FAO/WHO PROJECT AND FUND FOR ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN CODEX

Summary project document

Total funding need: US$40 million
Project duration: 12 years
Estimated Starting Date: 4th Quarter 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex aims to support broader and more effective participation in the implementation of the Programme of Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), its committees and task forces. The main focus of the Project and Fund will be the low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Funds will be made available to enable these countries to both prepare for and participate in Codex Alimentarius Commission meetings, committee meetings and meetings of task forces. In association with such support, a small proportion of funds will also be used to enable countries to prepare and present scientific/technical positions and data related to the work of Codex.

The number of countries assisted to effectively participate in the work of Codex will be dependent upon the funds made available to the Fund by donors. However, it is hoped that approximately US$ 4.0 million per year will be available. This amount would cover the costs associated with sending a total of more than 600 participants annually from all eligible countries to Codex meetings, as well as providing some capacity building and training support directly related to such participation.

Clear criteria have been formulated which take into account the varying interests and objectives among donor and recipient countries. The criteria balance the need to assist all eligible countries while focusing on the low-income countries, while also ensuring that the right people are sent to the right meetings. Finally, it is envisaged that the Fund will reinforce collaborative national Codex structures and stakeholder participation in all recipient countries.

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1 Extracted from Project Document, June 2003. Full document available on request from FAO/WHO Consultative Group for the Trust Fund (vallanjonm@who.int).

2 A minimum threshold of US$500 000 is required in order to begin operations for the first year of the project.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The project shall be guided by an FAO/WHO Consultative Group for the Trust Fund consisting of senior FAO and WHO staff. Daily management of the Project and Fund shall be implemented by WHO following normal WHO procedures, and the daily administration will be conducted by WHO in accordance with WHO’s financial regulations.

IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

Immediate objectives

Immediate objective 1
Countries that are members of the CAC, but which are unable to effectively participate in the CAC and its committee/task force process because of the limited availability of government funds to support an ongoing presence in the continuing work of the Commission and its committees, will be assisted to initiate a programme of participation in Commission meetings and in the work of those committees/task forces addressing issues of priority health and economic concern to them.

Immediate objective 2
Countries that are members of the CAC, that have as yet to routinely develop and put forth national considerations in the Codex standard setting process, will be empowered to effectively prepare for and participate in the work of those committees addressing issues of priority health and economic concern to them.

Immediate objective 3
Countries that are members of the CAC, that have as yet to participate actively in the provision of scientific/technical data in support of the standard setting process, will be assisted to initiate a programme of scientific/technical participation in committees addressing issues of priority health and economic concern to them.

Outputs

Output I – Widening participation in Codex
The number of countries routinely providing delegations to CAC sessions and to its committees/task forces, that address issues of priority health and economic concern for their specific countries, will have increased.

Output II – Strengthening overall participation in Codex
The number of countries routinely developing and putting forth national considerations in the Codex standard setting process will have increased along with their participation in Codex committees/task forces.

Output III – Enhancing scientific/technical participation in Codex
The number of countries that are actively providing scientific/technical advice in support of the Codex standard setting process will have increased.
CRITERIA APPLIED IN SELECTING FUND RECIPIENTS

The following basic criteria would be used to establish whether a country is eligible for support according to one of the three output categories mentioned above. The distinction between the three categories would be made on the basis of the workplan mentioned below, which would be expected to differ with respect to the level of previous involvement of countries in Codex matters. Workplans submitted for consideration under outputs II and III, for example, would be expected to provide more details such as a rationale for specific requests and the existence of a consultative process with stakeholders.

The basic criteria for all countries:

1. The country is a Member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
2. The country has an identified Codex Contact Point.
3. A workplan is presented, which relates to one of the identified output groups mentioned above.
4. Coordination between governmental entities is demonstrated.
5. An additional criterion would be applied to requests for continued funding (on an annual basis), namely presentation of reports and evaluation of progress towards the objectives described in the workplan described in (3) above.

With respect to funding of activities designed to help countries to meet the basic criteria for participation, the only mandatory criterion would be its written request to FAO or WHO to become a Codex member country (in accordance with the requirements of the CAC) or its actual membership of Codex.

MATCHING FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

As recommended in the concept paper presented to the 51st Session of the Codex Executive Committee in 2002, and in accordance with paragraph 13 of its Terms of Reference, the Consultative Group puts forth the financial matching requirements for those countries meeting the criteria outlined above. Such a requirement is considered to be of critical importance, especially with regard to ensuring the sustainability of the Fund and of its outputs. Countries would be expected to cover all costs of participation after a set number of years, indicatively as follows:

(a) Low-income countries 8 years
(b) Lower middle-income countries 6 years
(c) Upper middle-income countries 4 years

A gradual increase in the financial participation of countries would take place according to a sliding scale established in consultation with the country on acceptance of a request for funding. It is expected that upper-middle-income countries would contribute a percentage of funds as soon as possible and certainly by the second year.

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