



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 informal meetings of member countries 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 and New-Zealand, 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 committee sessions and inter-session meetings. In addition to enhancing regional coordination mechanisms, the envisaged working 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), providing an opportunity for focused technical exchanges on analytical methods supporting the identification of Kava nobility, 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.

Proposed Agenda

Day 1 – Sunday, 29 March 2026

Setting the Scene and Advancing CCNASWP Work Priorities

Session 1 – Opening and Strategic Framing

9:00-9:30	Official Opening and Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scott Mersch, Codex Contact Point, Director Codex Program, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Government of Australia- CCNASWP Regional Coordinator, Cook Islands- Fiji Officials
9:30-9:45	Review of the Forum objectives - positioning of the Forum within the CCNASWP work plan and Codex calendar
9:45-10:00	Roundtable introduction of participants
10:00-10:30	Recap of commitments and decisions adopted at the last CCNASWP session
10:30-11:00	Health Break
11:00-12:30	Discussion of previous and upcoming Codex Committees and regional coordination needs: review of relevant mechanism(s) for regional coordination for priority items.
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break

Session 2 – Parallel Working Sessions: Drafting CCNASWP Priority Work

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

13:30-16:00	<u>Working Sessions A and B</u> : Regional standards at Step 2/3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A: Advancing drafting work on regional standard for Galip nut○ B: Advancing drafting work on regional standard for breadfruit flour
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Day 2 – Monday, 30 March 2026

Consolidating Drafts, and Methods of Analysis and Sampling Strategy

Session 3 – Continuation of Parallel Drafting Work

9:00-10:30 **Continuation of drafting activities:**
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.

10:30-11:00 **Health Break**

11:00-12:30 **Plenary Session: Update on Progress of Working Documents by Physical Groups**
Discussion of Alignment with Codex Procedural Requirements
Discussion of Next Steps: Initial Charting of Path Forward to CCNASWP18

12:30-13:30 **Lunch Break**

Session 4 – Updating CCNASWP Regional Standards: Kava nobility

Session Objectives

- Provide a practical, shared understanding of what has already been done in Codex on Kava methods.
- Clarify what remains unresolved and where the main gaps still sit.
- Show how related Pacific standards work connects to the Codex pathway.
- Help identify a practical way forward and the next coordination steps.

13:30-13:40 Opening and scene-setting
Scott Mersch, Codex Contact Point, Director Codex Program, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia

13:40-13:50 Overview of the broader initiative on Kava product standardization
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Government of Australia

13:50-14:30 Pacific Islands Forum Update
Update from Technical Committee 3 (TC3) PISC

- Update on the Standard Development
- Update on Analytical Method Development (NMI)

14:30-15:00 Q&A Session Moderated Discussion: Aiming for Practical Next Steps and Structured Collaborative Efforts - *Prof. Samuel Godefroy, GForSS*

15:00-15:30 **Health break**

15:30-16:00 Recap and Discussion of Day 3 Agenda

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

9:00-10:30 Reporting from working sessions on the status of draft texts and working documents

Identification of remaining gaps, responsibilities and timelines

Charting a Path Forward to CCNASWP18

10:30-11:00 Health Break

Session 6 – Data Generation and Use in Codex Proceedings

Session moderated by:

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, President IUFoST & GForSS / Dr. Amine Kassouf, Scientific Director GForSS

11:00-11:30 Introduction to the role of data in Codex risk analysis and standard setting

11:30-12:00 Practical applications related to contaminants in food – Maximum Levels Setting

12:00-12:30 Data needs for existing calls for data in CCCF/JECFA: occurrence data and analytical considerations

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

Session 6 – Data Generation and Use in Codex Proceedings (Cont.)

13:30-14:00 Introduction to pathways for data submission and use in Codex scientific advice processes by PICs

14:00-14:30 Update on the practical case of data collection and reporting on Scopoletin in Noni Juice

Current Efforts and Next Steps

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

14:30-15:30

- Review of Progress Achieved during the Forum and Discussion of Next Steps

- Preparation for CCNASWP18

- Evaluation of the Forum Accomplishments (Review Form shared)

15:30-16:00 Closing Session