



FAO/WHO REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



**Organized in collaboration with the Governments
of Switzerland and Poland**

REPORT



**1st – 3rd October, 2007
Warsaw, Poland**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization would like to express their appreciation to the Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection of Poland and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health for their technical, organizational and financial support to this event. Gratitude is also extended to all members of the training team for their strong technical support and keen interest in this training course to strengthen Codex activities. In this regard, the release of experts from the Government of Sweden and The European Commission is appreciated.

Finally, thanks are given to all course participants for their active participation throughout the course. It is hoped to lead to further collaboration in the region and enhanced participation in standard setting activities within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The FAO/WHO Regional Workshop on Codex Alimentarius was held in Warsaw (Poland) from 1st - 3rd October 2007. The Training Seminar was jointly organized by the Governments of Switzerland (Swiss Federal Office in Switzerland) and Poland (The Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection and The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development). Significant financial support was provided through the FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Enhanced participation in Codex – funds earmarked by the Government of Switzerland for the European region. Travel arrangements for most delegates were organized by the Codex Trust Fund Secretariat in Geneva. The Training Seminar was attended by 42 delegates from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo (UNMIK), Latvia, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Turkey, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The trainers were Ms Mary Kenny (FAO) and Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Swiss Federal Office of Public Health), Eva Rolfsdotter Lonberg (Codex Contact Point for Sweden), Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission), and Marta Sobieraj (Senior Specialist of Codex Contact Point in Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection, Poland).

The list of participants is attached in Annex 1 and members of the training team are included in Annex 2.

2. OPENING ADDRESS

The FAO/WHO Regional Workshop on Codex Alimentarius was officially opened by Ms. Monika Rzepecka (The Chief Inspector of Agricultural and Food Quality, Codex Contact Point for Poland). She welcomed participants of the training seminar and addressed the participants by referring to the role of Codex standards as a base for national standards with the purpose of strengthening consumer protection and facilitating fair practices in the food trade.

Thereafter, Mr. Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski (Undersecretary of State of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland) warmly welcomed all participants of the seminar on behalf of Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and underlined the importance of good quality and safe foods on international markets.

Ms. Awilo Ochieng Pernet representative from the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health extended gratitude to the Polish government for co-operation during

preparing the seminar and expressed that it is our duty to achieve safe and nutritious food.

Ms. Paulina Miskiewicz (Head of WHO Country Office in Poland) underlined that food safety programmes are focused on minimizing health threats through the realization of the strategy “farm to fork”.

Ms. Mary Kenny representative from FAO welcomed participants to Warsaw and emphasized the importance of the 1st Regional Workshop in Warsaw as an introduction to the 26th Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordination Committee for Europe which will be held from 7th to 10th October 2008 in Warsaw (Poland).

3. TRAINING COURSE DESCRIPTION

The training course included a number of training sessions combined with practical exercises and working group sessions. The final agenda is attached in Annex 3.

Training sessions focused mainly on increasing knowledge in the following aspects:

- 1) Structure, organization and procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,
- 2) Establishing national Codex programmes including posters sessions.
- 3) Practical issues related to the work of Codex including a Mock Codex Session.

Workshop materials were based on the FAO/WHO training package “Enhancing participation in Codex activities” which is available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/capacity_codex_en.stm.

Additional training sessions were focused on the European Community relationship with Codex and EC Acquis, considerations for the next FAO/WHO Regional Coordination Committee for Europe (CCEURO), FAO/WHO Trust Fund, the FAO/WHO programme on the provision of scientific advice. In addition, delegates shared their experiences in working and understanding codex documents, and successful components and lessons learned in establishing national Codex programmes.

Practical exercises and working group sessions included prioritization of Codex Committees; topics for discussion for CCEURO; drafting national positions on a Codex standard; preparation of national action plans; the Mock Codex Session and Posters on the Status of Codex Program (prepared by individual delegates).

All materials for this workshop are available in Russian and English language at www.codexeurope.ch.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE

As an introduction to the training course, the objectives were outlined as follows:

- To raise awareness of the significance of country participation in the international standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,
- To increase the understanding of the structures and procedures of the Codex Alimentarius Commission,
- To describe the issues to consider and plan for when establishing a national Codex framework to facilitate active involvement in Codex,
- To discuss the use of Codex standards in national food quality and safety programmes in the European context,
- To encourage efforts to continue to strengthen national Codex programmes through further information dissemination activities,
- To receive feed-back on challenges in the region and future capacity building needs on Codex-related activities.

5. PRESENTATIONS

The following topics were covered:

- What is Codex? Statutes of the CAC. How is Codex organized?
- Function of Codex Committees and role of the CCEURO.
- Importance of Codex to European Countries, the European Community as a member of Codex and relationship between EC acquis and Codex standards
- How Codex elaborates standards?
- Developing national positions/written comments.
- Review of the Agenda for the CCEURO and topical issues – linking to the process for call for written comments.
- Getting involved and/or strengthening an existing programme – the role of the CCP.
- Successful components and lessons learned in establishing national Codex programmes (Experience from Poland and Sweden).
- Forming national delegations.
- FAO/WHO Trust Fund for Participation in Codex.

All presentation are available at www.codexeurope.ch.

6. PRACTICAL EXERCISES

6.1 Review of TORs for selected Committees, review of relevant Agenda

Participants were divided into small groups (max. 5 person) and asked to review the TORs for each Committee (as outlined in Procedural Manual).

Each group had to review the agenda of the last session of CCEURO(CX/EURO 07/25/1) – and one other technical Committee (as distributed).

Technical Agendas to be reviewed –

1. 39th Session of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 30 October – 4 November 2007, New Delhi, India. CX/FH 07/39/1,
2. Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods derived from Biotechnology, Chiba, Japan, 24 – 28 September 2007. CX/FBT 07/7/1,
3. 15th Session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, 6 – 10 November 2006. CX/FICS 06/15/1,
4. 28th Session of Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, Beijing, China, 18 – 22 September 2007. CX/FFP 06/28/1,
5. 25th Session, 15-18 January 2007. CX/EURO/07.

6.2 Posters on the Status of Codex Program

Delegates from Armenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Slovak Republic, Serbia, Romania, Slovenia and Poland presented posters about Codex Programmes in their respective countries. All posters are available at www.codexeurope.ch.

Armenia

Representation of Armenia presented structure of Ministry of Agriculture and FAO Regional Project - „Food Safety Capacity Building” .

Czech Republic

Representation of Czech Republic presented structure of Codex Alimentarius Commission including General Subject Committees, Commodity Committees, Intergovernmental Task Forces, Regional Coordinating Committee.

Hungary

Representation of Hungary presented status of Codex Program including structure of National Codex organisation (National Codex Committee, Secretariat of the National Codex Committee, National Contact Point).

Macedonia

Representation of Macedonia presented Macedonian Codex for food including activities of Committee, rules passing procedure and governmental institutions.

Slovak Republic

Representation of Slovak Republic presented structure of National Codex Point in Slovak Republic.

Serbia

Representation of Serbia presented activities on Codex at a national level.

Romania

Representation of Romania presented institutes with competences in Codex Alimentarius, activities at national level, meetings attended by Romanian representatives.

Poland

Representation of Poland presented organisation of Polish governmental and nongovernmental bodies involved in codex works, how Codex Contact Point operates, Polish participation in Codex sessions (2004-2007).

Slovenia

Representation of Slovenia presented Codex Contact Point in Slovenia, ministries involved in cooperation with Codex Contact Point and stakeholders in Slovenia.

6.3 Preparing National Positions

In preparation for the mock Codex session, participants were divided into groups representing countries Yellow, Green, Blue, Red, White, Brown, Orange and Observers – Milk United and Consumers Eat Food to prepare their position on a specific topic. The issue selected was the draft Codex standard "Draft maximum level for aflatoxin M1 in milk" which proposes a maximum level for aflatoxin M1 in milk 0.5µg/kg. This topic was in fact discussed by the Codex Committee for Food Additives and Contaminants approximately 2001 - 2003 and the 56th Session of JECFA had provided toxicological guidance. Relevant working papers from Codex and JECFA reports were distributed to support the groups in this exercise.

Participants were divided into groups as follows:

- **COUNTRY YELLOW, COUNTRY GREEN, COUNTRY BLUE, COUNTRY RED, COUNTRY WHITE, COUNTRY BROWN**

Participants were in groups responsible for preparing country's position on the above draft standard to be presented by delegation attending the next session of the Codex Committee for Food Contaminants.

- **NGO – MILK UNITED**

The group represented an NGO with Observer status in Codex. They were responsible for preparing the position of the Organization on the above draft standard to be presented by their delegation attending the next session of the Codex Committee for Food Contaminants.

- **CONSUMERS EAT FOOD**

The group represented an NGO with Observer status in Codex. They were responsible for preparing the position of Organization on the above draft standard to be presented by delegation attending the next session of the Codex Committee for Food Contaminants.

- **COUNTRY ORANGE**

Members of the training team formed this country to encourage participants in discussion.

6.4 The Mock Codex Session

Participants took part in the Mock Codex Session which was based on attending the simulation of the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food. The Agenda of the Session is attached as CX 07/02/1 (Annex 5).

Key players in Role Play exercise:

- Chairperson – Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet
- Codex Secretariat – Ms Eva Lonsberg
- Host Country Secretariat – Ms Marzena Chacińska
- JECFA Secretariat – Ms Mary Kenny
- Rapporteur

- FAO (unable to attend)
- WHO(unable to attend)

During the mock session, all delegations made their interventions, and a draft report was prepared to document the main points of discussion and conclusions reached on this draft standard. Later in the workshop programme, time was allocated for reading and final adoption of the report. The draft report for training purposes is included in Annex 6.

6.5 Prioritizing Codex Committees important for my country

The purpose of this exercise was to identify two Codex Committees/Task Forces which would be of significance to country.

The participants were divided into eight groups similar to countries, each of which, working independently, identified two relevant committees. The groups had 30 minutes to discuss the issue, identify the committees along with a rationale as to why those committees are of particular significance to their country. Each group then presented their views in plenary.

Results are as follows:

Priority Committees identified by participants of Seminar as follows:

1. CAC, CCNMW
2. CCFFV, CCPR
3. CCFFV, CCPFV (CCPR, CCFICS)
4. CCFICS
5. CCPFV, TF-AMR
6. CCGP, CCFICS
7. CCFFP, CCFH
8. CCFFP, CCFH

7. FINAL COURSE EVALUATION

Participants were requested to complete an evaluation form to assist FAO/WHO and the training team in planning future training activities on Codex, and to identify other technical assistance needs in the region. The results of the evaluation are included in Annex 4.

8. FINAL CONCLUSION

The participants of the 1st Regional Training Seminar in Warsaw concluded that the Seminar was very useful and there is a strong need to organize such meetings more often and continue the regional activities to strengthen the representation and inputs during the Codex meetings.

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FINAL AGENDA

DAY 1 – 1 October 2007

09:00 – 09:45	Opening Ceremonies; Introductions; Outline of Seminar Objectives, Participant Expectations
Session 1:	Management and Operation of Codex
09:45 – 10:30	Presentation: What is Codex? Statutes of the CAC. How is Codex organized? (ref. module 2.1, 2.2) <i>- Mary Kenny, FAO</i>
10:30 – 11:00	REFRESHMENT BREAK
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation: Function of Codex Committees and role of the CCEURO (ref. module 2.5) <i>- Awilo Ochieng, Switzerland</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Practical Exercise: Review of TORs for selected Committees, review of relevant Agenda
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
Session 1 (contd.)	
14:00 – 14:30	Understanding Codex Documentation <i>- Eva Rolfsdotter Lonberg, Sweden</i>
Session 2:	Status of Codex in the European Region
14:30 – 15:15	Presentation: Importance of Codex to European Countries, the European Community as a member of Codex and relationship between EC <i>acquis</i> and Codex standards <i>- Eva Zamora Escribano, the European Commission</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Question and Answer Session
15:30 – 16:00	Practical: Posters on the Status of Codex Program. Review of posters prepared in advance by each country
16:00 – 16:15	REFRESHMENT BREAK

16:15 – 16:45 Information exchange – Question and Answer Session on the posters

16:45 – 17:00 Conclusions of the day

DAY 2 – 2 October 2007

Session 3: Submitting written comments to Codex

09:00 – 09:30 Presentation: How Codex elaborates standards?
(ref. module 2.6)
- Eva Zamora Escribano, the European Commission

09:30 – 10:00 Presentation: Developing national positions/written comments (ref. module 3.2)
- Awilo Ochieng, Switzerland

10:00 – 10:30 Practical Exercise: Preparing National Positions

10:30 – 10:45 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 – 12:00 Practical Exercise: Preparing National Position (contd.)

12:00 – 12:15 Codex Video

12:15 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

Session 4: Mock codex Session

14:00 – 14:15 Introduction to the Mock Codex Session – roles and responsibilities
- Mary Kenny, FAO

14:15 – 15:30 Practical Session – the Mock Codex Session

15:30 – 16:00 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

16:00 – 16:30 Practical Exercise: the Mock Codex Session

16:00 – 16:30 Question and Answer - lessons learned during mock Codex session

16:30 – 17:00 Review of the Agenda for the CCEURO and topical issues – linking to the process for call for written comments
- Mary Kenny, FAO

17:00 – 17:15 Wrap up of Day's Activities.

- *Awilo Ochieng, Switzerland*

DAY 3 – 3 October 2007

Session 5: Establishing a national Codex programme

09:00 – 09:45 Presentation: Getting involved and/or strengthening an existing programme – the role of the CCP. (ref. mod. 1.4, 1.3)
- *Eva Rolfsdotter Lonberg, Sweden*

09:45 – 10:30 Practical Exercise: Prioritising Codex Committees important for my country (including reporting back)

10:30 – 10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 – 11:15 Report back on priority committees

11:45 – 11:45 Presentation: Successful components and lessons learned in establishing national Codex programmes (Experience from Poland and Sweden)
- *Marta Sobieraj, Poland*
- *Eva Rolfsdotter Lonberg, Sweden*

11:45 – 12:15 Distribution of the report of the 2nd Session of the Codex Committee for Contaminants in Food

12:15 – 13:30 LUNCH

Session 6: Strengthening National Activities

13:30 – 14:15 Practical Session – Adoption of the report

14:15 – 14:45 Presentation: Forming national delegations (ref. module 3.3)
- *Eva Zamora Escribano, the European Commission*

14:45 – 15:15 Presentation: FAO/WHO Trust fund for Participation in Codex
- *Mary Kenny, FAO*

15:15 – 15:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK

Session 7: Role of Codex standards (in form of a Round Table)

15:30 – 16:00 Short verbal comments on 1. science base for Codex Standards (*M. Kenny*) , 2. Codex and WTO (*Eva Rolfsdotter Lonberg*), Risk Analysis

and Codex; the EC organization during Codex Sessions (*Eva Zamora
Escribano*)

16:00 – 16:15 Workshop Evaluation

16:15 – 16:45 Closing and Presentation of Certificates

**FAO/WHO Regional Training Seminar
on Codex Alimentarius,
1st-3rd October, 2007
Warsaw, Poland**

25 completed evaluations were received.
35 people participated in the course.

Note: Not all sections were completed in all the evaluation forms.

Please tick the appropriate box:

X

1. Have the objectives of the course been achieved?

Very good +++	Good ++	Average +	Poor -
80% (20)	20% (5)		

2. What is your overall appraisal of the duration of the course?

Too short	Appropriate	Too long
	100% (25)	

3. Your overall appraisal of the quality of the materials presented?

Very good +++	Good ++	Average +	Poor -
48% (12)	48% (12)	4% (1)	

4. What is your overall appraisal of the organisation of the course?

Very good +++	Good ++	Average +	Poor -
64% (16)	36% (9)		

5. What additional materials would you like to receive to increase your understanding of Codex?

- ◆ The documents used in this seminar can be sent by internet or given in a CD or flash-disk. So, copying this material is much easier for each country.
- ◆ Codex Standards.
- ◆ Training material on CDs.
- ◆ Documents of Codex Alimentarius standards on CD
- ◆ Need more information material in all national language of participants.
- ◆ More material on cooperation with international organizations especially ISO.
- ◆ Information material on CD and DVD (video course).
- ◆ Nothing.
- ◆ Documents describing different structures of the Codex Contact Point.
- ◆ All the information on Codex Alimentarius seminars.
- ◆ New Codex Alimentarius Commission: Procedural Manual (7th Edition).
- ◆ There were not enough copies of the CAC Procedural Manual and Enhancing participation in Codex activities.
- ◆ I think that the material already distributed is enough.
- ◆ I appreciate that we have on the website a lot of information we need.
- ◆ I'd like the red book (Codex Alimentarius Commission – Procedural Manual).
- ◆ For my country it is preferable to receive any material in Russian language for better understanding and for saving time allocated for translation of the documents and materials.
- ◆ No Comment.
- ◆ No additional material needed.
- ◆ New Codex Alimentarius Commission – Procedural Manual with the changes that have been done in July 2007.

6. How could this course be improved in the future?

- ◆ All was very good; I think that it can't be improved.
- ◆ Longer seminar will treat many different subjects.
- ◆ More discussions based on national activities and experiences.
- ◆ It was perfect, thank you!
- ◆ Practical examples about establishing the national position in CAC-presentation of an experienced country regarding the procedure on this issue.
- ◆ With written examples of national positions and written comments.
- ◆ All materials should be prepared in advance (presentations, list of participants...). The name tags should be in front of each participant.
- ◆ Material should be disbursed in advance.
- ◆ It could contain more information on activities at committees.
- ◆ It will be useful to have the name tags of the participants on the table for better communication.
- ◆ This course should be done every year. The experts from different countries should be taught as much as possible.
- ◆ By expending quantity of practical exercises for course participants
- ◆ Need more information material in all national language of participants.
- ◆ To spend more time in such seminars and seminar should be longer (10-15 days). There was a lot of information and it requires a lot of time to make it.
- ◆ To divided this course in to 2 groups:
 1. First group that include countries witch has national points of CA

2. And countries that don't have this. This would give opportunity to discuss questions/ issues that concern everybody.

7. What related additional topics could be included in the programme?

- ◆ An example for preparing a standard in regarding committee can be explained. I want to learn what is the discussion in step ... of standard.
- ◆ More information about Codex Alimentarius.
- ◆ Risk assessment and risk management.
- ◆ Information of other capacity building programmes and projects related to Codex.
- ◆ Nothing.
- ◆ The practical applicability of Codex achievements like: food category system, GFSA, etc...
- ◆ I think that there should be explanation given when committees or task forces communicate to COREPER, because I know that it happens sometimes.
- ◆ More information about how Codex Alimentarius interact with other bodies related with Codex Alimentarius issue.
- ◆ Topics on food safety management and establishment of food bodies, as well as distribution of functions among relevant stakeholders.
- ◆ Financial aspect of/for Codex, in general and as individual countries.
- ◆ More presentations for other documents.
- ◆ Cooperation with other programs OIE, WHO.
- ◆ Practical application of Codex Alimentarius standards in different countries
- ◆ Organisation and inspection results on the standards of Codex in National level and EU system.
- ◆ He wants to know the procedure of making new Codex Standards and modification of existing standards
- ◆ Scientific researches and grants.

8. What was the most useful aspect of this course?

- ◆ All lectures were very important.
- ◆ Practical exercises.
- ◆ Now I understand what has to be done in our country for strengthening the codex activities.
- ◆ The most useful aspect was practical exercises. I like them very much.
- ◆ It gives general overview on the topic. The practical exercises are very useful.
- ◆ Understanding Codex Alimentarius.
- ◆ How EC works on CA issues.
- ◆ Mock session was very useful and the explanation given by Eva from EC about competences of EC.
- ◆ A combination of lessons and exercises and contacts with different people (FAO, EC commission).
- ◆ I realize the importance and functioning of WHO/FAO related to Codex Alimentarius Commission. A lot of CC Points, on national basis, were present and it was important to meet and introduce people.
- ◆ Appropriate topics and contacts with proper person from institutions related to food safety.
- ◆ Training in groups.
- ◆ Presentation of the rules of EC participation in Codex work.
- ◆ Preparing national positions, mock Codex session, and adoption of the report.

- ◆ Codex documents and Codex meetings.
- ◆ Direct contact with representations from other countries.
- ◆ Exchange of information and experiences.
- ◆ The mock session is the most useful activity of the course. I learnt with the examples of the real session.
- ◆ Course program was optimal/perfect.
- ◆ All.
- ◆ Working groups.
- ◆ The Codex development Standards.

9. What was the least useful aspect of this course?

- ◆ Some subject was not necessary for me, such as about National food Codex Committee, because we already have a National Committee.
- ◆ Practical exercises. Prioritizing Codex Committees and review of TORs for selected committees. Review of a relevant agenda and practical rosters on the status of Codex programs.
- ◆ Analysis of TORs of different Committees.
- ◆ Reading about terms of reference, that was a little boring and I did not memorize anything.
- ◆ More meetings like this one.
- ◆ No least useful aspect.
- ◆ It's too difficult to say, because all was useful for me and my country.
- ◆ Work in small groups took too much time. Preparation of working groups could be left after 17.

10. What are your views and suggestions on strengthening networking in the region on Codex activities?

- ◆ Closer cooperation between Food Safety Organizations.
- ◆ Maybe organizing more regional meetings of Contact points of the regions.
- ◆ Be more regional contacts.
- ◆ Establishment of regional version which will include CCPs from interested countries. Establishment of such body will help in exchange information with expertise and experiences from different countries.
- ◆ Such a workshop should be organized more often.
- ◆ Brochure including basics on CA, examples on CA programs and establishing a common regional position.
- ◆ More meetings like this one.
- ◆ We need more activities.
- ◆ I have no idea.
- ◆ More regional training, seminars, meetings and discussions in the region on Codex activities, distribution draft documents, opinions..
- ◆ More interactive work.
- ◆ I think that to meet in every country in the region will be so useful CCEURO is most important committee for EU countries.
- ◆ To organize similar course in different countries.
- ◆ To organize more active Codex Alimentarius work at national level with suppliers, consumers, research institutes and media.
- ◆ Communication in region can be improved by information exchange.

- ◆ CA could provide more active support to national points in country. To attend governments' attention to issues that CA concerns.

11. Based on existing challenges, please provide suggestions for future capacity building activities (at national or regional level) related to Codex

- ◆ More people can participate to the seminar. So, we trust fund should be provided for more participants from each country, because the money is the most important problem for participating to these seminars.
- ◆ We would like more capacity building activities for all stakeholders: industry, consumers, inspection, etc..
- ◆ At national level: yearly organized training seminar presenting Codex activities and achievements at regional level: regular meeting to exchange current experiences.
- ◆ Meetings were institutions (ministries, institutes) can realize importance of Codex.
- ◆ Right now I have no idea.
- ◆ Appointment of responsible for CA activities on CA activities in all region of the country. Regular meeting for them. Meetings at regional level between experts on specific issues (ex. meeting for contaminants experts, food additive, etc..).
- ◆ Profound familiarization with trend of different Codex Committees.
- ◆ To organize similar trainings at national level where representatives of Codex Alimentarius are present.
- ◆ It would be more effective to organize this course in national level as it would be cheaper and it would be no language problems.
- ◆ Different Universities from various should be involved in training activities. I would be happy to do it in my country. (S. Mielnychuk, Ukraine)

AGENDA OF THE MOCK CODEX SESSION

**2nd Codex Committee for Contaminants in Food, Warsaw, Poland,
2 October 2007**

**CX/CF 07/2/1
October 2007**

DRAFT AGENDA – for training purposes only.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Agenda item 1 | Adoption of the Agenda |
| Agenda item 2 | Appointment of Rapporteur |
| Agenda item 3 | Matters referred from other Committees |
| Agenda item 4 | Draft standards on the maximum limit for Aflatoxin M1 in milk |
| Agenda item 5 | Any other business and future work |
| Agenda item 6 | Date and place of next session |
| Agenda item 7 | Adoption of the report |

REPORT OF THE MOCK CODEX SESSION

**MOCK CODEX SESSION HELD DURING THE
FAO/WHO REGIONAL CODEX TRAINING
SEMINAR, Warsaw, Poland 1st-3rd October 2007**

**ALINORM 08/31/45
October 2007**

**2nd session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
Warsaw, Poland,
1st to 3rd October 2007**

DRAFT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. The Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) met in Warsaw, Poland from 1st to 3rd October 2007 at the kind invitation of the Government of Poland in cooperation with the Coordinator for Europe (Switzerland). The session was chaired by Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet (Switzerland) and attended by 40 delegates representing 7 Member countries and 2 Observer organisations. A complete list of participants is given in **APPENDIX 1** to this Report

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The session was opened by Mr Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland, Ministry of Agriculture, who welcomed the participants to Poland. He recalled the achievements of the Codex in protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda Item 1)

3. The delegation from Country Orange proposed to discuss the implementation of Codex Standards under Agenda Item 6 "Other business". However, this proposal was

not taken into account as the subject was not part of the CCCF mandate. Further, the Committee took note of the proposal made by the delegation from Country Yellow to hold the next CCCF session in their country.

4. The Committee adopted the Draft Agenda as the Agenda for its session without amendments.

APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEUR (Agenda Item 2)

5. The Committee appointed Mrs Simone from Country Brown to act as rapporteur for its session.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER COMMITTEES (Agenda Item 3)

6. The Committee was informed that the Codex Alimentarius Commission had adopted the Draft ML of 0.05 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk at its 28th session at Step 5. The draft standard was then submitted to governments and observers for comments at Step 6.

DRAFT MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR AFLATOXIN M1 IN MILK (Agenda Item 4)

7. The Chairperson informed the Committee that the Draft ML 0.5 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk would be examined by the Committee at Step 7. Several delegations expressed their support for the adoption of this ML whilst a few others expressed their strong opposition towards its adoption. They argued that the level of 0.05 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk would protect consumers' health better especially the most vulnerable group of infants and young children. Some delegations proposed that there should be no Aflatoxin M1 (0.00 µg/kg) in milk for infants and young children and therefore, two levels should be set, one at 0.05 µg/kg and one at 0.03 µg/kg for vulnerable groups.

8. The delegation from country Yellow, whilst opposing the Draft ML 0.5 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk, referred to the newly published data that they had submitted in view of the Committee session. These data concluded that the carcinogenic effects should lead to the setting of low levels. This view was supported by Country Brown which added that feed producers should apply Good Manufacturing Practices in order to reduce the levels of Aflatoxin B1 in animal feed thus leading to lower levels of Aflatoxin M1 in milk.

9. Country Blue expressed the concerns of the feed industry which has difficulties in keeping low levels of Aflatoxin B1 in feed and thus can not achieve the low level in milk. Therefore, they expressed strong support for 0.5 µg/kg. They however supported the setting of a lower ML of Aflatoxin M1 in milk for infants and young children.

10. Country White recalled the very long discussions that the Committee had had on the subject and expressed full support for the adoption of the Draft ML of 0.5 µg/kg Aflatoxin M1 in milk based on the JECFA evaluation.

11. Country Green expressed support for the adoption of the Draft ML of 0.5 µg/kg and stated that based on the large quantities of milk consumed by the Green people, this ML would be appropriate. However, they supported the setting of a different ML for infants and young children.

12. Country Red expressed their reservation on the adoption of the ML of 0.5 µg/kg in milk. Since Country Red produces a lot of milk, the high level could have a negative impact on trade. Further, in their opinion, a lower level could be easily achievable.

13. Country Orange argued that the ML of 0.5 µg/kg had been sent back several times to Step 6 and that there were no written comments submitted in reply to the CL. They did not support the proposal to set two different limits. The Chairperson clarified that data from Country Brown has been made available in all working languages well ahead of the session.

14. The delegation of White further requested JECFA for clarification on the issue.

15. JECFA representative explained that they had been requested to evaluate Aflatoxin M1 in milk based on all available data. The safety levels for infants and young children had also been included in this assessment. Finally, the international expert panel had concluded that the ML of 0.5 µg/kg was safe.

16. The Consumers Eat Food Observer organisation, which is an international organisation representing 25 countries, said that they did not agree with the proposed ML of 0.5 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk as this food is highly consumed by infants and children. They supported the ML of 0.05 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk.

17. The Observer from Milk United indicated that levels of Aflatoxin M1 in milk vary among different countries. This leads to barriers in international trade. They referred to the scientific opinion and supported the ML of 0.5 µg/kg as being safe.

18. JECFA representative asked the Committee to consider the proposal from yellow supported by some countries for two limits as it may be difficult to enforce and has traceability implications. JECFA in its evaluation, considered the vulnerable groups, based on all available data, should new data arise, JECFA is open to receive them.

19. CEF protect children and do not agree with JECFA. OIE has new multigenerational standard for testing, but it is impossible to separate the different kinds of milk and it will have negative impact on trade.

Yellow country again advised that new data is available. In view of this, they asked to hold the standard and present this new data to JECFA.

20. The Chair encouraged the Committee to make an effort to reach consensus in order to finalize this important standard.

21. Blue country supported yellow country to postpone and review the results in terms of analytical quality. It is impossible to give analytical results.

22. Yellow country stated that detection methods are available to analyze 1/100000 part of Aflatoxin in milk.

23. Due to the range of opinion and lack of consensus, the Chairperson proposed the setting up of a inter-session working group with participation open to all delegations. The host country secretariat offered interpretation services in all the Committees working languages. At the proposal of the Chair the European Commission accepted to chair the working group.

24. The chair of the Working Group reported the results of the working group and advised the Committee that the results are available in CRD 3.

25. The WG recommended that the Committee should forward the ML of 0.5 µg/kg of Aflatoxin M1 in milk to the Commission for adoption at Step 8 with the recommendation that JECFA would review Aflatoxin M1 in milk when new scientific data are provided by countries. The committee agreed to the recommendation of the WG.

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda Item 5)

26. No other business relevant to the work of CCCF was discussed.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (Agenda Item 6)

27. The offer of the Yellow country to host the next session is very much appreciated. Poland is prepared to help the Yellow country. The meeting will probably be held in October 2008. The Committee was advised that 10 -15 October is a great holiday in Yellow country. Please try to have it before 10 October. The chair on the request by orange country clarified why a committee meeting can be held in another country.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

APPENDIX II

DRAFT MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR AFLATOXIN M1 IN MILK (AT STEP 8)