

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.net

Agenda Item 3a)

CX/EURO 10/27/4-Part I*

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

27th Session

Warsaw, Poland, 5-8 October 2010

ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING

(Prepared by FAO/WHO)

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 26th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2 Under their respective mandates, goals and workplans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4.

3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:

- upgrading the capacity of countries with transition economies in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
- enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors, trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
- strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.

4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided in paragraph 10 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns, www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm, http://www.fao.org/world/Regional/REU/index_en.htm and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/capacity/en/>; <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/disease-prevention/food-safety>.

* Part II of the document will constitute information on scientific advice and will be distributed shortly.

5. Detailed information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 33rd Session of CAC and is available in CX/CAC 10/33/15 Add.1 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac33/cac33_15_add1e.pdf). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials (e.g. guidelines, manuals and online resources), global information exchange systems, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include 1. Ongoing work strengthen efforts through INFOSAN and EMPRES Food Safety programme to support countries' in dealing with emerging food safety issues, and managing food safety emergencies; 2. Availability of training materials to assist countries in implementing relevant Codex texts related to the food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant DNA plants, and maintenance of the data set for food safety assessment for r-DNA plants within the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (www.ipfsaph.org); 3. Continued support to countries on surveillance and detection of foodborne and other infectious enteric diseases through the Global Foodborne infections Network (GFN), formerly known as WHO Global Salm-Surv (www.who.int/gfn) and 4. The undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG). The Committee is referred to CX/CAC 10/33/15 Add. 1 for further information on these and other capacity development activities.

Special Focus on Regional Initiatives

6. Recent joint FAO/WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which were submitted to the 64th Session of the CCEXEC and the 33rd Session of the CAC. Specific to the forthcoming 27th Session of CCEURO, FAO and WHO with funding from the CTF are planning a pre-CCEURO workshop on 4 October 2010, to discuss the risk analysis paradigm: with emphasis on control and prevention of food safety hazards. All CCEURO members are invited to participate.

7. FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia developed a new webpage "*Quality & Origin in Europe and Central Asia - Traditional Agricultural and Food Products*". The webpage is addressed to agricultural and public policy-makers, stakeholders interested in the promotion of traditional food production and rural development, producers of traditional products, academia, research institutions. It is also of interest to competent national institutions, professionals concerned with aspects related to food safety, nutritional balance and quality of products, consumers. The aim of the webpage is to facilitate the access to information and good experiences, thus fostering collaboration and partnerships in increasing the presence and variety of regional traditional products associating them with sustainable rural development. The regional website was created with the support from countries that provided relevant information through an applied questionnaire. The address of the website is: <http://www.foodquality-origin.org/europe>.

8. FAO and WHO, with support from the Codex Trust Fund, organized a half day seminar on "Risk Assessment of Contaminants by JECFA: What is expected from Codex members and what data is needed" for all participants at the 4th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants (Izmir, Turkey, 28 April 2010). The objective of the seminar was to provide information to delegations about how Codex members and observers can get involved and contribute successfully to risk assessments performed by JECFA and the Codex risk analysis process. Presentations addressed specifically the type and quality of data that Codex members and stakeholders can generate that will subsequently allow JECFA experts to develop a risk assessment that meets the needs of CCCF for standard-setting and is reflective of the global situation. In light of the interest shown in the seminar, FAO and WHO are looking at using all opportunities to provide information to member states on risk assessment and the Codex process, particularly to developing countries and countries with economies in transition as the scientific advice provided to Codex could benefit from more input from these countries.

9. FAO plans to hold a training workshop in Budapest, Hungary in November 2010 on the establishment of MRL and assessment of the risk from pesticide residues. The general objectives of the training are (1) to strengthen the capabilities of scientists from developing and transition countries in the techniques of pesticide evaluation for the establishment of MRLs; (2) to update their knowledge of the assessment of risks associated with dietary intake of pesticide residues and (3) to respond to the requests of developing and transition countries to play a great role in the Codex MRL process.

10. Activities completed or ongoing since the 26th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe are detailed in the following tables.

REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Food Safety and Security Conference	Russia, FAO, WHO EURO	28-30 October 2008	Moscow, Russia
WHO Workshop on food safety promotion in schools using the five keys to safer food	WHO EURO, Croatian Institute of Public Health	13 November 2008	Zagreb, Croatia
Launching a food safety campaign for tourism in Croatia	WHO EURO, Croatian Institute of Public Health	27-28 April 2009	Zagreb, Croatia
Joint ECDC - WHO Regional Office for Europe - WHO GSS Advanced Workshop I "Intersectoral collaboration for detection, surveillance and response to forborne diseases" for the EU Member States, EEA/EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and candidate countries to the EU (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey)	WHO EURO, ECDC	25-28 May 2009	Zegrze, Poland
National food safety workshop in Tajikistan	WHO EURO, WHO HQ, WHO Tajikistan	16-17 June 2009	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Workshop on the Coordination of SPS Measures in South-East European countries	FAO/CLDP (Commercial Law Development Program) of the United States Department of Commerce	16-19 September 2009	Sofia, Bulgaria
Workshop on Food Safety and Codex Programme in Georgia	FAO	22 September 2009	Tbilisi, Georgia
Regional Expert meeting: "Livestock based Geographical Indication chains as an entry point to maintain agro-biodiversity"	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	20-21 October 2009	Budapest, Hungary
Workshop on Risk Analysis and Science-based Food Control Programmes	FAO	1-2 December 2009	Baku, Azerbaijan
National training course on HACCP	WHO EURO	1-15 March 2010	Tirana, Albania
Food safety assessment mission and technical assistance to National Codex Committee	FAO/WHO	20 February – 4 March 2010	Report presented to Government of Tajikistan
Raising Understanding and Consistent Application of Risk Analysis Framework at Country Level targeting Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	16–18 March 2010	Kiev, Ukraine
Support to the National University of	FAO	Ongoing April – July	Ukraine

Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine to assess the feasibility of establishing a training centre for food analysis		2010	
Workshop on antimicrobial resistance in a food safety perspective, for Croatia, Romania and Serbia	WHO EURO	27-28 May 2010	Belgrade, Serbia
GFN Training course for Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan	WHO EURO, WHO HQ, US CDC, CRIE Russia	31 May-4 June 2010	Moscow, Russia
National food safety workshop in Montenegro	WHO EURO	9-10 June 2010	Podgorica, Montenegro
Seminar “Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex process and use of Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations” for Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine	FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	17-18 June 2010	Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
Technical meeting for FSU countries “Food safety standards: adaptation and harmonization in transition countries”.	FAO	September 2010	Kiev, Ukraine
Pre-Codex FAO/WHO workshop planned prior to CCEURO	FAO/WHO	October 2010	Poland
WHO/FAO Regional workshop on food safety for the Central Asian Republics	WHO EURO/FAO	November 2010	Tashkent, Uzbekistan

PROJECTS/DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES

Title	FAO/WHO	Country	Status
EU CARDS project to reinforce Albanian Veterinary and Phytosanitary Border Inspection Services	WHO Albania, EURO	Albania	Follow-up project
Assessment of GI products potential by study on the “Advantages, constraints, and key success factors of establishing quality signs linked to the origin and traditions in Albania: the case of typical origin-based products”	FAO	Albania	Ongoing
Strengthening food control institutions	WHO EURO funded by Italian cooperation	Albania	Commenced early 2009
Reducing Malnutrition in Children in Albania	UNJP/ALB/007/SPA Joint project FAO/WHO/UNICEFF/local institutions	Albania	Ongoing
Project of FAO/EC on capacity building in food composition	FAO/EC	Armenia and Georgia	Ongoing
Food safety capacity building – strengthening national capacity for strategic planning and coordination of food control activities, to ensure adequacy of food law and harmonized food standards, and	FAO/TCP project	Azerbaijan	Ongoing.

ensure compliance through development of effective inspection programmes, laboratory network, and quality assurance programmes in agro-processing sectors (TCP/AZE/3101)			
FAO technical assistance has been requested by government to strengthen national food control activities and assessment of foods derived from biotechnology. A field formulation mission was undertaken in 2007, and a project is under development.	FAO	Belarus	Project formulated
Capacity building of regulatory agencies for handling and monitoring genetically modified crops, products and processed foods (TCP/CRO/3102)	FAO	Croatia	Ongoing
Development of the 2 nd Action Plan for Food and Nutrition Policy for the WHO European Region 2007-2012	WHO EURO		Follow-up activities in regard to implementation at national level
Implementation of activities on national food safety strategies	WHO EURO	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, SEE countries, Tajikistan	Ongoing
With the support of a project preparation grant from the STDF Facility, a project formulation mission has been undertaken to Moldova and a draft project in under discussion “ Strengthening the food control system to support the emerging food business sector”	FAO	Moldova	Project formulated
FAO technical assistance requested by Government to develop a national programme “Light meals for schools - for pupils - a framework for sustainable diets promotion”	FAO	Moldova	Project formulation mission in preparation
FAO technical assistance requested by government to build capacity for the population exposure prevention to <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> from Retailed Food	FAO	Serbia	Project formulation mission in preparation
Strengthening Food Safety and Nutrition Services in SEE as part of the SEE Health Network – Component Two – “Establishing a harmonized and an integrated model for food safety and nutrition systems”	WHO Regional Office for Europe/Council for Europe	South-east Europe	Ongoing
FAO technical assistance has been requested to strengthen national food	FAO	Tajikistan	Ongoing

control capacity through provision of training and direct advice in Tajikistan. A project formulation mission has been completed.			
Policy and capacity development of food safety, animal and plant health laboratories	FAO/TCP	Turkey	Ongoing
Minimizing the risk to Maramara sea posed by harmful algal blooms TCP/TUR/3201	FAO	Turkey	Ongoing
Biodiversity, Geographical Labelling and Food Safety Training with Sustainable Production Aspects in Traditional Cheeses of Hatay and Adana	FAO with committed funds from TICA	Turkey	Project in review process
Assessment of GI potential and its realization in support of Rural Development in Ukraine	TCP/UKR/3201 (D)	Ukraine	Ongoing
Country capacity building in foodborne disease burden estimation, policy situation analysis and research utilization.	WHO	Country in which the pilot burden of foodborne disease study will take place (still to be selected)	Development of training modules

11. Looking ahead, priorities for the coming year in the region, which may be implemented jointly by FAO and WHO, or in association with other partner organizations, aim at strengthening national food control systems in European countries, including:

- providing expertise in the drafting of Codex compliant laws, regulations and standards;
- building the competent authority capacity of food inspection/certification services;
- strengthening monitoring chemical and microbiological contamination in the food chain
- strengthening surveillance of foodborne disease
- promoting risk-based food inspection systems;
- enhancing food analysis capacity;
- strengthening official food safety systems through the use of the risk analysis framework including risk assessment of food hazards;
- targeted training for food safety officials and technical staff (food safety managers, food inspectors, and food analysts) in carrying out their respective duties;
- supporting national Codex programmes (including Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees) to facilitate effective participation in Codex and providing tailored Codex training to further enhance participation in Codex activities at regional and national levels;
- building capacity of small and medium size enterprises to implement food quality and safety standards;
- developing tools and training materials to assist food safety and quality control activities; and
- strengthening regional and international food control information exchange and cooperation activities.
- promoting proper and timely food safety risk communication to all relevant stakeholders
- cost-efficient and good collaboration between the public health, veterinary and food sectors.

- 12 Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries.
13. ***The membership of CCEURO is invited to engage with FAO and WHO*** to provide feedback on:
- ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region
 - priority needs at national and regional level which require further support from FAO and WHO.