



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
37<sup>th</sup> Session, CICG**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 14-18 July 2014**

**FAO/WHO INFORMATION NOTE ON THE SUCCESSOR INITIATIVE TO THE CODEX TRUST FUND**

Process to date

In July 2013, the Directors-General of FAO and WHO agreed to develop concepts for a successor initiative to the current FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund), which will come to an end in December 2015. FAO/WHO initiated an “information-gathering” phase to elicit ideas, suggestions, comments and feedback from key stakeholder groups.

As a result of discussions and input to date, FAO/WHO are tabling some preliminary ideas on possible focus and function of a successor initiative at the 37<sup>th</sup> CAC to elicit additional feedback from Codex Members. Further input will come from the final project evaluation and the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees meeting in the second half of 2014 and the first half of 2015. Final proposal(s) for the successor initiative will be tabled for discussion and endorsement at the 70<sup>th</sup> CCEXEC and 38<sup>th</sup> CAC in June/July 2015.

Outcomes of the “information-gathering” phase to date

In discussions with different stakeholders to date, a number of “common threads” in the thinking on the successor initiative can be highlighted.

- The successor initiative needs to be positioned to respond to rapid changes in the world, in technology, the way countries interact and the evolving needs of countries in the period 2016-2027.
- The focus of the successor initiative should be on moving from supporting quantity of participation in Codex to supporting effective participation by addressing the major barriers to full and effective participation in Codex. This will likely entail shifting from “one size fits all” to tailored approaches, taking account of each beneficiary sub-region/country’s profile and needs.
- The successor initiative should continue to give strong emphasis to strengthening countries’ ability to effectively participate in Codex through raising political awareness and support, strengthening national structures, among others.
- Capacity-building activities supported under a successor initiative should support a continuous pathway for improved participation in Codex and should complement and create synergies with related FAO/WHO Codex capacity-building activities, as well as the work of other actors. At the same time a successor initiative needs to remain distinctive in regard to other capacity building activities.
- Good governance and accountability on the part of beneficiaries should be important elements of a successor initiative.
- The successor initiative will need to show concrete and measurable results and emphasize outcomes rather than outputs.

### First ideas for possible focus areas of a successor initiative

Some first preliminary ideas for possible pillars of a successor initiative, as depicted below, are meant to stimulate further discussions and may well change as new inputs become available, including the results of the final project evaluation which will be available in the first trimester of 2015.

A first pillar of the successor initiative might follow an approach tailored to individual beneficiary countries so that a best mix of support is offered to meet countries' specific needs. Support could be provided as a pluri-annual package, rather than being subjected to year-by-year request and approval, provided that beneficiaries meet a set of conditions. A set number of "packages of support" that would be aimed at addressing typical needs profiles at country level might be developed. Beneficiary countries would then select from amongst the support packages offered to choose the one targeting their specific needs.

A second pillar of the successor initiative might be built around providing capacity development support to groups of countries in a region or sub-region, in such a manner as to address their common needs, and to complement what FAO/WHO and other actors provide and/or will provide from 2016 onwards in the Codex capacity development domain.

The successor initiative may include a pillar that continues to address the need to enhance the scientific/technical input to Codex. How this should be approached will depend on the results of the final project evaluation, and noting that the Trust Fund has so far only one example of this kind of activity, with a second currently under discussion.

How all three pillars integrate and complement each other needs to be determined as we move forward.

In order to concretise the design of the successor initiative, FAO/WHO will reflect on the following operational questions as well as other questions as they arise:

- How to establish criteria for beneficiary country eligibility.
- Whether and how to categorise beneficiary countries, and whether to apply preferential treatment to certain groups (e.g. Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States).
- Whether to include a "graduation" scheme and/or incentive schemes.
- How to build tailor-made packages linking with country needs and impact pathways.
- Whether to apply transition measures between the current Codex Trust Fund and the successor initiative.