Elaboration of Codex standards
(Agenda Item 4)

at
“Strengthening Food Safety Standard Setting and Effective Participation in Codex activities”
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Ms. Shashi Sareen
Senior Advisor, Food Safety & Quality
FAO Regional Office for the Asia & the Pacific, Bangkok
e-mail: shashi.sareen@fao.org
Coverage

- Codex Procedural Manual
- How Codex Elaborates Standards
Codex Texts/Documentation

- **Standards**: prescriptive, what should be achieved; Limit; MRLs etc.

- **Guidelines**: principles and guidance how to do something (e.g. Risk Analysis)

- **Codes of practice**: advice or procedures what to do to avoid an issue or minimise the risk

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To obtain Codex texts, visit Codex homepage at: [http://www.codexalimentarius.org/standards/en/](http://www.codexalimentarius.org/standards/en/)
How are Codex texts developed?

through the *Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts* (8-step procedure) (in *Codex Procedural Manual*)
Procedural manual (25th edition)

- Outlines the agreed set of rules to ensure the Commission and its subsidiary bodies work in a uniform manner.

- Intended to help member countries to participate effectively in the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.

- Contains:
  - Statutes of CAC & Rules of Procedure
  - Additional procedures for the elaboration of Codex standards & related texts, basic definitions and guidelines for the operation of CAC & its subsidiary bodies.
**Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual**

The Manual is divided into seven sections plus an appendix:

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Section I – Basic Texts and Definitions  *(4 parts)*

- Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission *(10 Articles)*;
- Rules of Procedure of the Codex Alimentarius Commission *(16 Rules)*;
- General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius *(4 Principles)*; and
- Definitions for the Purposes of the Codex Alimentarius
Statutes of the Codex – Mandate

Article 1 – Mandate

- protecting health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade;
- promoting **coordination of all food standards work undertaken by IGOs/ INGOs**;
- determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards;
- finalizing and publishing standards in a Codex Alimentarius as regional/ worldwide standards;
- amending **published standards** in the light of developments.
Statutes of the Codex – Membership

Article 2 – Membership

Membership conditions
For country to become Member of CAC, 2 conditions to be met:

1) be a Member of either FAO or WHO.
2) notify the DG of either FAO or WHO of its wish to become a Member.
Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual

Section II – Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts

(procedures)

• Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts;
• Criteria for the Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies;
• Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities;
• Guidelines for the Application of Criteria for Establishment of Work Priorities;
• Relations between Commodity Committees & General Committees;
• Format for Codex Commodity Standards;
• Guidelines for the Inclusion of Specific Provisions in Codex Standards and Related Texts
Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual

Section III – Guidelines for Subsidiary Bodies (guidelines)

• Guidelines to Host Governments of Committees and Task Forces;
• Guidelines for the Conduct of Meetings of Committees and Task Forces;
• Guidelines to Chairs of Committees and Task Forces;
• Guidelines on pWG; and
• Guidelines on eWG
Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual

Section IV – Risk Analysis (policies / principles)

• Working Principles for Risk Analysis in the framework of Codex;
• Definitions of Risk Analysis terms;
• Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCFA, CCCF, CCRVDF, CCPR, CCFH;
• Policies on exposure assessments;
• Annex containing template for information necessary for prioritization;
• Risk Assessment Policy on setting MRLs in case of veterinary drugs;
• Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCPR and Annex;
• Nutritional Risk Analysis Principles and Guidelines; and
• Risk Analysis Principles and Procedures applied by CCFA & CCFH
Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual

Section V – Subsidiary Bodies of the CAC
• Contains a list of all Codex Committees and Task Forces (*active, adjourned Sine die, dissolved or abolished*); their TORs and name of host country

Section VI – Membership
• Contains a full list of Codex member countries (with year of accession where available); Core Functions of the Codex Contact Points

Section VII – Relations with Other Organisations
• Guidelines on Cooperation with International Inter-Govt. Organizations;
• Principles concerning Participation of International NGOs in Codex work
Structure of the Codex Procedural Manual

Appendix – Contains 3 General Decisions of the Commission

• Statement of Principle concerning Role of Science in Codex decisions and the extent to which Other Factors are taken into account;

• Statement of Principle relating to Role of Food Safety Risk Assessment; and

• Measure to Facilitate Consensus
How Codex Elaborates Standards
Principles of Codex elaboration Procedure

• Inclusiveness
  ➢ Step by step (8-step)
  ➢ Broad participation by all members interested
  ➢ Consensus - every member included - every member's concerns considered before decision taken

• Transparency - Open discussion and communication, Free to all interested

• Science-based & timely available scientific advice

• Collaboration

• Objectives of consumer health protection and fair trade practice

• Standards applicable globally
Procedures for elaboration of Codex Texts

• Strategic planning based on criteria for establishing work priorities

• Proposal/project document submitted by Committee or Member (format)

• Critical review of proposal (EC & subsidiary body)

• 8-step or accelerated 5-step process

• Scientific advice, as needed
Strategic Planning
Codex Elaboration Process

Getting started:
(Pre-process) at Committee level

Critical Review at Executive Committee level by comparing against criteria's and priorities

STEP 1

Initial Proposal

Discussion paper

Project proposal

Proceed?

YES

A

Revised or Abandoned

NO
Project document to cover
(new work/revision)

Proposed by Committee/ member and to cover:

- purpose and scope of standard;
- its relevance and timeliness;
- main aspects to be covered;
- assessed against *Criteria for establishment of work priorities*;
- relevance to Codex strategic objectives;
- information on relation b/w proposal /existing Codex texts;
- identification of need for expert scientific advice;
- identification of need for technical inputs from external bodies;
- proposed time-lines: completion of the new work, start date, adoption at Step 5/ step 8 (total not exceed 5 years)
Critical review Procedure

• Examination of proposals taking into account the *Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities*, the strategic plan of the Commission and the required work for independent RA;

• Identifying standard setting needs of developing countries;

• Advice on establishment/ dissolution of committees and task forces, including ad hoc cross-committee task forces (if within several committee mandates); and

• Preliminary assessment of the need for expert scientific advice and availability from FAO, WHO or other relevant expert bodies, and prioritisation
Criteria for establishment of work priorities

• **General Criterion:** Consumer protection from the point of health, food safety, ensuring fair trade practices & taking into account developing country needs

• **Criteria applicable to general standards**
  - Diversity of national legislations - impediments to trade.
  - Scope of work
  - Work already undertaken by other international organizations
  - Amenability of subject to standardization
  - Global magnitude of problem
Criteria for establishment of work priorities

• Criteria applicable to commodity standards

  ➢ Volume of production & consumption & volume & pattern of trade

  ➢ Diversification of national legislations - impediments to trade.

  ➢ International or regional market potential.

  ➢ Amenability of the commodity to standardisation.

  ➢ Existing or proposed general standards.

  ➢ Number of commodities which would need separate standards

  ➢ Work already undertaken by other international organizations
EXERCISE

Which of the following reasons would justify the preparation of a new standard for food product “X” in Codex?

- The food product is traded in significant quantities at international level.
- Country considers “X” as the food product of important economic and cultural significance to their people, and want to ensure they can increase their export market.
- Many countries apply national standards to the trade of this product.
- A number of countries are concerned that there may be a risk to consumer health associated with product “X”.

Standard Setting Process (8 Step)

STEP 1: The Commission approve the new work

STEP 2: Drafting a proposed draft standard

STEP 3: Circulation of draft to member countries/ others interested for comments

STEP 4: Review of comments/ draft at committee level

STEP 5: Adoption as a draft standard by CAC

STEP 6: Circulation of a draft standard to governments

STEP 7: Consideration of a comments/ draft standard by relevant committee

STEP 8: Consideration of draft standard by CAC (through CCEXEC) and adoption of standard
Fast Track

• Accelerated Procedure – Final Adoption at Step 5
  – The Commission/committee identify at the new work proposal

• Step 5/8 – Skip Steps 6 and 7
  – A committee may propose when submission to CAC at Step 5
Codex Elaboration Process

Getting Started
- Initial Proposal
- Discussion paper
- Project Proposal

Critical Review
- Criteria & Priorities
- Proceed?
- Revised or Abandoned

Elaboration
- Consultation with Governments & Interested parties and Committee Debate

Approval & Adoption
- Mid-term review
- Endorsement*
- Final standard, Guideline etc.

* By General Committees

Effective contribution steps...

Committee level
- Executive Committee (Step 1)
- Committees & Task Force (Step 2,3,4,6,7)

COMMISSION (Step 1,5,8)
THANK YOU

Welcome Questions!