



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



# THE THIRD CODEX AND FOOD REGULATORY FORUM

FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

*Supporting the Enhancement of Food Control Systems in the SWP Region*

**29 – 31 March 2026**

Hilton Hotel, Denarau Island, Nadi - Fiji

Global Food Regulatory Science Society  
(GFoRSS)



Opening Session



# WELCOME TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NASWP CODEX AND FOOD REGULATORY FORUM

- ❑ Builds on previous NASWP Codex Forums and CCNASWP sessions
- ❑ Supports implementation of outcomes from **CCNASWP17**
- ❑ Responds to identified regional needs for:
  - Stronger Coordination amongst Codex Programs
  - Enhanced Codex Capacity in
  - More Effective Participation in Codex





# OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

- This Forum is designed as a **working and delivery-oriented platform** to:
  - Advance agreed **CCNASWP-upon Priorities: Aligns with CCNASWP Work Priorities Adopted at CCNASWP17**
  - Support **Regional Standard-Setting Efforts**
  - Discuss and Work Towards Enhancing **Regional Coordination Mechanisms**
  - Enhance Participation of SWP countries in Codex Processes

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY  
JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC  
17th Session  
Nadi, Fiji  
3 – 7 February 2025  
REVISED REGIONAL WORK PLAN – PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW BY CCNASWP17  
*(Prepared by the Chair of the In-Session Working Group, Canada and the Codex Secretariat)*

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

 World Health Organization

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REP25/NASWP

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION  
48th Session  
10 - 14 November 2025

REPORT OF THE 17TH SESSION OF THE FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
FOR NORTH AMERICA AND THE SOUTH WEST PACIFIC  
Nadi, Fiji  
3 - 7 February 2025



# KEY AREAS OF WORK

## □ Priority Workstreams

- Drafting regional standards:
  - Galip nut
  - Breadfruit flour

## □ Advancing work on:

- Kava (methods & standards alignment)
- Underground cooking (new work proposal)





# IMPORTANCE OF DATA AND RELEVANCE OF THE REGION IN CODEX PROCEEDINGS

## □ A key focus of this Forum:

- Supporting PICs' contributions to:
  - FAO/WHO calls for data
  - Risk assessment processes: Understanding the derivation of Codex Standards for Contaminants in Food in Support of their Adoption or Adaptation in National Food Control Decisions

Ensuring Regional Realities are Reflected in Global Standards



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT

**We look forward to:**

**Productive discussions**

**Progress in Achieving Commitments Stemming from CCNASWP17**

**Concrete Outcomes for the Region**



# INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS





# REVIEWING COMMITMENTS FROM CCNASWP17

## Members in the NASWP region committed to:

### Advance **new regional standards**:

- Galip nut
- Breadfruit flour

### Progress **kava standard implementation** (refinement of SOP and methods)

### Support **global standard-setting initiatives** (e.g. fresh turmeric)

### Strengthen **regional coordination**, including:

- Development of **common positions**
- Use of the Codex electronic platform

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# INSTITUTIONAL & SYSTEM-LEVEL COMMITMENTS

## **Commitments to strengthen systems and participation:**

- Implement the **Regional Work Plan 2025–2026**
- Implement the **Regional Communications Work Plan 2025–2026**
- Enhance **engagement in Codex processes:**
  - Respond to Circular Letters
  - Participate in EWGs and committees
- Strengthen **national food control systems** and coordination mechanisms



# IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS (TECHNICAL & STANDARDS WORK)

## Short-term actions agreed:

- Submit refined **kava SOP** to CCMAS for endorsement
- Advance **drafting work** on:
  - Galip nut standard (EWG-led)
  - Breadfruit flour standard (EWG-led)
- Prepare revised proposal on:
  - **Underground cooking code of practice**
  - Continue **data generation efforts** (e.g. scopoletin, food safety data)



# NEXT STEPS (REGIONAL WORK PLAN 2025–2026)

## Planned regional actions:

- Strengthen **regional coordination mechanisms**:
  - Pilot **common positions**
  - Continue pre-Codex coordination meetings
- Enhance **data generation and submission** to support Codex work:
- Support **capacity building and participation** of PICs
- Promote **use and impact of Codex standards** at national level
- Maintain **regular regional dialogue and follow-up meetings**



# REGIONAL COMMUNICATION PLAN 2025-26

## Objectives:

- Strengthen **information flow and coordination** across the region
- Enhance **visibility of Codex work and impact** in NASWP countries

## Key Actions:

- Improve communication channels (incl. rapid tools such as regional groups)
- Share **regular updates, success stories, and country initiatives**
- Promote **Codex engagement and use of standards**
- Communicate progress of **Codex Trust Fund and capacity-building activities**

## Targets:

- Increased **timeliness and quality of regional communications**
- Regular **publication of regional news and updates**
- Broader **country participation in communication efforts**



# ENHANCE PRESENCE ON CODEX WEBSITE

## News from the region



### World Food Safety Day / FAO and Samoa Ministry of Health Celebrate

Apia, Samoa 11 June The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands held a two-day celebration of World Food Safety Day in collaboration with Ministry of Health of Samoa. Building on a shared commitment to food safety, FAO and the Government of Samoa held a workshop to assess enhance the Samoan national food safety system. "Through open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaboration, we can identify practical solutions and strategies to enhance our national framework. [...]"

📅 12 June 2025



### World Food Safety Day / Australian food science institute to hold "science in action" webinar

To mark World Food Safety Day, the Australian Institute for Food Science and Technology (AIFST) is holding a webinar on "Food Safety - Science in Action". The event will include an expert panel which will "unpack the science that safeguards our food and our future". Host: Deon Mahoney, AIFST Scientific Advisor Panelists: Victoria Wansink, ACT Health (Health Department of the Territory

Government of the Australian Capital Territory) Jasmine Lacis-Lee, Bureau Veritas and AsureQuality (BVAQ) food testing, inspection and certification service provider Martyn Kirk, Australian National University Craig Shadbolt, New South [...]

📅 06 June 2025



### CCNASWP17 / Indigenous foods dominate a productive regional meeting

The 17th meeting of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific (CCNASWP) has successfully concluded in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting discussed a range of food safety issues, new work proposals for regional standards, Codex strategic plans and nominated a new Coordinator. Food safety concerns under discussion that are relevant to the region included foodborne illnesses caused by microbiological pathogens, food fraud and adulteration, contaminants

in food from multiple sources, and food labelling and allergens. The region's [...]

📅 09 February 2025

