

codex alimentarius commission

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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**CL 2008/20-NEA
August 2008**

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission

SUBJECT: **Request for comments and information on: National Food Control Systems, Consumer Participation in Food Standard Setting; the Use of Codex Standards at National and Regional Level, Nutritional Issues in the Region; and issues related to participation in Codex meetings and FAO/WHO expert meetings**

DEADLINE: **1 November 2008**

COMMENTS: **To:** Secretary
Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153Rome, Italy
Fax: +39 06 5705 4593
E-mail: codex@fao.org (*preferably*)

With a copy to: Centre Technique de l'agro-alimentaire,
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In preparation of the 5th FAO/WHO (Codex) Coordinating Committee for the Near East (CCNEA), information is requested on national food legislation, food control, Codex structures and consumer participation (Part A of the attached questionnaire), the use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional levels (Part B of the attached questionnaire), implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2008-2013 (Part C of the attached questionnaire), and nutritional issues within the region (Part D of the attached questionnaire). The information submitted will be compiled in working documents to be considered by the 5th CCNEA. Information is also requested on participation of developing countries and countries in transition in Codex meetings and FAO/WHO experts meetings (Part E of the attached questionnaire). This information will be forwarded to FAO/WHO for further analysis including for the impact analysis of the Codex Trust Fund.

Governments and international organizations in observer status with Codex are invited to submit the relevant information by using the questionnaire, attached to this Circular Letter and to provide this information, as directed above, *preferably by e-mail*, not later than **1 November 2008**.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Governments and international organizations in observer status with Codex are invited to provide information on the following matters:

PART A - NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARD SETTING

I. STATUS OF THE NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

(i) Structure and organization of official services responsible for food control (update information since the 4th CCNEA)

(ii) Legislation and regulations on food safety and quality - including import/export matters¹ (update information since the 4th CCNEA)

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

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

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

(vi) Any other relevant information

¹ Where appropriate: “Lessons learned” from any reform of the food control system (e.g. using the risk analysis framework, farm-to-fork approaches, policy, organizational and/or procedural changes).

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

- (i) Activities of the Codex Contact Point (update information since the 4th CCNEA) and any information about change of contact details (if not yet notified)**

- (ii) Structure, composition and operation of a National Codex Committee (or equivalent or similar structure) or plans for its establishment (update information since the 4th CCNEA)**

- (iii) Participation in Codex committees (update information since the 4th CCNEA)**

3. PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMERS IN STANDARDS SETTING

- (i) Consumer participation in Codex related activities at national and international level (update information since the 4th CCNEA)**

- (ii) Activities aimed at increasing consumer participation in food standards setting (update information since the 4th CCNEA)**

PART B. USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

- (i) Use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level**

- (ii) Non-use of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level, with reasons where applicable**

- (iii) Difficulties encountered in the use or application of Codex standards and related texts at the national and regional level**

- (iv) Relevance of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for harmonization of legislation and regulations, including in the perspective of economic integration**

- (v) Any other health and/or trade problems related to standardization at the national or regional level**

PART C. IMPLEMENTATION OF CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2013

- (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)**

- (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 non-governmental organizations to participate in Codex work at national, regional and international levels (see Activity 5.5 of the Strategic Plan).**

PART D. NUTRITIONAL ISSUES IN THE REGION

Nutritional issues within the country or region such as: obesity, nutritional profiles, and any public health-oriented actions taken including the use of nutritional labelling and claims.

PART E. PARTICIPATION IN CODEX ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING PARTICIPATION SUPPORTED BY THE FAO/WHO TRUST FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX) AND IN FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

- (i) **Methodology for preparation to participation in Codex meetings (e.g. selection of participants, preparation and submission of written comments)**

- (ii) **Follow-up to participation in Codex meetings (e.g. debriefing, participation in working groups, preparation of next-round comments)**

- (iii) **Participation of national experts in, and submission of national data to, FAO/WHO meetings providing scientific advice (e.g. JMPR, JEMRA, JECFA, *ad hoc* expert consultations)**

- (iv) **Networks of experts and sources of data on scientific studies related to food safety (relevant to Codex)**
