



## FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund)

[www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/)



### ○ Codex Alimentarius–

#### The international food standards

The *Codex Alimentarius* (Latin for "food code") is a collection of international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice whose main purpose is to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade. The *Codex Alimentarius Commission* (CAC) is a joint intergovernmental body of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO, which encompasses 182 Member States, one member organization and over 200 observer organizations for civil society participation. The vast majority of food products traded internationally are covered by Codex standards, thus contributing to ensuring the safety of the global food supply and helping facilitate international food trade, which, in 2005, was worth about US\$ 700 billion.

### ○ The Codex Trust Fund

The FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex (Codex Trust Fund) was launched in 2003 by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to help developing countries and those with economies in transition to enhance their level of effective participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

### ○ Why participating in Codex is important

Participating in the Codex Alimentarius system results in a more inclusive, equitable and participatory global standard-setting body and a "triple-win" for countries who participate in and benefit

from Codex standards through:

- better protection of public health on both ends of the trade chain;
- enhanced trade opportunities;
- enhanced economic development, particularly for developing countries.

### ○ What the Trust Fund does

The Codex Trust Fund provides support to eligible countries to:

- prepare for and participate in Codex Committees and related meetings;
- participate in Codex training courses to enhance effective participation in Codex meetings;
- prepare and present scientific/technical positions and data related to the work of Codex.

### ○ How it works

- Codex Member States are eligible for support on the basis of their income and human development status.
- Applications must be submitted annually with levels of support dependent on contributions.

Countries move through different levels of Trust Fund support and must increasingly "match" the support received from the Trust Fund with support from national sources to sustain participation in Codex.



## ○ Improvements recorded in beneficiary countries

A survey among delegates from beneficiary countries showed:

- more active and pertinent participation in the development of international standards of importance to the country;
- modernization of food safety legislation and regulation;
- improvement in the quality and quantity of Codex activities;
- appreciation of the linkage between the health-related work of the CAC and the ability of countries to respond to food safety crises.

## ○ Results to date (October 2011)

- The Trust Fund has received some US\$ 11.9 million in contributions from 14 Codex Member States and one member organization.
- By the end of 2011 it is projected that 1590 participants from 132 countries will have been supported to attend Codex meetings, task forces and working groups, with the majority of support going to the least developed countries.
- 516 participants from countries in all Codex regions will have received Codex training to enhance their effective participation in Codex.

## ○ Current priorities and future directions

At the 34<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission the Codex Trust Fund made proposals to respond to the recommendations of the Mid-term Review which were adopted by Codex Member States. The Codex Trust Fund will implement the following in 2012 and 2013:

- **To ensure that eligible countries are able to sustain participation in Codex**, the CTF will support two years additional support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the country's two top priority Codex meetings.
- **To further strengthen effective participation in Codex**, the CTF will work with FAO/WHO and other relevant partners to design and deliver Codex capacity-building that emphasizes interaction, putting theory into practice, learning from and applying good practices in Codex activities.
- **To enhance technical and scientific input to Codex**, the CTF will provide increased support to: increasing the understanding of scientific data and information in the Codex process and increasing the data from developing countries that can be considered in the Codex such as in the area of mycotoxins in sorghum.

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