



CCAFRICA

CALL FOR EXPERTS
Reply requested by: 6th July 2011

Dear CCAFRICA Member,

Ghana, the outgoing Coordinator for FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA), Cameroon the in-coming CCAFRICA Coordinator in collaboration with the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resource (AU-IBAR) are organizing an Expert meeting to review Food Hygiene documents to be discussed at the 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), to be held from 5 – 9 December 2011, in Miami, USA.

The proposed African Expert Meeting on Food Hygiene is being held with the view of formulating an African Position on the following Codex documents (at step 3 of the Codex procedure) to be discussed at the CCFH meeting:

1. Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food at step 3
2. Proposed Draft Revision of the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods at step 3
3. Guidelines for Control of specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis* at step 3
4. Annex on Melons to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetable at step 3
5. Review of Risk Analysis principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Applications :

CCAFRICA members are requested to submit curriculum vitae of their Experts. This should include a description of their educational background, work experience and a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to the subject matter indicated above. In addition all applicants should meet the following general criteria:

- ❖ Advanced University/College degree in microbiology, food technology, food science, epidemiology, public health or any other field relevant to the subject matter indicated above.
- ❖ Experience in microbiological evaluation of food safety/risk analysis.
- ❖ At least five years experience in relevant fields.
- ❖ Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, in particular, relevant publications within the most recent ten years
- ❖ Applicants should be persons involved actively in Codex activities at country or international level, who have good knowledge of and experience in participating in the Codex process and who are working to support food safety systems.

Travel and per diem expenses for selected experts will be supported by the AU/IBAR. All applications are to be sent through the respective Codex Contact Point in each country.

The CVs of applicants should be sent to the Codex Contact Point Ghana at codex@gsb.gov.gh and sefad@ug.edu.gh, with a copy to etoundjme@yahoo.fr and raphael.coly@au-ibar.org **by the deadline of 6th July 2011**. E-mail submission of CVs is preferred. Faxed CVs can be submitted if necessary to Codex Ghana on +233 302 50092 (specifying: [attention to Codex Ghana](#))

**AFRICAN CODEX EXPERTS MEETING ON CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD
HYGIENE IN PREPARATION FOR THE 43RD SESSION OF THE CODEX
COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE**

VENUE: NAIROBI, KENYA

DATES: 3 – 5 OCTOBER 2011

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Countries of the African region have expressed the need to meet and develop regional position papers on various Codex issues of relevance to the region before Codex sessions as pertains in other regional blocs of Codex.

Although the level of attendance of African countries in Codex Committees has increased over the years, the region still faces the challenge of effective participation in the work of Codex. This is due to inadequate use of science-based data in the development of comments submitted by Africa member countries in response to Codex draft standards. This problem is largely attributable to the low involvement of African scientists in Codex activities, lack of adequate data and lack of food risk assessment bodies in most CCAFRICA member countries.

One of the strategies to address this problem is the identification of African Scientists capable of reviewing key Codex draft standards of interest to the African region. The African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) therefore seek to coordinate the development of an African position on food safety standard-setting activities in Codex.

AU-IBAR is a specialized technical office of the African Union Commission (AUC) which provides leadership in capacity building for Africa by supporting and empowering African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

CCAFRICA is one of the Regional Coordinating Committees of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and is responsible for coordinating all food safety and related activities undertaken within the African Region. CCAFRICA is currently made up of 48 member countries.

The first Expert meeting on Food Hygiene was held in Nairobi, in October, 2010 resulting in the development of a regional position. This second Expert meeting is

scheduled for 3 - 5 October 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya, with the target group being African food safety experts in the area of food hygiene.

2.0 PREPARATORY TECHNICAL MEETING ON FOOD HYGIENE

The preparatory technical meeting on Food Hygiene is part of strategies to improve Africa's effective participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The 43rd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) is scheduled for Miami, United States of America, from 5 – 9 December 2011.

The preparatory meeting will result in the preparation of draft common positions with regard to the draft Codex standards on food hygiene that will be discussed during the 43rd Session of CCFH. The Regional position will be based on National positions submitted by CCAFRICA member countries. It is expected that Member countries will submit their National positions by 23rd September 2011 to facilitate the harmonization of positions. The outcome of the Expert meeting will be circulated to all CCAFRICA members through the National Codex Contact Points for the consideration of their delegates who will attend the 43rd Session of CCFH. The CCAFRICA Coordinator or his representative will organize side meetings in the margins of the 43rd Session of CCFH to discuss the African position and strategize for the meeting.

The agenda for the Expert meeting is as follows:

1. Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food at step 3
2. Proposed Draft Revision of the Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for Foods at step 3
3. Guidelines for Control of specific zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis* at step 3
4. Annex on Melons to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetable at step 3
5. Review of Risk Analysis principles and Procedures Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Experts selected for the meeting will be required to provide technical comments on the above-mentioned Codex draft standards taking into account national positions with the view of formulating a common position for Africa.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the meeting is to strengthen the interaction amongst Experts of the African region in the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene to ensure adequate preparation in response to proposals from the Codex committee on Food Hygiene.

3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To collate information in the region from Experts with the aim of proposing comments on CCFH draft documents and of developing regional positions on issues of interest to Africa.
2. To achieve effective participation of all countries in the Region in the activities of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

4.0 OUTCOMES

1. Science-based comments developed on the proposed draft CCFH documents.
2. Regional position reached on draft documents under discussion in CCFH as well as issues of interest to AUC Member States, which will be articulated at the 43rd Session of CCFH.
3. Collaborative effort of relevant stakeholders in the region in developing a common position which is acceptable to all members in the region.
4. Effective participation of all countries in the Region in CCFH.

Specific Objectives	Outcome	How the meeting will produce this outcome
To collate information in the region from Experts with the aim of proposing comments on CCFH draft papers and of developing regional positions on issues of interest to Africa	Science-based Regional positions on issues of interest to AUC Member States developed and well articulated	Drafting the common position by group of Experts is expected
To achieve effective participation of all countries in the Region in the activities of Codex Committee on food hygiene and to Codex Alimentarius Commission by sharing information with all countries.	Effective participation of all countries in the Region in CCFH	Developing Strategies for effective participation in the 43 rd Session of CCFH.