

# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 2.1

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## 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

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

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

- (i) **Mechanisms and evaluation criteria at country level to improve horizontal coordination and communication among national delegates to various food-standards-related international organizations (see Activity 4.5 of the Strategic Plan)**

#### **Barbados**

The Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI) is not only the National Contact Point for Codex but the ISO hence is very aware of development of standards within these frameworks. In preparation for attendance to committee meetings the national technical sub-committees are used to vet agenda items and to develop a national position on the issues which is then communicated to the national delegate.

#### **Brazil**

In accordance with Activity 4.5 of the Strategic Plan (promote interdisciplinary coordination at the national and regional level), the Brazilian Codex Committee has as one of its members the Brazilian Association of Technical Standards – ABNT, which is the official representative of Brazil in ISO. Through the participation of ABNT in the National Codex Committee we have made efforts to coordinate Brazil's participation in ISO and in Codex. The Brazilian Codex Committee has included in its delegations to the commission meetings members of ABNT and the next step is the development of criteria to evaluate this cooperation.

#### **Haiti**

- Establishment of Inter-Agency Committee and a MOU aiming to coordinate actions/activities in food control realised or to be taken by responsible agencies.
- Evaluation criteria have not been put in place.

#### **Jamaica**

Currently, the National Codex Committee is the only mechanism, at the country level, that seeks to improve the coordination and communication among the Jamaican delegates who attend the international Codex meetings. the NCC is constantly seeking to disseminate Codex information to a much wider cross-section of persons in order to increase awareness and thus participation in Codex.

- (ii) **Establishment of sound structures and processes for consultation on codex matters to ensure effective involvement and participation of all interested parties, with a view to in particular enhancing the participation of non-governmental organizations in codex work at national, regional and international levels (see Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan).**

### **Barbados**

Barbados has in place five (5) national technical sub-committees charged with the responsibility of reviewing Codex documents, each committee having a designated area of responsibility. These committees are made up of representatives from both public and private stakeholder agencies.

### **Brazil**

In accordance with Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan (enhance participation of non-governmental organizations at international, regional and national levels) and as mentioned in Item 3(i) the Brazilian Codex Committee has as one of its members the Brazilian Institute of Consumer Defense – IDEC, which is a non-governmental organization, very active in the food sector. Nevertheless, there is a problem with financial support and experts to maintain its participation in Codex activities at national level. There is no limitation for the participation of the org in the activities of the National Committee or of its technical groups.

Regarding the processes of consultation, currently the interested parties are involved through the technical groups and the National Committee. It is in discussion the establishment of public audiences to construct the national position on codex matters.

### **Haiti**

Structures are not established officially.

### **Jamaica**

One of the functions of the National Codex Committee is to enhance the participation of all interested parties in Codex matters. Consultation on such matters is sought from governmental and non-governmental bodies. For example the NCC has established mirror committees that look at specific Codex matters, i.e. the Mirror Committee for the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology is the National Bio-safety Committee; for Fish and Fishery Products there is the CARICOM (Caribbean Community) regional technical sub-committee for the development of CARICOM standard Code of Practice for the Handling and Processing of Fish & Fishery products; and others (see '*List of Mirror Committees*'). There are also sub-committees of the Food Standards Committee on commodities such as Honey, Coffee, Sauces and Spices.

#### **The 'Mirror' Committees of the NCC**

The NCC has established 'mirror' committees to examine Codex documents that require technical expertise. These committees mirror the work of their counterpart in the Codex Commission and determine the effect such documents may have on Jamaica. The 'mirror' committees are listed as follows:

<b>Codex Committees</b>	<b>NCC Mirror Committees</b>
1. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)	1. Sub-committee on Food Hygiene ( <i>active</i> )
2. Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)	2. Labelling Technical Committee ( <i>active</i> )
3. Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)	3. Sub-committee on Pesticide Residues ( <i>work-in-progress</i> )
4. Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis & Sampling (CCMAS)	4. Sub-committee on Methods of Analysis & Sampling ( <i>work-in-progress</i> )
5. Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification Systems (CCFICS)	5. National Agricultural Health & Food Safety Coordinating Committee ( <i>active</i> )
6. Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits & Vegetables (CCFFV)	6. Sub-committee on Fresh Fruits & Vegetables ( <i>active</i> )

Codex Committees	NCC Mirror Committees
7. Codex Committee on Fish & Fishery Products (CCFFP)	7. CARICOM regional Technical sub-committee for the development of CARICOM Standard Code of Practice for the Handling and Processing of Fish & Fishery Products ( <i>work-in-progress</i> )
8. Codex Committee on Milk & Milk Products (CCMMP)	8. <i>not active</i>
9. Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (CCNMW)	9. Packaged Water Technical Committee ( <i>active</i> )
10. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food derived from Biotechnology	10. National Bio-safety Committee ( <i>active</i> )

The table above is not an exhausted list of Codex Committees but serves to identify those Committees that have been mirrored by local sub-committees.