



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



THE THIRD CODEX AND FOOD REGULATORY FORUM FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC

Supporting the Enhancement of Food Control Systems in the SWP Region

29 – 31 March 2026 • Hilton Fiji, Nadi, Fiji

Introduction

The Third Codex and Food Regulatory Forum for North America and the South West Pacific will build on the collaboration to date under the North America and the South West Pacific Codex Colloquia, convened between sessions and in the margins of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP), and will support the implementation of outcomes of CCNASWP17.

Discussions at CCNASWP and previous colloquia have highlighted the importance of regional standard setting, sustained regional coordination, targeted capacity building, and practical mechanisms to support effective participation of countries of the South West Pacific in Codex standard-setting activities.

The Third Forum, funded by the Government of Australia and organized by the Global Food Regulatory Science Society (GFoRSS) in collaboration with the Codex programs of Canada, New-Zealand and the United States, is intended as a working forum designed to deliver tangible outputs aligned with the regional workplan and the regional priorities endorsed by members of CCNASWP during recent sessions and colloquia. In addition to enhancing regional coordination mechanisms, sessions will be targeted at:

- Drafting commodity standards identified as priorities by CCNASWP members – Galip Nut and Breadfruit flour (both approved as new work by CAC48), and kava (methods to be finalized) – providing an opportunity for focused technical exchanges, clarification of data needs, and pathways for progressing work, in line with agreed regional coordination mechanisms.
- Enhancing the contribution of Pacific Island Countries to FAO/WHO calls for data – in recognition of the critical role of regional data in ensuring that Codex standards adequately reflect regional food production, consumption patterns, and exposure scenarios.

In this way, the Forum seeks to enhance effective regional coordination and participation in Codex, support implementation of previously agreed actions, and contribute to the longer-term strengthening of food control systems.

Summary Outline of the Proposed Sessions

Day 1 – Sunday, 29 March 2026

Setting the Scene and Advancing CCNASWP Work Priorities

Session 1 – Opening and Strategic Framing

- Official opening and introductory remarks
- Review of the Forum objectives - Positioning of the Forum within the CCNASWP work plan and Codex calendar
- Recap of commitments and decisions adopted at the last CCNASWP session
- Discussion of upcoming Codex committees and regional coordination needs: review of relevant mechanism(s) for regional coordination for priority items

Session 2 – Parallel Working Sessions: Drafting CCNASWP Priority Work

Parallel technical working sessions focused on advancing CCNASWP priorities from CCNASWP17:

- Working Sessions A and B: Regional standards at Step 2/3
 - A: Advancing drafting work on regional standard for **galip nut**
 - B: Advancing drafting work on regional standard for **breadfruit flour**
- Working Session C: New work proposal related to underground cooking
 - Advancing drafting work on a project document for a potential guideline on the application of Codex Food Hygiene provision to **Underground Cooking practiced in the SWP**: Identification of supporting evidence, rationale, data gaps, and next steps

Day 2 – Monday, 30 March 2026

Consolidating Drafts, and Methods of analysis and sampling strategy

Session 3 – Continuation of Parallel Drafting Work (Morning)

- Continuation of drafting activities initiated on Day 1
- Refinement of working documents
- Alignment with Codex procedural requirements and CCNASWP priorities

Session 4 – Updating CCNASWP Regional Standards: Kava nobility (afternoon)

- Discussion of methodological development for the identification of Kava nobility

Day 3 – Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Reporting on drafts, Data for Codex, and Strengthening coordination and participation in Codex

Session 5 – Reporting on Drafting Progress

- Reporting from working sessions on the status of draft texts and working documents
- Identification of remaining gaps, responsibilities, and timelines
- Discussion on alignment with upcoming CCNASWP agenda items and Codex committee work

Session 6 – Data Generation and Use in Codex Proceedings

- Introduction to the role of data in Codex risk analysis and standard setting
- Practical applications related to contaminants in food
- Regional data needs for existing calls for data in CCCF/JECFA: exposure, occurrence, and analytical considerations
- Introduction to pathways for data submission and use in Codex scientific advice processes by PICs.
- Update on data collection and reporting on Scopoletin in Noni Juice

Session 7 – Towards CCNASWP18 – Review of accomplishments and Discussion of Next Steps (Afternoon)

- Review of Progress Achieved during the Forum and Discussion of Next Steps
- Preparation for CCNASWP18
- Evaluation of the Forum Accomplishments (Review Form shared)

Closing Session
