



CCAFRICA

CALL FOR EXPERTS
Reply requested by: 20th 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 Nutrition documents to be discussed at the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), to be held from 14 – 18 November 2011, in Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany.

The proposed African Expert Meeting on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses is being held with the view of formulating an African Position on the following Codex documents to be discussed at the CCNFSDU meeting:

1. Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987) at step 3
2. Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 8-1991) at step 3
3. Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases for General Population at step 3
4. New work on a New Part B for Underweight Children in the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981) at step 3
5. Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling as step 4
6. Discussion Paper for consideration of the revision of the Standard for Follow-up Formula (CODEX STAN 156-1987)

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 nutrition, microbiology, food technology, food science, epidemiology, public health or any other field relevant to the subject matter indicated above.
- ❖ At least five years experience in relevant fields.
- ❖ Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, in particular, relevant publications within the most recent ten years
- ❖ It is an added advantage if Applicants are involved actively in Codex activities at country or international level and 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 with a copy to etoundjme@yahoo.fr and raphael.coly@au-ibar.org **by the deadline of 20th July 2011**. E-mail submission of CVs is preferred. Faxed CVs can be submitted if necessary to Codex Ghana on +233 302 500092 ([specifying: attention to Codex Ghana](#))

**AFRICAN CODEX EXPERTS MEETING ON NUTRITION IN PREPARATION FOR THE
33RD SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE CODEX COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION
AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES,**

VENUE: NAIROBI, KENYA

DATES: 19 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

CONCEPT NOTE

1.0 BACKGROUND

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.

2.0 RATIONALE

Good nutrition is vital to meeting the increasing nutritional demands of a continent that is dependent on a labour intensive economy and to maintain the immune system for a good health. Malnutrition is one of the most important health and social challenges facing Africa and is also one of the leading causes of death among children under 5.

Africa now faces the challenge of the double burden of diet-related chronic diseases and the traditional nutritional deficiency disorders, such as Protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), micronutrient Disorders such as Iron Deficiency Anaemia, Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) and Vitamin A Deficiency.

In addition to these nutrition problems, the region has to grapple with diet-related chronic disease disorders such as diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases which impact largely on productive adult population. These conditions have increased dramatically as a result of changes in diet, life-style and rapid urbanization.

One way of tackling issues on nutrition is the development of nutrition standards. These standards can be used as the basis for management intervention against the nutrition burden in Africa. The Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses therefore presents a unique opportunity for African countries to contribute to the development of international standards on nutrition.

3.0 PREPARATORY TECHNICAL MEETING ON NUTRITION AND FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY USES

The preparatory technical meeting on Nutrition is part of strategies to improve Africa's effective participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and also address nutrition challenges facing the continent. The 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses is scheduled for Bad Soden am Taunus, Germany, from 14 – 18 November 2011.

The preparatory meeting on nutrition will result in the preparation of regional draft common positions with regard to the draft Codex standards on nutrition that will be discussed during the 33rd Session of CCFNSDU. 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 12th September 2011 to facilitate the harmonization of positions. The outcome of the Expert meeting will be circulated to all CCAFRICA members through their respective

National Codex Contact Points for the consideration of their delegates who will attend the 33rd Session of CCNFSDU. The CCAFRICA Coordinator or his representative will organize side meetings in the margins of the 33rd Session of CCNFSDU to discuss the African position and strategize for the meeting.

The agenda for the Expert meeting is as follows:

1. Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987) at step 3
2. Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children (CAC/GL 8-1991) at step 3
3. Proposed Draft Nutrient Reference Values (NRVs) for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases for General Population at step 3
4. New work on a New Part B for Underweight Children in the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants and Young Children (CODEX STAN 74-1981) at step 3
5. Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Reference Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling as step 4
6. Discussion Paper for consideration of the revision of the Standard for Follow-up Formula (CODEX STAN 156-1987)

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.

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

4.1 General Objective

The general objective of the meeting is to strengthen the interaction amongst Nutrition Experts and to ensure adequate preparation of delegates before Codex meetings.

4.2 Specific Objectives

1. To collate information in the region from Experts with the aim of proposing comments on CCNFSDU draft documents and 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 Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses

5.0 OUTCOMES

1. Science-based comments developed on the proposed draft CCNFSDU documents.
2. Regional position reached on draft documents under discussion in CCNFSDU as well as issues of interest to AUC Member States, which will be articulated at the 33rd Session of CCNFSDU.
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 member countries in the Region in CCNFSDU.

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 CCNFSDU draft papers and 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 Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses.	Effective participation of all countries in the Region in CCNFSDU	Developing Strategies for effective participation in the 33 rd Session of CCNFSDU.