

The FAO, CODEX and OECD

West Africa Animal Biotechnology Workshop

July 23 - 25, 2018

Dakar, Senegal

Modupe Bamidele Adeyemo

Program Officer

NEPAD-ABNE



Food standards and trade go hand in hand in ensuring safe, nutritious and sufficient food for a growing world population (FAO/WTO, 2017)

- There are various international organizations involved in the elaboration of international food standards and trade obligations.
- They include but not limited to:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - World Health Organization (WHO)
 - Codex Alimentarius Commission
 - Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

- Established in 1945 as a specialized UN agency to lead international efforts to defeat hunger

An
intergovernmental
organization



194 Member Nations

2 Associate members

1 member
organization

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.

Advises governments on legislation governing food quality and safety compliance with respect to safety of food in international trade.

Its Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 1999 recommended FAO to develop a strategic approach in biotechnology and biosafety.

Biotechnology is a powerful tool for the sustainable development of agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and meeting the food needs of a growing and increasingly urbanized population

There are safety concerns (primarily ecological risks and food safety) to utilization of the technology, being addressed through its regulatory harmonization efforts on a case-by-case basis

Supports a science-based evaluation system that would objectively determine the benefits and risks of each individual GMO.

Developing countries and resource-poor farmers should benefit more from biotechnological research and access to a diversity of sources of genetic material

FAO and WTO's international system of food standards and trade contribute to achieving:

- **SDG 2** on hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture;
- **SDG 3** on healthy lives and wellbeing;
- **SDG 8** on economic growth, employment and work; and
- **SDG 17** on strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development.

FAO's role in biotechnology

Supports member countries through:



Provision of legal and technical advice



Capacity building through technical co-operation and training



Informational resources (web-based, articles, conferences proceedings, newsletters, books, glossaries, and study reports)



Stakeholders Forum

Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Created by the FAO and WHO in 1963 to establish international food standards
- to **protect the health of consumers** and **ensure fair practices in the food trade**
- to promote coordination

Codex Alimentarius
“food law”



189 Members

- **188** member countries
- **1** member organization

226 Observers

- **56** IGOs
- **154** NGOs
- **16** UN

Committees

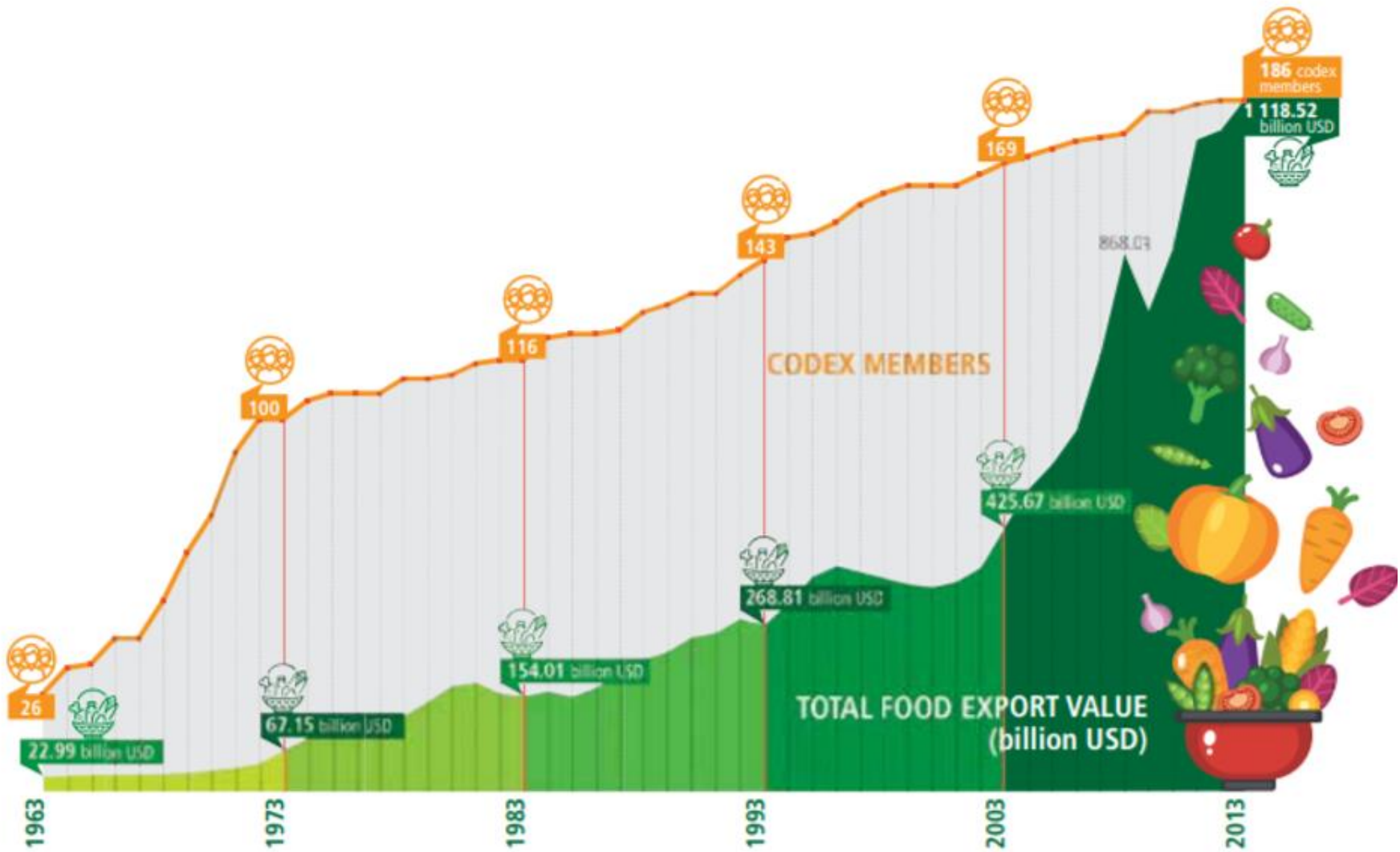
- **10** General subject
- **6** Commodity
- **90** EWG
- **1** Task Force

Codex Alimentarius

A collection of internationally adopted food standards and related texts presented in a uniform manner.

To guide and promote the elaboration & establishment of definitions & requirements for foods towards harmonization and facilitation of international trade (not an explicit mandate).

Growth in world food export and Codex membership



Source: Codex Secretariat and FAOSTAT

Codex standards and related texts

- Standards (general or specific)
- Guidelines
- Codes of Practice
- Maximum Residue Limits
- Miscellaneous
- Online databases

They are **voluntary** in nature and need to be translated into national legislation or regulations in order to be enforceable. They are not substitute for, or alternative to national legislation.

The Codex scorecard

This illustration gives the number of **Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice** by subject matter as of July 2016 after the decisions of the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.



Commodity Standards

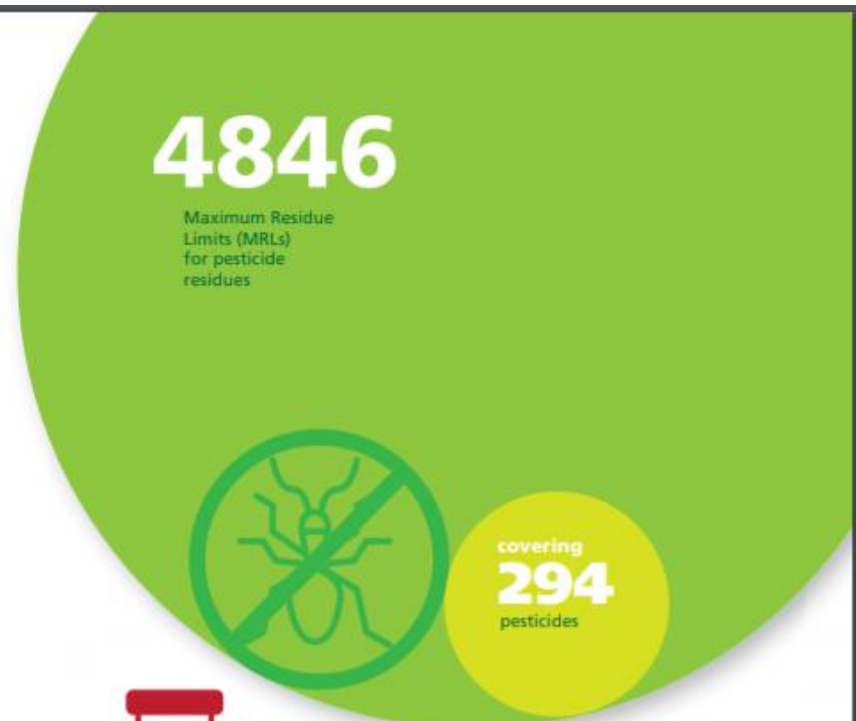


Guidelines



17

Maximum Levels (MLs) for contaminants in food



MRLs for residues of veterinary drugs in foods



Principles of Codex elaboration procedures:

- Science based
- Collaborative
- Inclusive and transparent
- Consensus/universal/global
- Independent

Codex standards are:

- Recognized by the WTO as the benchmark for food safety
- Referenced in WTO SPS Agreement and dispute settlement cases
- Reference points for harmonizing national standards


Codex texts for Biotechnology

Directly relevant to Biotechnology is the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology (1999-2008), now dissolved.

Codex provides a framework for undertaking risk analysis on the safety and nutritional aspects of foods derived from modern biotechnology

Codex has developed various texts relevant to foods derived from modern biotechnology.

Related Codex Texts

Reference 	Title	Committee	Last modified	EN	FR	ES	AR	ZH	RU
CAC/GL 44-2003	Principles for the Risk Analysis of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology	TFFBT	2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
CAC/GL 45-2003	Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants	TFFBT	2008	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘
CAC/GL 46-2003	Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Produced Using Recombinant-DNA Microorganisms	TFFBT	2003	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓
CAC/GL 68-2008	Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals	TFFBT	2008	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘
CAC/GL 74-2010	Guidelines on Performance Criteria and Validation of Methods for Detection, Identification and Quantification of Specific DNA Sequences and Specific Proteins in Foods	CCMAS	2010	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓	⊘
CAC/GL 76-2011	Compilation of Codex texts relevant to the labelling of foods derived from modern biotechnology	CCFL	2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- Established in 1961
- To promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

Better policies
for better lives



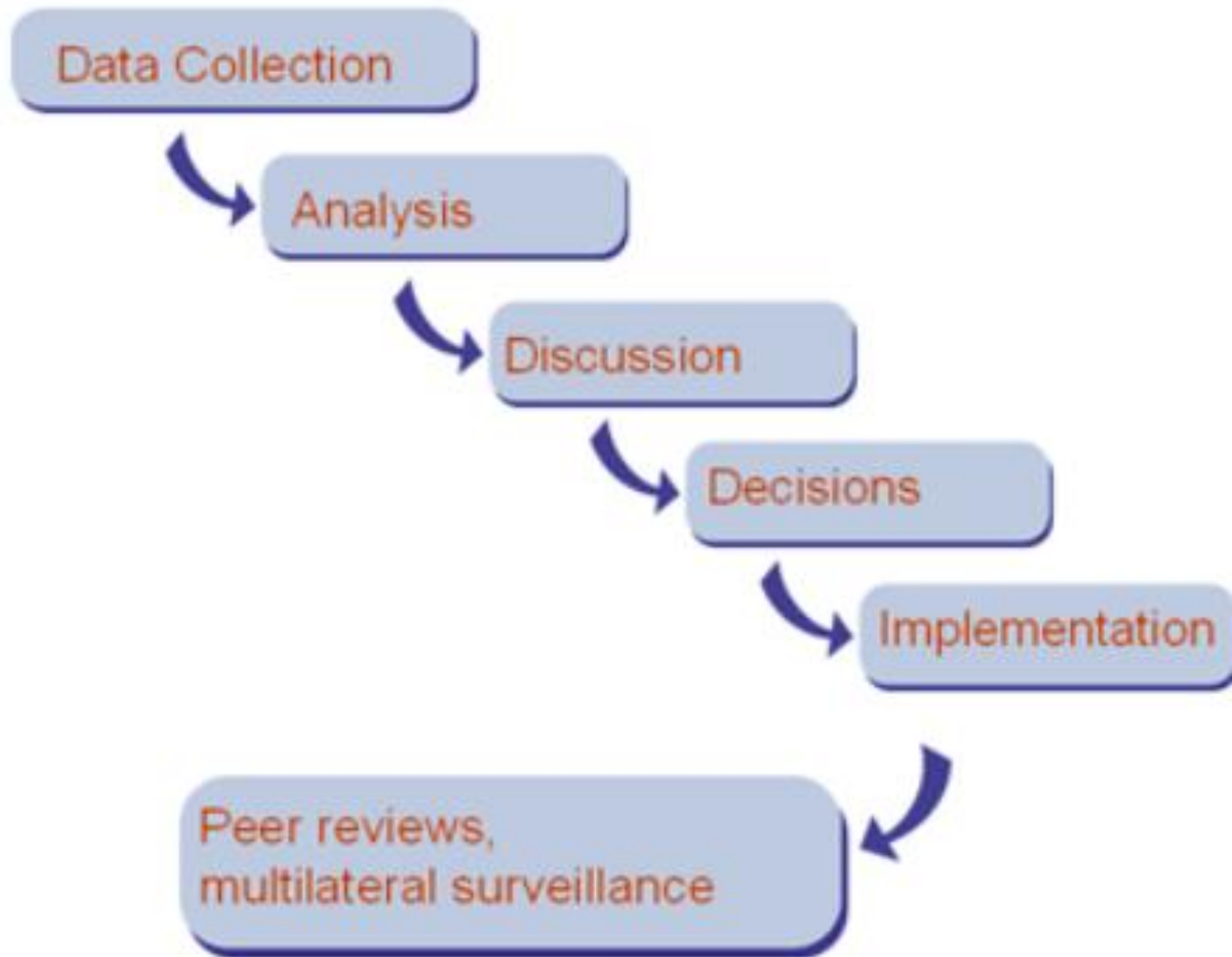
The working groups related to biotechnology are:

- Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds (SNFF)
- Harmonization of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology (HROB)

Crops, plants, trees, animals or microorganisms where modern biotechnology is applied

Provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

Working model



OECD's Role in Biotechnology

Assists countries evaluating the potential risks of transgenic products, ensure high safety standards, and foster mutual understanding of relevant regulations

Contributes to the assessment of the safety of products derived from modern biotechnology

Harmonizes approaches and share information used in risk/safety assessment

Resources

BioTrack Product database, publications, meetings, conferences, etc

Main output: "**consensus documents**" as practical and science-based tools for risk/safety assessors and regulators

Consensus Documents

- Compilation of information and data on the nutrients, anti-nutrients and toxicants of the product, its use as a food or feed, and other aspects relevant to food/feed safety (products of key crops where modern biotechnology is applied, others)
- Biology of organisms (such as plants, trees or micro-organisms, and recently animals) or introduced novel traits

Number	Consensus Documents	Year
65	Mosquito <i>Aedes aegypti</i>	2018
64	Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	2017

- Regularly updated to take into account new knowledge on the topic
- Public comments are accepted and considered

Benefits of International Standards and harmonization

- Facilitate international trade and eliminate unnecessary trade restrictions;
- Promote efficiencies and allow for economies of scale;
- Provide a sound scientific and technical basis for measures taken to achieve policy objectives related to food;
- Aid governments in developing science-based measures to ensure food safety as well as animal and plant health without the need to undertake risk assessments on their own;

Benefits of International Standards and harmonization...

- Provide the basis for conformity assessment procedures (e.g. testing, inspection or certification) that governments use to ensure that product requirements for safety, or other objectives, are respected;
- Disseminate technology;
- Lower costs for consumers;
- Build confidence of parties and consumers; and
- Promote sustainable development.

Why national participation?

- Participation ensures that standards take into account the realities and address the needs of different countries;
- Agriculture dependent economies / food importers: codex texts will enhance establishment of effective national food control systems to ensure safety & quality of food produced, exported or imported;
- Increased opportunity for economy expansion as a result of growth in world food trade. Associated risk of food borne diseases is also addressed (minimized);

Why national participation?...

- Resources otherwise to be expended for risk assessment and management processes are conserved;
- National measures based on codex standards are deemed to be in compliance with the SPS Agreement;
- Networking and information sharing among African Food Safety and Quality Experts, Regulators and their counterparts from other parts of world;
- Leverage a global community of scientific expertise; and the benefits highlighted above.



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

STANDARD SETTING PROCESS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (CAC)

A Handbook for Guidance of Participation of African Countries



May 2014

- However, limited capacity in meeting food safety requirements remains a challenge....
 - Safe application of modern biotechnology
 - FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund

Global meeting towards effective risk-based GM food/feed safety management is being planned by FAO to hold in 2019 to deliberate on emerging and pertinent issues of new breeding techniques in relation to the existing regulatory frameworks in Africa

Visit us @ www.nepad-abne.net

Comments & Questions
mb.adeyemo@nepadbiosafety.net

Thank you

- www.fao.org
- www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius
- www.oecd.org
- AU-IBAR. Standard Setting Process of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). A Handbook for Guidance on Participation of African countries
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) 2017. Handbook on Trade and Food Standards