



SECOND NORTH AMERICA SOUTH WEST PACIFIC CODEX COLLOQUIUM

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC MEMBERS

Supporting the Enhancement of Food Control Systems in the SWP Region

26 – 28 February 2024

Sofitel Fiji, Nadi, Fiji

Introduction

Discussions held during the side event organized on the margin of the 16th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP16) held in Fiji in 2023, preceded by the First Colloquium of Southwest Pacific Codex Members, identified a series of recommendations for action, to support the strengthening of Codex capacities in the region and to leverage such efforts in order to enhance the performance of food control systems and food regulatory programs in the South West Pacific.

Participants in these events recommended some possible immediate interventions:

- ❖ Structure participation in Codex committees between countries of the region, such that the charge to contribute to a given priority committee would be covered by one or two countries on behalf of all others, while ensuring sufficient coordination and information exchange. This would allow to have input in relevant agenda items that is reflective of the region's needs, environment and specificities.
- ❖ Consider creating pools of experts in various areas of food risk analysis, which may be called upon to support competent authorities in the region to prepare for Codex technical discussions and/or to adapt Codex standards in support of national / regional food regulatory decisions.
- ❖ Consider the creation of a network of food laboratories in the region, to stimulate experience-sharing and collaborative efforts of data generation. This network could be connected to the AOAC INTERNATIONAL, the reference organization in food analytical standardization.

- ❖ Consider alternative approaches for data collection, including data mining of published information in peer reviewed scientific literature, while ensuring the development of a sustainable repository for the data which could be in the form of individual / shared databases where such data would be stored and analyzed / used.
- ❖ Consider collaborative efforts in the prioritization of traditional / indigenous foods that can be candidates for the development of regional standards, with the identification of a pipeline for such products, with the relevant supportive research / data. The development of Codex regional standards for such products would help promote their marketability and availability in foreign markets.
- ❖ Develop synergies with capacity building programs funded through other initiatives and, in particular, the Codex Trust fund dedicated to countries of the region to maximize the impacts of the planned investments.

The newly created Codex Roundtable for the Southwest Pacific witnessed uneven participation from members of the Codex programs in the region but enabled some level of coordination and continued engagement in preparation for priority Codex Committees identified by members of the region.

The organization of a Second Codex Colloquium for the region aims to:

- ❖ Gather all representatives of Codex programs from the CCNASWP.
- ❖ Further mobilize representatives of Codex programs in the region and discuss opportunities to maintain and enhance their engagement in Codex standard setting processes.
- ❖ Better map roles and responsibilities of food competent authorities of the region.
- ❖ Enhance efforts of regional coordination in preparation for Codex processes.
- ❖ Deliver on select capacity building initiatives identified as a priority by food regulators of the region.
- ❖ Chart a plan forward for the Codex South West Pacific Initiative to be further leveraged in order to enhance the performance of food regulatory programs in the region.

A draft agenda of this colloquium is shared in this document for consultation with members of CCNASWP.

The agenda will be discussed at future meetings of the Codex Roundtable for the SWP, prior to its adoption by the region's Codex community, in preparation for the upcoming CCNASP Codex Colloquium.

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR DAY 1 • 26 FEBRUARY 2024

8.30 Registration

9.00 Official Opening, Introductory Remarks, and review of Colloquium's agenda and objectives.

- Representative(s) of the Government of Fiji
- FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and The South West Pacific
 - *Andrew Tukana, Coordinator for CCNASWP*
- Opening Remarks: representatives of the Codex Programs of Australia and New-Zealand
- Opening Remarks: representative(s) of the US Codex Office
- Codex Bureau: Chair and Vice Chair Person(s) of the Commission
 - *Steve Wearne, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission*
 - *Raj Rajesekar, Vice-Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission*

Order of introductory remarks to be determined based on Government of Fiji protocol requirements

9.20 Review of the Colloquium's Objectives and Agenda

- *Elisha Mala, Codex Contact Point of Fiji*

9.30 – 13.00 SESSION 1

REVIEWING MECHANISMS OF CODEX COORDINATION & COLLABORATION IN THE NASWP REGION

9.30 Review of the Outputs of the Survey on Codex Capacities and Impediments to Participate in Codex Proceedings, including Coordination Activities

Discuss a proposed approach for simplified self-evaluation of performance of food control systems and targeted food regulatory functions

10.00 Review of Outputs from the Questionnaire on Mapping Food Regulatory Responsibilities in the SWP

An online questionnaire shared earlier with Codex Contact Points (CCPs), will enable the mapping of roles and responsibilities for food competent authorities in North America and the South West Pacific.

CCPs will be asked to support filling the questionnaire. This session will help review the outputs – aiming for a regularly updated map of food competent authorities in the region, including key contact points for main food regulatory programs.

- *GForSS Team supported by members from the South-West Pacific Codex Team*

10.30 – 11.00 HEALTH BREAK

11.00 – 13.00 SESSION 2

REVIEWING MECHANISMS OF CODEX COORDINATION & COLLABORATION IN THE NASWP REGION

11.00 Discussing and Agreeing on a Formal Mechanism for the Development of CCNASWP Regional Positions to be Communicated by One Member on Behalf of the Region

- *Presenter and Moderator: Kenneth Lowery, US Codex Office*

11.45 Best Practices in Enhancing Regional Coordination under Codex

Facilitated brainstorming on avenues to stimulate participation in Codex activities and on effective regional coordination.

- *Moderator: Scott Mersch, Codex Australia*

12.30 Priority Committees for which Regional Positions may be Envisaged (2024 – 2025)

Facilitated Discussions

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH BREAK

14.00 – 16.30 SESSION 3

PROGRESSING ANALYTICAL METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND DATA COLLECTION IN SUPPORT OF CODEX STANDARDS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NASWP REGION

14.00 What's Next for Scopoletin, Kavalactone and Flavokavains Methods?

- *Richard Coghlan, National Measurement Institute, Australia*

15.00 Opportunity to Structure Food Laboratory Activity in the Region

Progress towards establishing the SWP Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL

- *James Roberts, NMI Australia and SWP AOAC*
- *George Joseph, Member of the Board of Directors, AOAC International – New Zealand*
- *Stewart Jones, Asia Pacific Food Analytical Network, APFAN*
- *Ulrich Diekmann, Pacific Island Forum, Quality Infrastructure Initiative*

15.30 Review of the Requirements of Data Input into the GEMS Food Program and Opportunities to Submit Data to GEMS Food from the Region

The Example of Scopoletin

16.30 Review of Day 1 Accomplishments

End of Day 1

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR DAY 2 • 27 FEBRUARY 2024

**9.00-12.30 SESSION 4
REGIONAL STANDARD DEVELOPMENT – PRIORITIES AND EARLY DELIVERABLES**

9.00 Codex Capacity Development

- Review of Requirements of Proposing New Work
- Data Required for the Development of a Project Document

10.00 Group Work – Developing Initial Drafts for Project Documents in Support of New Work to be Undertaken by CCNASWP

Review of important food safety and /or trade issues that are of interest to NASWP countries where Codex standards could offer a facilitation, including possible new work proposals on regional standards.

11.00 – 11.30 HEALTH BREAK

11.30 Presentation of Group Discussion Outputs

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH BREAK

**14.00 – 16.30 SESSION 5
RELIANCE ON CODEX STANDARDS TO DEVELOP NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL DECISIONS**

14.00 Introduction to Food Labelling Food Regulatory Principles Based on Codex

- *Samuel Godefroy, ULaval, GForSS*

14.30 Reviewing Codex Guidance on Managing Contaminants in Food (Lead from New-Zealand)

This presentation will enable to summarize the main Codex texts related to contaminants in food and will serve as a starting point to discuss adoption / adaptation of Codex standards at the national level.

15.00 Case Study – Adapting a Codex Standard on Contaminants in Food as a National Requirements

Introduction of the Case study

15.30 Group Work

Adapting a Codex Contaminant Standard to National Requirements – SWP Situation

16.30 End of Day 2

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR DAY 3 • 28 FEBRUARY 2024

9.00 Opportunities to Leverage Other Funding Sources for Codex and Food Control Enhancement Capacity Building

Possible presentation from the Codex Trust Fund / WHO / FAO

10.00 Reviewing Day 1 and 2 Accomplishments

10.30 Charting Future Directions for the South West Pacific Codex Initiative - Towards a Codex Activity Calendar for the Region

This activity will review the Codex agenda, identify areas of priority for the region and the way Codex Programs in the region intend to address these priorities.

11.00 – 11.30 HEALTH BREAK

**11.30 Identification of Side Events / Workshops/ Capacity Building Initiatives on the Margins of CCNASWP17
Discussing the Agenda for CCNASWP17**

12.00 Codex Strategic Plan 2025-2031

➤ **Moderators: Scott Mersch, Codex Australia and Mary Frances Lowe, US Codex Office**

- How would CCNASWP Contribute to its Delivery?
- Support to Addressing the CL Underway

An overview will be provided to stimulate conversation concerning upcoming regional discussions.

13.00 Workshop Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks

- *CCNASWP Coordinator*
- *Government of Fiji, Senior Representatives*
- *US Codex Office Representative*
- *Representatives Australia – New-Zealand Codex*
- *WHO/FAO Officials*
- *Heads of Delegations*

13.30 – 14.30 LUNCH BREAK

14.30 End of Day 3
