricultural Health Food Safety Coordinating Committee (NAHFSCC) is also established to assist in the execution of national food safety. The creation of a single food safety agency is currently a work in progress. In addition, a 'One Stop Shop' unit has been implemented under the auspices of the NAHFSCC to assist in the control of imported foods.

### **(ii) Legislation and regulations on food safety and quality - including import/export matters (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)**

### **Brazil**

#### ***Ministry Of Agriculture, Livestock And Food Supply Food Legislation***

MAPA food legislation can be consulted on the following site:

**SISLEG** – Federal Agricultural Legislative System

Web site: <http://extranet.agricultura.gov.br/sislegis-consulta>

**AGROFIT** – Online database providing access to information on the correct and safe utilization of pesticides for plant protection purposes, with information and indications on use, dose, crop, method of application and withdrawal period for the guidance of producers, consumers and other interested parties.

Web site: [http://extranet.agricultura.gov.br/agrofit\\_cons/principal\\_agrofit\\_cons](http://extranet.agricultura.gov.br/agrofit_cons/principal_agrofit_cons)

**Ministry of Health/National Health Surveillance Agency**

There is no update of the legislations. For further information on Anvisa legislation can be found on its website <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/bp.htm>.

**Haiti**

A Draft Food Act has been elaborated. It is still necessary that the government submit the text to the Parliament for voting and for implementation by responsible agencies. Present laws and regulations are archaic and they are not implemented.

**Jamaica**

The following lists the legislation under the respective Ministries:

**MOH**

The Public Health Act 1985 – [Public Health (Food Handling Regulation) 1998 and its Amendment 2000; The Public Health (Tourist Establishments) Regulations 2000 and Amendments 2004; The Public Health (Nuisance) Regulations 1995 and the Amendment 2000; Pesticides Amendment 1996; 1999 & 2004; Meat Inspection & Butchers Regulation 1989, and the Pesticides Act 1975]

**MOA**

[Plant Quarantine Act 1993, The Plants (Importation) Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2005, Aquaculture, Inland and Marine Products and By-Products (Inspection & Licensing and Export) Act, 1999 and its regulations, Meat & Meat Bi-products Export Act, and the Animal Diseases & Importation Act]

**MIIC**

[The Processed Food Act 1959, The Standard Act 1968, Weights and Measures Act 1976, and the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Act]

In total there are over 20 pieces of regulation that impact on food safety and control in Jamaica. However, many of these are outdated and currently under revision.

**(iii) Establishment of equivalence or other trade facilitation agreements with other governments****Barbados**

The establishment of equivalence is executed on a regular basis to facilitate extra- regional and regional trade.

**Brazil****Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply**

1 Program of work between the Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of Argentina and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil for determining the equivalence of control systems and plant health.

2 Complementary adjustment to the treaty of friendship and cooperation on health requirements and mechanisms for trade in fish and fish products reached between Brazil and Ecuador.

3 Memorandum of Understanding for the promotion of trade and investment between the government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the government of the Republic of Ecuador.

4 Memorandum of Understanding between the Federative Republic of Brazil and Norway on technical guidelines, hygienic and sanitary for the bilateral trade in fisheries, aquaculture and its derivatives.

5 Protocol between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China on quarantine and veterinary and health conditions of thermally processed pork to be exported from the People's Republic of China to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

6 Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary safety of food products.

**Ministry of Health/National Health Surveillance Agency**

In 1999, an agreement about the circulation of food products was signed by the National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) from Brazil and by the National Medicines, Food and Medical Technology Authority (ANMAT) from Argentina.

This agreement aims to simplify the procedures for the sanitary control of foods that do not require registration and that are commercialized between the two countries. A Certification of Accomplishment is emitted by both governmental bodies after solicitation of the food industry. The certification is presented in harbors, airports or borderline posts.

**Haiti**

None.

**Jamaica**

Jamaica has established trade facilitation agreements with the following:

- Jamaica/EU – Fish & Fisheries products
- Jamaica/USFDA –Canned ackee in brine
- Jamaica (Plant Quarantine)/US –Pre clearance export system

**(iv) Identified need for capacity building and training to strengthen the national food control system****Barbados**

There is a need for personnel to be formally trained in the Food Control Systems.

**Brazil**

To promote the improvement of management and support the decentralization of activities of the National Health Surveillance System, the Anvisa promotes: courses related to the laws published recently, Course on Risk Management in Food, participation in Congress of Microbiology, Mycotoxins, Toxicology, Analysis Food, Control and Prevention of Chagas Disease by oral transmission, shares of joint inspection between the Federal, State and Municipal.

The Anvisa gave course Good Manufacturing Practices in Packaging Industries for the training of technicians from the National Health Surveillance System.

Were also published reports on monitoring programmes (<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/programas.htm> and <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/programa/index.htm>) and research acrylamide in foods.

The Anvisa publishes the Food & Nutrition Bulletin (<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/alimentacao/index.htm>) and Technical Information (<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/informes/index.htm>).

The National Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa) promotes many courses for the local sanitary bodies which have the objective to harmonize the procedures for the analyses of food registration petitions, including the regulation of following topics:

- Process organization
- Registration of foods
- General requirements for food labelling
- Nutrition labelling
- Nutrition claims
- Registration of food additives
- Mineral water and water with added salts
- Foods for special dietary uses
- Foods for athletes

- Enteral formula
- Infant formula
- Commercial promotion of infant foods
- Vitamin and mineral supplements
- Novel foods
- Foods with functional and health claims

Anvisa has also offered training on food labelling, nutrition claims, nutrition labelling, commercial promotion of infant foods, gluten information and fortification of corn and wheat flour with iron and folic acid for the sanitary agents responsible for monitoring food products.

The Brazilian regulation on food labeling can be found in the following link of Anvisa website:

<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/legis/especifica/rotuali.htm>

More information about the fortification of corn and wheat flour with iron and folic acid can be found in the following link: <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/farinha.htm>

### **Haiti**

- Improvement of the organization of food control activities.
- Training in food inspection.
- Development of food standards and regulations at national level.
- Improvement of quality management systems in food analysis laboratories.
- Support to consumer organisations.
- Training of food business personnel in: HACCP, GMP, hygienic practices.

### **Jamaica**

There is always room for improvement, but more specifically, as it relates to the training of personnel in Food Import and Export Inspection; and the application of SPS agreements.

### **(v) Activities to increase awareness on food safety and quality among the consumers and other specified groups**

#### **Barbados**

The Government of Barbados via its various agencies with involvement in food safety are constantly promoting the need for food safety and quality through workshops and seminars directed at target groups and via promotional information in the electronic and printed media.

#### **Brazil**

##### MAPA

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply develops various activities to ensure the quality and safety of food, of which we can highlight the following:

- 1) Certification of organic production of food
- 2) Monitoring of pesticides
- 3) Monitoring of products for veterinary use
- 4) Monitoring of inputs for animal feed
- 5) Inspection of industrial and sanitary products, derivatives and by-products of animal origin
- 6) certification of origin and movement of inputs and agricultural products and Traceability

- 7) Supervisory against fraud and hiding the origin of agricultural products
- 8) Grading and classification of animal products
- 9) Inspection of beverages, vinegar, coffee and other products of plant origin
- 10) Monitoring of the activities with genetically modified organisms
- 11) Quality control in ensuring the compliance, security and safety of products of animal origin
- 12) Quality control in ensuring the compliance, security and safety of products of plant origin
- 13) Control of contaminants and residues in vegetables and their products
- 14) Standardization and classification of plant products

### ANVISA

As coordinator of the National Health Surveillance System, the Anvisa, among other things, is responsible for preparing and publishing materials of communication for consumers and specific groups such as manuals, posters, folders, books related to the area of food.

Some examples of the publications are:

Good Practices on Food <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/bps.htm>

Food Safety <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/seguranca/index.htm>

Guidance on Consumer and Food Labelling <http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/consumidor/index.asp>

[http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/rotulos/guia\\_bolso.pdf](http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/rotulos/guia_bolso.pdf)

Marketing of Salted Fish and Dried Salted Fish

[http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/informes/cartilha\\_bacalhau.pdf](http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/informes/cartilha_bacalhau.pdf)

Translation of Texts of the Codex Alimentarius Committee of the Food Hygiene

[http://www.anvisa.gov.br/divulga/public/alimentos/codex\\_alimentarius.pdf](http://www.anvisa.gov.br/divulga/public/alimentos/codex_alimentarius.pdf)

Translation of Texts of the FAO/WHO about Nutrition Labels and Health Claim: The Global Regulatory Environment, printed in 2006.

Good Manufacturing Practices in Salt Processing Industry [http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/folder\\_sal.pdf](http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/folder_sal.pdf)

In 2006 Anvisa participated in the Cultural Displays Health Surveillance and Citizenship (<http://www.ccs.saude.gov.br/visa/homepage.html>) teaching courses of Practice for Handling of Food for food's handlers of public schools in Rio de Janeiro.

By arrangement with the Ministry of Tourism, were trained over 4000 food handlers in the main tourist destinations of the country. They are often held lectures and events

(<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/aulas/index.htm>) throughout the country.

Are granted interviews to the media about the various topics under the responsibility of the General Management of Food/ Anvisa.

It also created hot site (<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/hotsite/alimentos/index.htm>) and guidance to consumers (<http://www.anvisa.gov.br/alimentos/consumidor/index.asp>).

### **Haiti**

- Various meetings with the food business sector on the development and implementation of standards and regulations

- Seminar on the use of the "Recommended International Code of Practice-General Principles of Food Hygiene" of Codex: 10 March 2008, Ministry of Trade and Industry with the support of UNIDO.

### **Jamaica**

The following activities have been organised to increase food safety awareness in Jamaica:



- Food Safety Forum 2007.
- Egg Safety, Handling & Storage Seminar.
- Food Safety Week 2008.
- Two seminars in 2008 on Maximum Residue Limits for pesticides in foods - for relevant government agencies, fresh produce importers and exporters.
- Pesticides Control Authority with the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) in 2007-2008 conducted community meetings in 9 fruit and vegetable growing areas to make farmers aware of pesticide residue issues and how to prevent these problems for the consumer.

**(vi) Any other relevant information**

**Haiti**

A project for improving market access and competitiveness is being implemented with the support of UNIDO and the European Union. The aim of this project is to strengthen the national quality infrastructure and to ensure that businesses have access to standards.

**2. NATIONAL CODEX CONTACT POINT AND OTHER NATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR CODEX MATTERS**

**(i) Activities of the Codex Contact Point (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC) and any information about change of contact details (if not yet notified)**

**Brazil**

*National Codex Contact Point And Other National Structure For Codex Matters*

**Activities of Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee**

Brazil's National Codex Committee, the CCAB, was established in 1980 by Resolution CONMETRO 01/80. Its main duties are to represent the country and defend national interests in the Codex Committees and to promote the use of Codex standards as basic reference for the drafting and updating national food legislation and regulations. The CCAB has 15 members representing sectors related to food: the Government, industry, consumers and academia. It is coordinated and serviced by the National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Inmetro)

The National Committee comprises an array of technical groups monitoring the work of individual Codex Committees and coordinated by CCAB members. These groups are open to all sectors with an interest in the topic under examination.

As of October 2008, the CCAB had held 234 regular sessions and over 64 extraordinary sessions, serving mainly to monitor the work of the Codex Committees of primary relevance to Brazil. Since the 15th CCLAC session in 2006, CCAB Codex-related activity has taken the form of replies to circular letters, the drafting of documents and the presentation of Brazil's position at meetings. Brazil has attended all the meetings of the Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups held during this period.

In addition to its routine activities, the National Committee holds an annual workshop each February to evaluate its performance, with the participation of all the members of the technical groups. The CCAB is continuously publicizing its and Codex activities through presentations during food industry courses, conferences and workshops and has set up a dedicated Web site:

CCAB/INMETRO - <<http://www.inmetro.gov.br/qualidade/comites/ccab.asp>>

The site carries the following information:

- structure and functioning of the Codex program;
- structure and functioning of the CCAB;
- calendar of Codex and CCAB meetings;
- list of Codex standards;
- summary reports of Codex Committee meetings;



- draft Codex guidelines and standards under discussion in Codex Committees;
- list of circular letters under discussion in Codex Committees;
- news.

The CCAB's contact details are:

CCAB coordination - INMETRO

W3 Norte - Quadra 511, Bloco B, 4º Andar

70750-527 - Brasília – DF - Brasil

Tel: (55 61) 340-2211, 347-7882

Fax: (55 61) 347-3284 E-mail [codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br](mailto:codexbrasil@inmetro.gov.br)

### **Haiti**

- Workshop on Participation in CODEX organized 22-27 November 2007 with the collaboration of FAO and financial assistance of The French Government. The objective was to enhance national participation in Codex activities and in the WTO SPS Committee. Forty-four persons mostly from the agencies involved in food control participated in this workshop. A few participants were from consumer associations and food industry.
- Conference for Food Industry representatives on 28 November 2007. Nine persons from food industries participated in this activity. Codex documents were exposed at the conference.

### **Jamaica**

The Codex Contact Point in Jamaica is the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ).

The Contact Point continues to:

1. Receive Codex documents for dissemination from Codex Alimentarius Commission.
2. Maintain archives of Codex texts.
3. House the Secretariat for the National Codex Committee (NCC), who in turn disseminates Codex information to all interested parties.
4. Liaise with members of the NCC

### Contact info

Personnel: Mrs. Fay Anderson/ Ms. Kadiann Atkinson

Organization: Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ)

Address: 6 Winchester Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica West Indies

Tel: 1(876) 926-3140-5

Fax: 1(876) 929-4736

Email: [info@bsj.org.jm](mailto:info@bsj.org.jm) /[fanderson@bsj.org.jm](mailto:fanderson@bsj.org.jm) /[katkinson@bsj.org.jm](mailto:katkinson@bsj.org.jm)

**(ii) Structure, composition and operation of a National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure) or plans for its establishment (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)**

### **Barbados**

The Cabinet appointed National Codex Committee (NCC) was established in 2004 and is chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Consumer Affairs and Business Development. The committee is comprised of representatives of the various departments of government involved in the trade of food nationally. There are also five (5) Technical Sub- Committees which are chaired by key members of the NCC who are charged with the responsibility of viewing Codex documents and developing national positions as required.

**Brazil**

There is no update of the structure and operation of the Brazilian National Codex Committee. The only change was in the composition and the Brazilian Academy of Science was integrated, in December of 2007, as a member of the Brazilian National Codex Committee.

**Haiti**

Inter-Agency Committee on Food Control (CICDA) comprising representatives from the ministries responsible for food control.

**Jamaica**

The National Codex Committee is comprised of members from various governmental and non-governmental bodies, namely, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute, Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, Consumer Affairs Commission and other private entities.

The NCC is led by a Chairman and supported by a Secretariat. The Secretariat consists of selected staff from the Bureau of Standards. In addition to their regular job function, the staff facilitates committee meetings and other administrative duties needed for the efficient operation of the NCC. Meetings for the NCC are currently held on a bi-monthly basis at the BSJ.

The NCC seeks to execute its mandate by utilizing local sub-committees to peruse Codex documents that may require comments, or may have an impact on Jamaica. These sub-committees are made up of technical experts who actually mirror the work of the sub-committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Some of these mirror sub-committees are Food Hygiene, Food Labelling, Pesticide Residues, and Fresh Fruits & Vegetables.

**(iii) Participation in Codex committees (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)****Barbados**

Since the last CCLAC Session Barbados has participated in the following Codex Committees:

- Codex Committee on Food Labelling- 35<sup>th</sup> Session;
- Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses- 29<sup>th</sup> Session;
- Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling- 29<sup>th</sup> Session;
- Codex Committee on Food Labelling- 36<sup>th</sup> Session;
- Codex Alimentarius Commission – 31<sup>st</sup> Session.

**Brazil**

Brasil has been participating in all the meetings of the Codex Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups taken place since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC meeting. Currently, Brazil is coordinating 3 Working Groups established by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (To prepare proposed draft maximum levels for total aflatoxins in Brazil Nuts, Draft proposed Code of Practice on the Prevention and Reduction of Ochratoxin A contamination in Coffee, and Discussion paper on Fumonisin).

**Haiti**

- CCFL 35<sup>th</sup> session, 30 april – 04 may 2007: roberta jean-batiste (ministry of trade and industry).
- CCFV 14<sup>th</sup> session, 05 - 09 may 2008: pierre charlemagne charles (ministry of agriculture).
- CCPR 40<sup>th</sup> session, 14 – 19 april 2008: alain louis (ministry of agriculture/food laboratory).

**Jamaica**

Jamaica has been actively participating in codex committees. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC Jamaica has attended CAC ('07,'08) CCFH ('07, '08), CCFL ('07, '08), CCFICS ('07), CCCF ('08), and CCFFV ('08) in addition to participating in working groups established by some of these Committees. It is important to note that there are other Committees that Jamaica would like to attend, however, due to financial constraints, we have been unable to do so, for example the Codex Committee on Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCVDF), Method of Analysis & Sampling (CCMAS), and Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV).

**3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN STANDARDS SETTING****(i) Consumer participation in Codex related activities at national and international level (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)****Barbados**

Consumers participate indirectly in Codex related activities through the Barbados Consumer Research Organization. This organization is the primary consumer rights body in Barbados and it is represented on many of our national Codex technical sub-committees.

**Brazil**

Since 1992 bodies representing consumers (governmental and non-governmental) have been involved in the work of the Brazilian Codex Committee (CCAB).

At a national level, in 2004 the National Council of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality (Conmetro) approved the creation of a permanent commission of consumers with the aim of making viable the participation of consumers in standardization and regulation activities, recognizing in its terms of reference—among other aspects—that "... civil consumer defence bodies' work together with standardization and technical regulation cannot be dispensed with, due to their legitimate nature in representing consumers' interests and needs. One of the main reasons for civil bodies' failure to increase their participation in the follow-up of standardization activities is the lack of financial resources".

The limitations that exist in the participation of the consumers in Codex related activities at an international and national level are lack of financial resources.

**Haiti**

Consumer organizations participate only in national activities such as the ones mentioned in 2 (i). They lack of resources to participate in activities at international level.

**Jamaica**

There are two bodies which represent the Jamaican consumer on the National Codex Committee (NCC), namely, the National Consumers' League, and Consumers' Affairs Commission (CAC).

**(ii) Activities aimed at increasing consumer participation in food standards setting (update information since the 15<sup>th</sup> CCLAC)****Barbados**

Barbados pledges to keep the currently active consumer rights body and any others, actively involved in the review of Codex documents and the development of national standards as they arise.

**Brazil**

The efforts to increase consumer participation in food standards setting are being made through the Permanent Commission of Consumers created by Conmetro.

In addition, Inmetro has also been providing financial support in order to facilitate the participation of the consumers representatives in the meetings of the National Codex Committee.

**Haiti**

Diffusion of information on food standards and Codex activities to create consciousness in civil society. Technical committees are not established at national level.

**Jamaica**

Consumer organizations actively participate in national standards development. They are represented on our technical committees for the development of food and other types of standards.

National standards are circulated for public comments before being published in order to solicit comments and input from consumers and other organizations. Consumers and representatives from consumer organizations are invited to our quarterly Jamaican Standards Network (JSN) meeting aimed at raising awareness of standardization, standards development and to facilitate participation in the national, regional and international standards development process.