

**Summary about the
CODEX colloquium for the
Middle East and North Africa region**

For the consideration of the GFORSS Board of Directors

Meeting on Thursday 04/11/2021

Outline



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Introduction

A **3-day Codex Colloquium** for the Middle East and North Africa Region was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from **12 to 14 September, 2021**.

67 participants from **12 countries** were physically present and over **120** attended virtually

Organized by



UNIVERSITÉ
LAVAL

Faculty of Agriculture
and Food Sciences



With the partnership of

- The Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technologies of the UAE
- The National Codex Committee for the United Arab Emirates (NCC)
- Abu-Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA)
- The Dubai Municipality

Enhance Codex capacity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the:

- Development of communities of practice in targeted countries to facilitate effective preparation and contribution in Codex Technical Committees, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and the Executive Committee;
- Enhancement of national Codex capacities in countries of the MENA region;
- Development of enablers to Codex work, such as availability of data information sharing and coordination tools.

Objectives



Further develop the Codex communities of practice that were initiated in the region

1.Support the review of conclusions of major Codex Past Technical Committees namely: CCGP, CCCF, CCFICS, and CCRVDF, in preparation for participation at the next meetings and the Codex Alimentarius Commission Discussion

1.Prepare for upcoming Codex Technical Committee meetings: Codex Committee on Food Labelling CCFL, September 27-October 1, 2021

1.Prepare for the 44th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44), to be held November 8-13, 2021

Recommendations

- Support continuous investment in coordination efforts of Codex positions and the development of food standards that serve consumers' interests and the food production sector in the region.
 - The MENA Codex initiative will devote the needed resources to enable the realization of the Vision of the CCNEA Coordinator.

- Support continuous analysis of agenda items, prior to each Codex Committee. These documents will serve Codex delegations to have additional insights on the agenda items of key committees and to help prepare their national positions.
 - These analysis documents can be found through the Arabcodex.com / arabcodex.org webpages, hosted by GFORSS.

Recommendations

- Support various Codex Committees, horizontal but also Commodity committees, as they present high importance for the region.
 - Specific request from delegates of Morocco and Syria: develop a coordination of positions regarding the standard for olive oil and olive-pomace oil (CCFO27).
 - Another request to coordinate positions in preparation of the upcoming CCFL.

- Priority areas of investment to support Codex capacities in the region:
 - Further support to some Codex contact points in the region.
 - Ensure availability of data from the region and their timely submission to Codex.
 - Support capacity in risk assessment and risk analysis in the region

Recommendations

- Transcend coordination efforts to support an inclusive coordination that encompasses various Arab countries, some of which are not members of the CCNEA but members of CCAFRICA.
 - Additional vehicles of coordination through the Gulf Standardization Organization – GSO- (for countries members of the Gulf Cooperation Council) and through the Centre for Standardization of the Arab Industrial Development, Standardization and Mining Organization (AIDSMO).
- Regular planning of virtual meetings to help prepare for key Codex Committees as well as to discuss further progress.
 - A first meeting was held on Thursday September 23rd, 2021 as part of preparation to the 46th session of the CCFL.

Conclusion

- The Codex Colloquium for the MENA region organized in Dubai, UAE offered an opportunity to bring together Codex delegations from over 13 countries of the region.
- This initiative re-created a momentum of collaboration with the identification of key priorities for intervention at the national and regional level.
- The [MENA Codex](#) initiative will pursue the direction charted by the recommendations stemming from the Colloquium and will work with the CCNEA coordinator and other parties from the region to support the enhancement of Codex Capacities nationally and regionally.