



Codex Capacity Enhancement Workshop Towards a National Codex Strategy for Bangladesh

(An Initiative funded by the United States Department of Agriculture)

IMPORTANCE OF CODEX STANDARD SETTING PROCESSES AND IMPACTS ON THE FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM

24 -25 May 2023, Gangchil Hall, National Science and Technology Museum, Dhaka

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D. | Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada



Learning Objectives – Part One



OBJECTIVES



Introduce the need to International Standards



Introduce the make-up of the Codex Alimentarius Commission



The Importance of International Standards (Codex standards) in International Trade :

- Relationship to WTO agreements



Food Security – An Ongoing Challenge



Codex website

2 Trillion Dollars of Food traded internationally

2021

2050

By 2050 the World Population will reach an estimated 9.6 Billion individuals

UN report

World population prospects: the 2013 Revision – Highlights and advance tables, Working paper NO ESA/P/WP228, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, NY



A Multinational Loaf

Many food ingredients from a number of countries



INGREDIENTS: ENRICHED BLEACHED FLOUR (WHEAT FLOUR, MALTED BARLEY FLOUR, NIACIN, IRON, THIAMIN MONONITRATE (VITAMIN B1), RIBOFLAVIN (VITAMIN B2), FOLIC ACID), WATER, WHOLE GRAINS (WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR, BROWN RICE FLOUR (RICE FLOUR, RICE BRAN)), HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP, WHEY, WHEAT GLUTEN, YEAST, CELLULOSE. CONTAINS 2% OR LESS OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING: HONEY, CALCIUM SULFATE, VEGETABLE OIL (SOYBEAN AND/OR COTTONSEED OILS), SALT, BUTTER (CREAM, SALT), DOUGH CONDITIONERS (MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES, ETHOXYLATED MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES, ASCORBIC ACID, ENZYMES, AZODICARBONAMIDE), GUAR GUM, CALCIUM PROPIONATE (PRESERVATIVE), DISTILLED VINEGAR, YEAST NUTRIENTS (MONOCALCIUM PHOSPHATE, CALCIUM SULFATE, AMMONIUM SULFATE), CORN STARCH, NATURAL FLAVOR, BETA-CAROTENE (COLOR), VITAMIN D3, SOY LECITHIN, SOY FLOUR.

GUAR GUM
India



Guar gum is used to keep bread moist. This white powder is ground from guar plant seed pods primarily grown in India.

Source: Sara Lee

CALCIUM PROPIONATE
Netherlands



Calcium propionate is a mold inhibitor. This powdery preservative is manufactured in many countries.

HONEY
China, Vietnam, Brazil, Uruguay, India, Canada, Mexico, Argentina



Honey is increasingly used as a natural sweetener, and domestic supplies can fall short. It is produced by small-scale beekeepers, so Sara Lee purchases it from multiple countries to meet its needs.

FLOUR ENRICHMENTS
China



Flour enrichments are required to replenish the vitamins lost in the milling process. According to Sara Lee, the industry has consolidated, limiting its options for suppliers.

BETA-CAROTENE
Switzerland



Beta-carotene is added to provide a color to the bread and crust. This artificial coloring is available from many countries.

VITAMIN D3
China



Vitamin D3 is a supplement used to aid in calcium absorption. China is one of the leading suppliers of vitamins.

WHEAT GLUTEN
France, Poland, Russia, Netherlands, Australia



Wheat gluten is added to the bread to help keep its structure and shape. Sara Lee uses many suppliers to meet its needs.

Photograph by Tony Cenicola/The New York Times



Consumer Expectations

Vision



1. A safe, nutritious, high quality, abundant, affordable, and varied food supply

Mission



2. Governments operate effective food control systems

Values



3. Imported foods are produced to acceptable food standards comparable to domestic products



There is a Need ...for International Standards



International Standards : Leadership for Change

Served the international community for close to 6 decades:

- ▶ Leveling the playing field between nations
- ▶ Addressing emerging issues
- ▶ Supporting consumer protection and removing undue impediments to trade

Led the way in transforming food regulatory measures

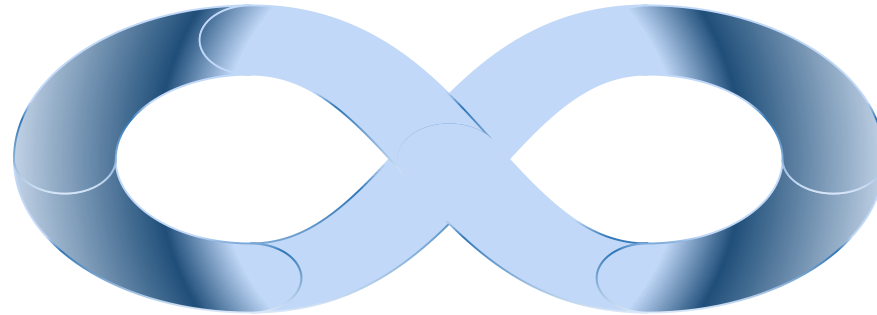
Developing and Adopting Risk Analysis Principles

❖ Leading role in :

- ▶ Allergen management
- ▶ GMO assessment
- ▶ Nutrition labeling requirements

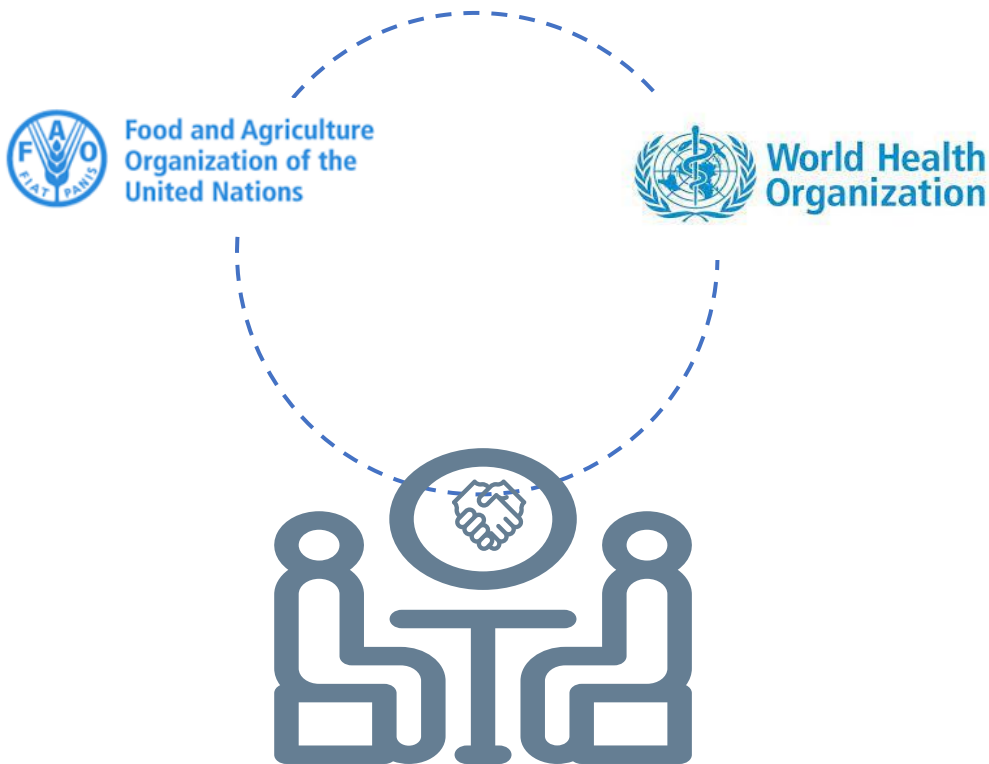
❖ Addressing Emerging issues :

- ▶ Assessment of radionuclides
- ▶ Addressing Melamine incident, etc

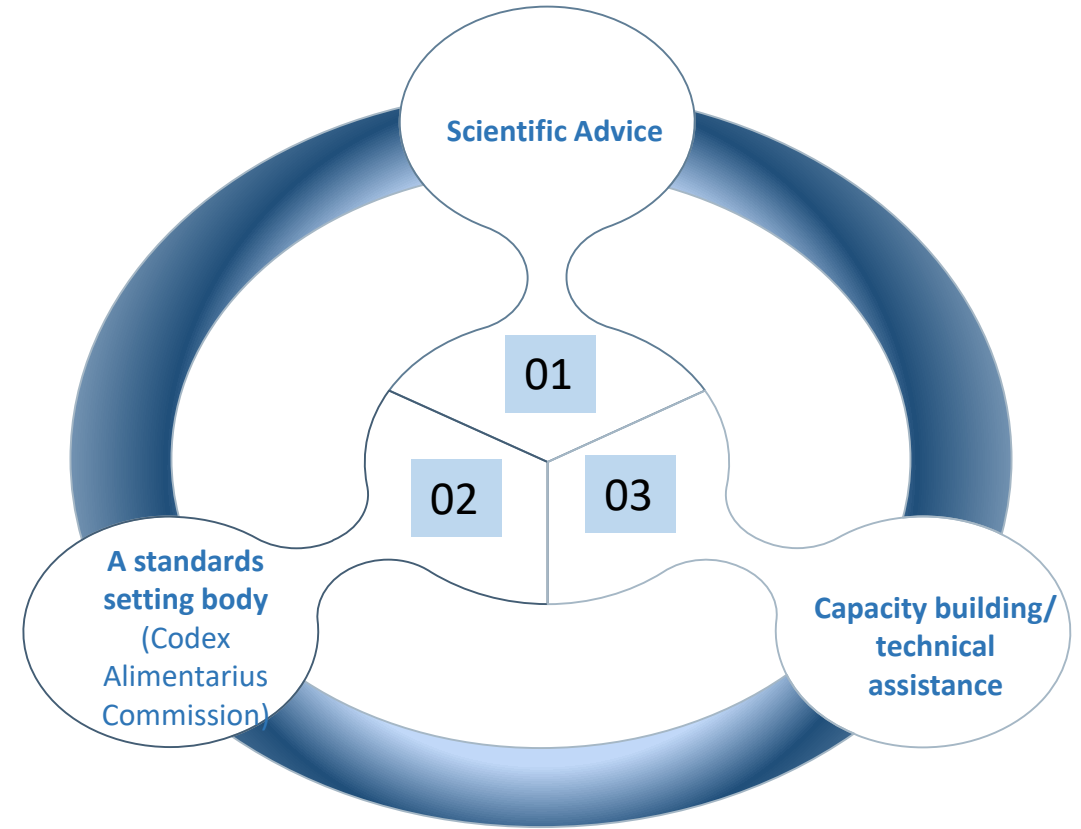


Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program

FAO and WHO collaborated to establish a joint food standards program



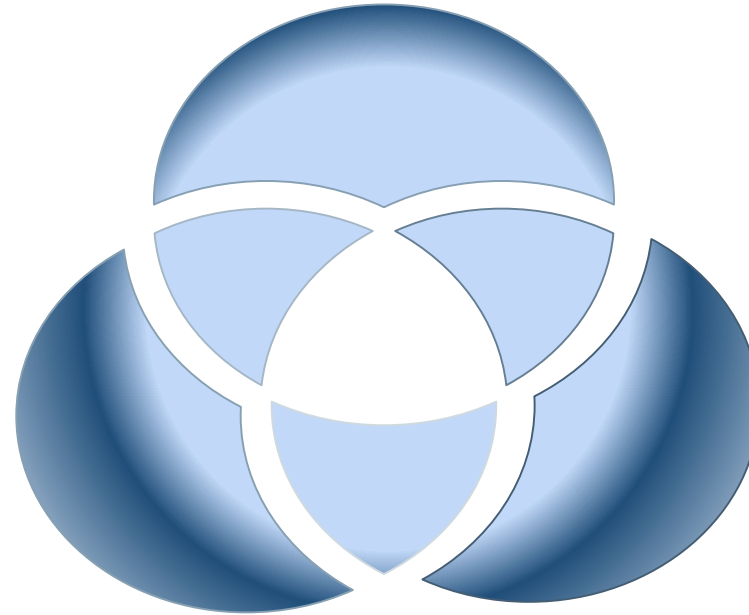
The program consists of three independent but complementary elements:



What is Codex?

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) is:

An intergovernmental body established in 1963



- Currently consists of : 189 members
- 188 member countries
 - one member organization (EU)

Members vs. Observers:

239 Observers -

- 59 IGOs,
- 164 NGOs,
- 16 UN



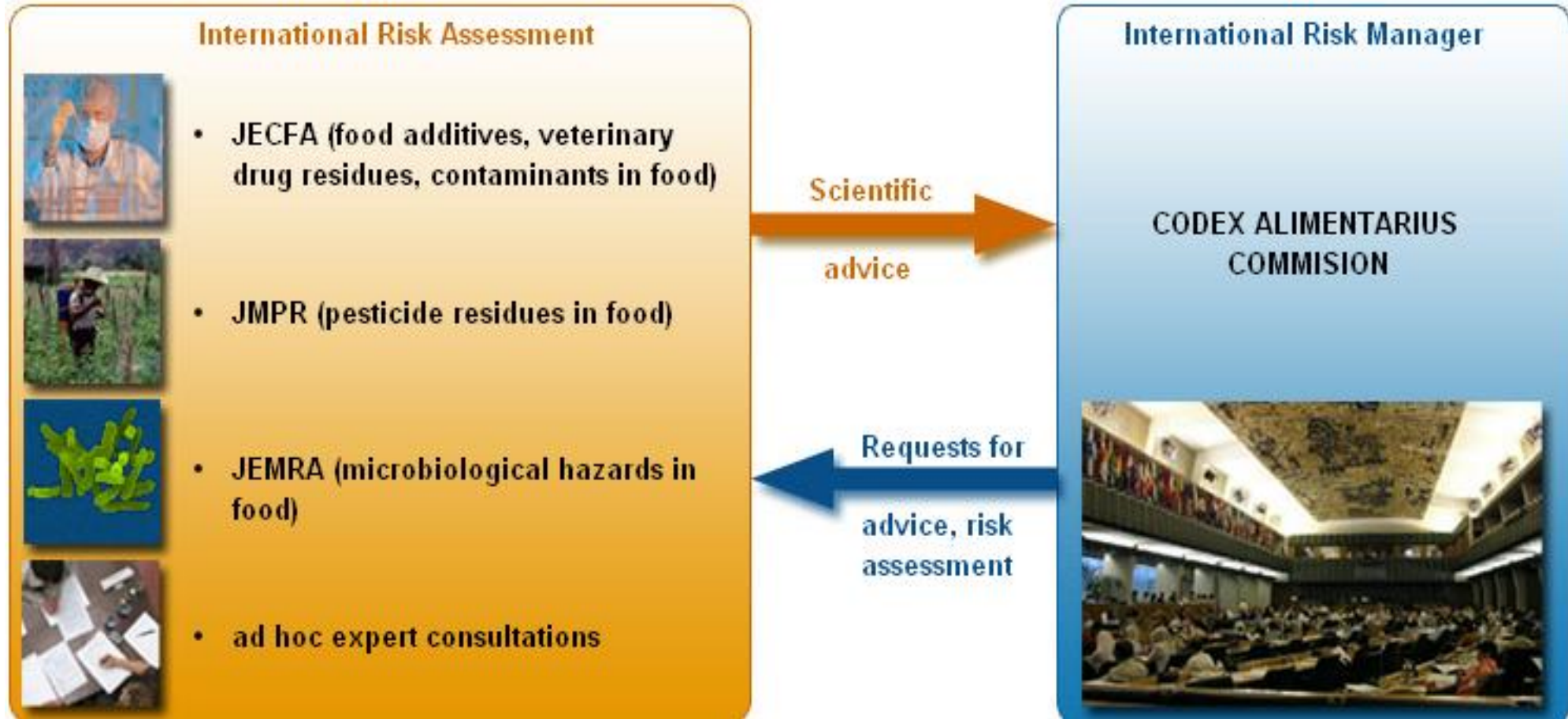
What Does Codex Do?

The Codex Alimentarius Commission is mandated to develop international food standards to :

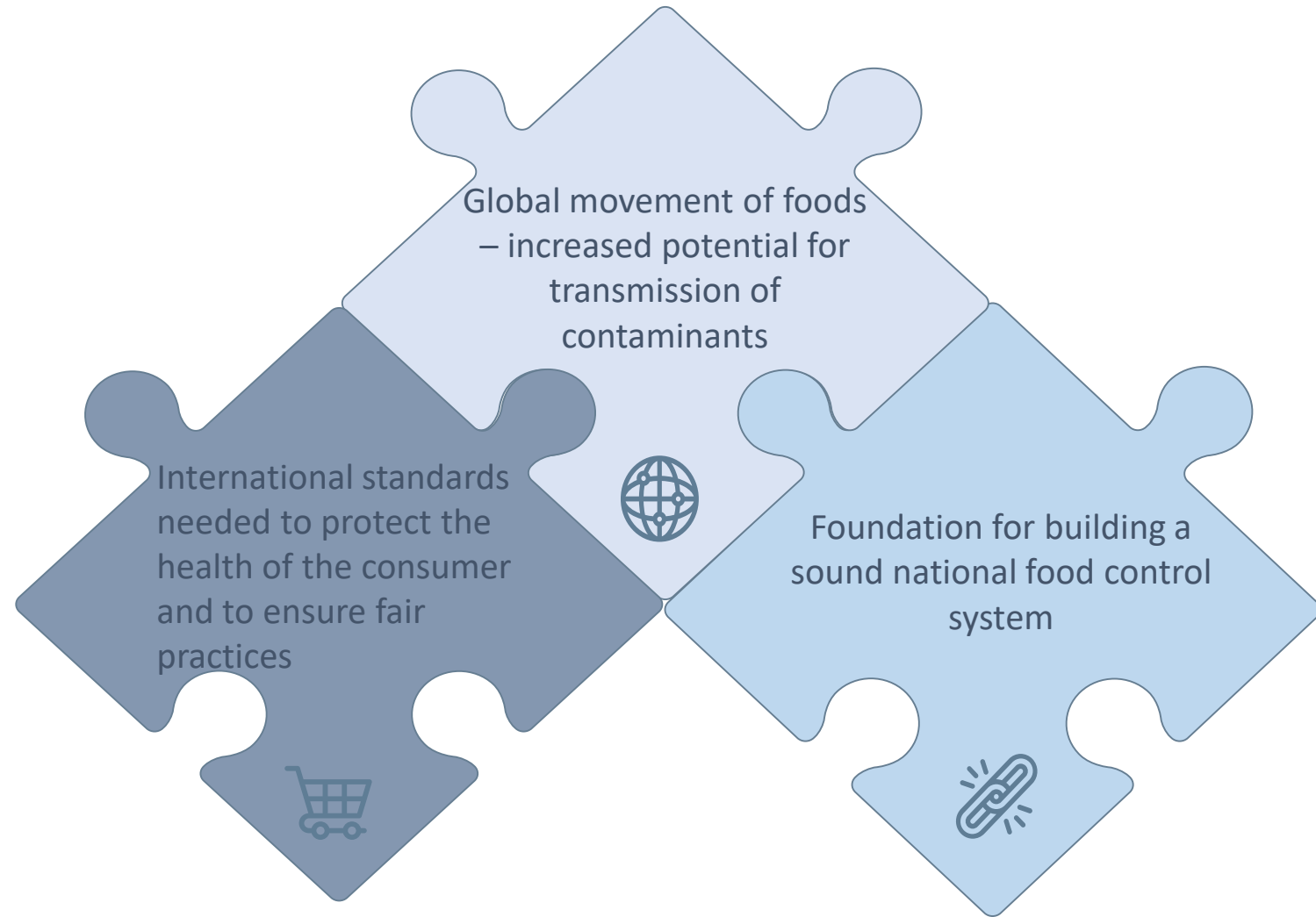
- Protect the health of consumers
- Ensure fair practices in the food trade
E.g.: Fraud, misinformation, misrepresentation

Coordinate all food standards work at the international level

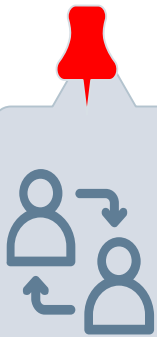




Why are Countries Involved?



Forum for Exchange of Information



Opportunities to exchange information/ share views/ appreciate challenges faced by developing countries



Opportunities to keep apprised of technological and regulatory/policy developments



Opportunities to influence development of standards

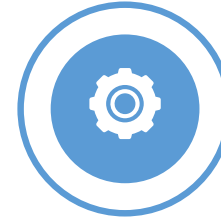


International Regulatory Framework



World Trade Organization (WTO) - International Court that judges trade disputes:

- Uses Codex standards to evaluate claims of disputing parties
- Use of Codex standards confers assumption of WTO compliance



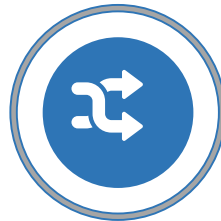
Countries have right to not use Codex standards; however,

- Non-Codex based regulation must be based on solid science and health risk assessment



If country fails to demonstrate this then

- WTO may conclude country's standard is arbitrary and likely a trade barrier intended to unfairly block imports from other countries



Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement & Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade

Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement)

Refers to technical regulations/conformity assessment procedures for protecting human safety and health

Applies widely (not just food)

Regulations falling under TBT aim to protect consumers through information (mainly labelling regulations when not related to food safety) and promote fair trade practices;

Regulations related to classification/essential composition quality factors to avoid deceptive practices

Under TBT, **Codex is not explicitly references**. More broadly "Standards developed by relevant organizations

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement (SPS Agreement) – Protects Human/Animal/Plant Health

SPS identifies Codex standards & guidelines as international benchmark

Measures taken by countries that **"conform to" Codex standards are "presumed" to be consistent with SPS obligations;**

Members are strongly encouraged to base their national measures on international standards (where they exist);

Members invited to participate in relevant **International standard Setting Bodies (ISSBs)** to the greatest extent possible.

TBT Key linkages to Codex

SPS Key linkages to Codex



Codex Capacity Enhancement Workshop Towards a National Codex Strategy for Bangladesh

(An Initiative funded by the United States Department of Agriculture)

CODEX STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES

24 -25 May 2023, Gangchil Hall, National Science and Technology Museum, Dhaka

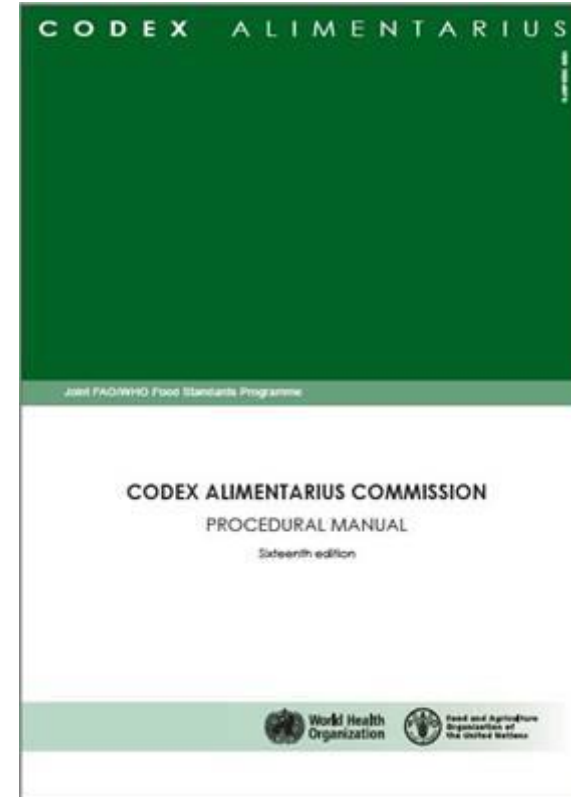
Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D. | Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada



Codex Procedural Manual

The **Codex Procedural Manual** is one of the most important Codex documents as it contains:

- the **Statutes** of the Commission;
- the **Rules of Procedure**; and
- additional **procedural information** relevant to how the Commission and its subsidiary bodies function.



Statutes of the Codex

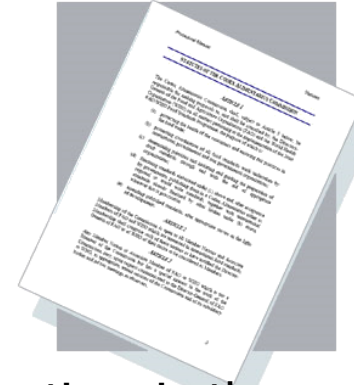
The **Statutes** of the Codex Alimentarius Commission:



- provide the **legal basis** for the Commission's work;
- provide its **mandate** or terms of reference;
- describe the **formal operating procedures**; and
- reflect the **concepts** behind and **reasons** for the establishment of Codex.

Codex Mandate

Article 1 – Mandate



- (a) Protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.
- (b) Coordinating all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- (c) Determining priorities and initiating and guiding the preparation of draft standards.
- (d) Finalizing standards and publishing them in a Codex Alimentarius either as regional or worldwide standards.
- (e) Amending published standards, after appropriate survey in the light of developments.



Main Organizational Structure

The Codex Alimentarius Commission consists of the following main organizational elements:



- **Commission;**
- **Executive Committee;**
- **Codex Secretariat;**
- **Codex subsidiary bodies.**

The Commission

The Commission (CAC) is the **decision-making body** of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.



The commission consists of:

- member governments; and
- international government and non-government organizations which have official observer status with the Commission.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission meets annually.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the Commission (CCEXEC) acts as the **executive organ** of the Commission.



The executive officers include:

- a **chairperson**; and
- **three vice-chairpersons** elected among the delegates of the Members of the Commission.

The CCEXEC meets between Commission sessions.

The Executive Committee

The CCEXEC is **geographically balanced**, with one member country elected from each of these regions:

- Africa;
- Asia;
- Europe;
- Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Near East;
- North America;
- The Southwest Pacific.

The **Regional Coordinators** for the regions are also Members of the Executive Committee.

The CCEXEC is chaired by the **Chairperson of the CAC**.

The **total membership** of the CCEXEC is 17.



The Secretariat



The Codex Secretariat assists the CAC in the **implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme**, reporting to the Director-Generals of FAO and WHO.

The Secretariat is located at FAO headquarters in Rome.



Subsidiary Bodies

The Commission is empowered to establish four kinds of subsidiary bodies:

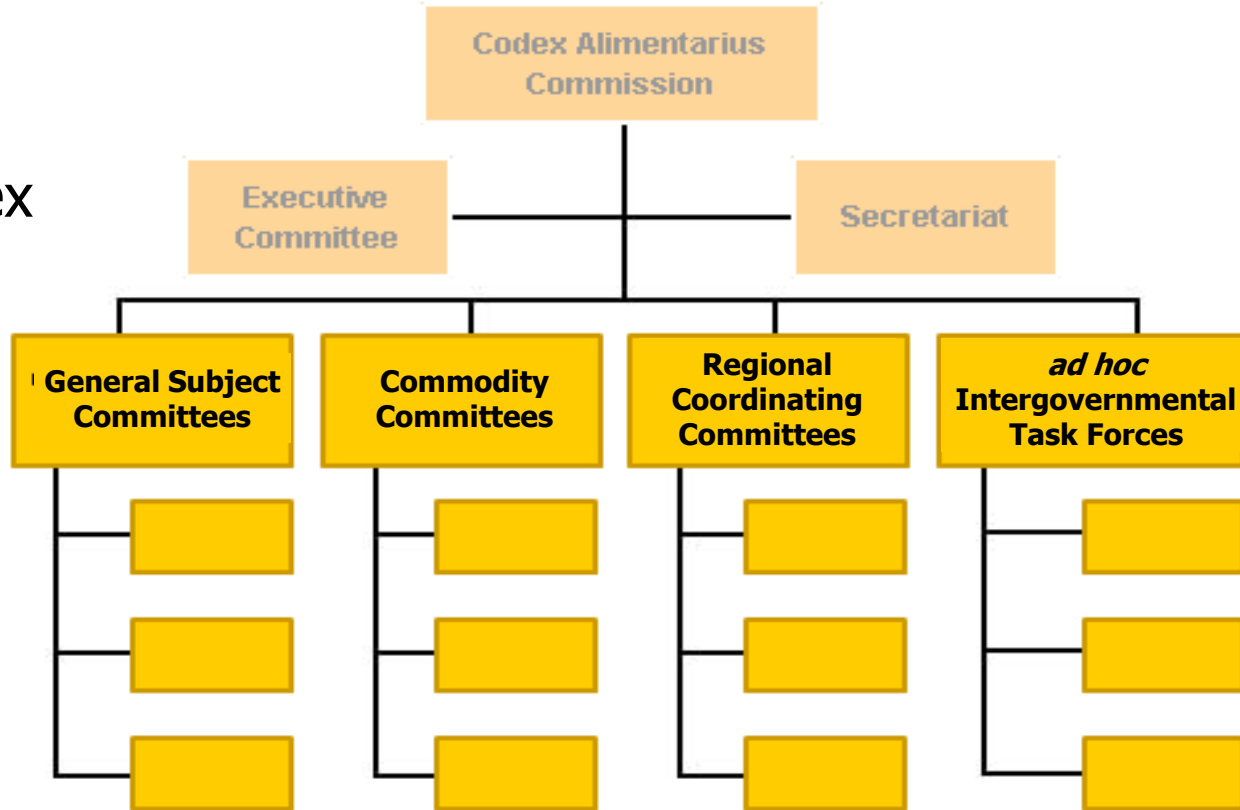
1. General Subject Committees
2. Commodity Committees
3. FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees
4. Ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces

Each committee is hosted by a member country, which is responsible for the cost of its maintenance and administration.



Codex Operations: Structure

- the function of Codex subsidiary bodies;
- the provision of guidance on how meetings are conducted.



General Subject Committees

1. Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)

2. Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)

3. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)

4. Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

5. Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)



General Subject Committees (2)

6. Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)

7. Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)

8. Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)

9. Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

10. Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)



Functions of General Subject Committees

- develop all-embracing concepts and principles applying to foods in general, specific foods or groups of foods
- endorse or review relevant provisions in Codex commodity standards
- develop major recommendations pertaining to the health and safety of consumers

The CCGP is responsible for dealing with procedural and general matters of the Commission.



Commodity Committees

1. Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)
2. Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)
3. Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)
4. Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP)
5. Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)



Commodity Committees (2)

6. Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL)

7. Codex Committee on Cocoa Products and Chocolate (CCCPC)

8. Codex Committee on Natural Mineral Waters (CCNMW)

9. Codex Committee on Sugars (CCS)

10. Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins (CCVP)

11. Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (CCMH)



FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committees

There are six coordinating committees, i.e. one each for the following regions:

- Africa (CCAFRICA)
- Asia(CCASIA)
- Europe (CCEURO)
- Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC)
- Near East (CCNEA)
- North America and the Southwest Pacific (CCNASWP)



FAO/WHO Codex Coordinating Committees (2)

The host country for a Regional Coordinating Committee tends to rotate amongst the members of the region.



Host countries should have the capacity to provide logistic and administrative support necessary when organizing an international meeting.

Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force



Ad hoc intergovernmental task forces are established with a specific mandate and for a **limited period of time, not normally exceeding four years.**

As in the case of the horizontal and vertical committees, Codex task forces are **hosted by a member country.**



Codex Capacity Enhancement Workshop Towards a National Codex Strategy for Bangladesh

(An Initiative funded by the United States Department of Agriculture)

DISCUSSING PRIORITY COMMITTEES FOR BANGLADESH

24 -25 May 2023, Gangchil Hall, National Science and Technology Museum, Dhaka

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D. | Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada



Prioritizing / Determining Subsidiary Bodies to Attend

- What are the country's significant food safety/health issues?
- What are the issues most relevant to the consumer?
- What are the primary agrifood export industries contributing to the country's economy?
- What are the major agrifood imports?
- What are the agrifood priorities of most relevance to the domestic producers?
- Which Codex committees elaborate standards, guidelines or related texts pertaining to the areas identified above?
- What resources (e.g. time, money, etc.) are available to commit to the Codex programme?

Most developing countries and countries with small economies, **can't afford to participate in the work of all the Codex activities.**

Therefore, each country should **prioritize and focus** its resources to ensure that it is involved in discussing and developing standards of greatest national significance.



Prioritizing / Determining Subsidiary Bodies to Attend

- Which Codex Committees Help Address Food Regulatory Needs of Bangladesh ?

- Which Committees are Most Relevant to Bangladesh food / agri-food exports/imports

- What is the input/feed-back received from Industry / other Bangladeshi stakeholders

- What resources (e.g. time, money, etc.) are available to commit to the Codex Committee Participation

Discuss this in your respective Tables and Develop a Rationale for 5 Important Key Committees for Bangladesh, excluding the Commission, CCEXEC and CCASIA



