

CODEX TRUST FUND
PROJECT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
"BUILDING SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL CAPACITIES ON CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS

REPORT
TERMS OF REFERENCE
CONTACT COORDINATION UNIT FOR CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

20-NUR-SULTAN-21

INTRUDACTION

The Republic of Kazakhstan has been a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since 2003.

The Codex Contact Point has been based at the Sanitary and Epidemiological Control Committee of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan since 2003, as the authorized body to monitor food safety issues, including Codex Alimentarius issues.

The functions of the Codex Contact Point were performed by a member of the Sanitary and Epidemiological Control Committee of the Authorized Body, and limited to physical participation in the annual sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, with financial support from the Codex Trust Fund and, since 2010, with support from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development project "Project on Technology Transfer and Institutional Reform in Health Sector of Kazakhstan", Component F "Food Safety under Accession to WTO".

From 2010 to 2015, the Republic of Kazakhstan acted as the focal point for Component F "Food Security under WTO Accession" of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Project "Project on Technology Transfer and Institutional Reform in the Health Sector of the Republic of Kazakhstan". Cooperation with the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the FAO and WHO Regional Offices was established during this period. Kazakhstan actively participated in the work of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe, with the coordinating country at the time, the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

In 2016, the Republic of Kazakhstan together with the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee Coordinator for Europe, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, co-hosted the 30th session in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan. The Coordination Committee delegates unanimously nominated the Republic of Kazakhstan to the position of FAO/WHO Regional Coordinator for Europe at its 30th session.

In 2017, the Republic of Kazakhstan was confirmed as Regional Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe of the Codex Alimentarius Commission at the 40th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Kazakhstan will serve as Regional Coordinator for the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe until the end of the 45th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, presumably late 2022.

The Codex Alimentarius Group, made up of consultants contracted through a World Bank project, has now acted as the point of contact since 2017.

During the first term of the Regional Coordinator, the country has done a tremendous amount of work to improve the capacity on Codex Alimentarius issues in 10 post-Soviet countries, while the level of capacity on Codex Alimentarius issues in the country remains low.

Codex Alimentarius is known to play a key role in addressing Codex Alimentarius issues at national level by a Codex Contact Point or a dedicated unit designed to coordinate the activities of all concerned ministries and departments, food producers, consumers, working closely with FAO and WHO country/regional offices and the OIE to fulfil the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE FOCAL POINT OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS CO-ORDINATING UNIT

The establishment of a contact-coordinating unit for the Codex Alimentarius is planned based on the subordinate unit of the Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Codex Alimentarius Contact Point may consist of 2-3 experts with written and oral English language skills. All official correspondence by the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission shall be conducted only through the Codex Contact Point.

In order to comprehensively fulfil the arsenal of Codex Alimentarius tasks, terms of reference have been developed, which include the following provisions:

1. Regular receipt of Codex documents (standards, norms and regulations, guidelines and other advisory texts), emails from FAO, WHO, OIE, observer organizations, business operators, public associations from all over the world and at country level;
2. Study of Codex documents (standards, norms and regulations, guidelines and other advisory texts), emails from FAO, WHO, OIE, observer organizations, business operators, public associations from around the world;
3. Initiation of appropriate action to enforce all correspondence received (ensuring that all interested parties are dispatched);
4. Provide feedback on Codex documents or proposals to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, its subsidiary bodies and/or the Secretariat;
5. Working closely with the Codex Alimentarius Interagency Coordination Council of the Committee of Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the MH RK
6. Develop and maintain a digital library of all Codex documents;
7. Timely registration of members of the country delegation for sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its relevant Committees;
8. Timely response to enquiries from Codex Secretariat, FAO, WHO, OIE Regional Offices (news section, training);
9. Regularly update the webpage information on the existing website to promote Codex Alimentarius activities in the country;
10. Provide technical assistance to the Coordination Council of the Committee of Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the MH RK on the implementation of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Interagency Coordination Council of the Coordination Council of the Committee of Sanitary and Epidemiological Control of the MH RK.
11. To work closely with all relevant ministries, agencies, entrepreneurs, academia, universities, etc. on Codex Alimentarius issues;
12. Ensure coordination of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Inter-Agency Coordination Council on the harmonization of EEC technical regulations with Codex Alimentarius requirements;
13. Strengthened cooperation with the FAO/WHO European Coordinating Committee for Europe of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO, WHO, CCEURO;
14. Coordination of food safety communication campaigns on 7 June - World Food Safety Day together with MH RK, MA RK, FAO, WHO, OIE country offices;
15. Carry out any other task as recommended by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan or the Inter-Agency Coordination Council on Codex Alimentarius.