

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary _ Public

Date: 1/13/2015

GAIN Report Number: IN5010

India

Post: New Delhi

Codex India Publishes a Strategic Plan for 2015-19

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

FAIRS Subject Report

Exporter Guide

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The Government of India's (GOI) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) published its Strategic Plan of the National Codex Committee (NCC), per the Codex Alimentarius Commission's mandate (CAC) for the period 2015-19.

Executive Summary:

The Codex India office, located in FSSAI, formulated its Strategic Plan for the period 2015-19, as per the CAC's mandate. The objective of India's plan is to meet its obligations under the CAC, as per the goals and terms of reference finalized by the CAC.

General Information:

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Introduction:

India's plan presents activities to encourage the members of the NCC to promote science-based food standards, as well as enhance India's participation in Codex meetings and related activities.

The core values and long term goals of the plan are summarized below:

- Collaboration and engagement
- Inclusiveness
- Consensus Building
- Transparency
- Innovation
- Leadership

The NCC's 2015-19 Strategic Plan has five broad based long term goals:

- **Goal 1:** Enhance the participation of all the stakeholders in Codex related activities.
- **Goal 2:** Follow a uniform streamlined procedure of conducting meeting and finalizing India's viewpoints/comments.
- **Goal 3:** Participate proactively and responsibly in various Codex activities based on inputs from stakeholders.
- **Goal 4:** Engage relevant organizations, including but not limited to educational/research institutions and other member countries, including members of Asian region.
- **Goal 5:** Improve the Codex profile of India and provide innovative leadership in the region.

The Plan also includes the work and activity outline associated with each goal. The full text of the Plan is attached at the end of the report, and can also be accessed on the FSSAI website <http://www.fssai.gov.in/>.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE NATIONAL CODEX COMMITTEE (NCC)

Introduction

"**Codex India**" the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) for India, is located at Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi, India. It coordinates and promotes Codex activities in India in association with the National Codex Committee and facilitates India's input to the work of Codex through an established consultation process.

Keeping in view the above, strategic plan for NCC-India (2015 - 2019) has been formulated co - terminus with the Codex Alimentarius Commission Strategic Plan (2014 - 2019), which was approved at the 36th Session of CAC.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is mainly to meet the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2014-2019. The Strategic Plan for NCC has been formulated consistent with the goals and the Terms of Reference finalized by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. This document presents the activities for the effective participation of National Codex Contact Point, Committee members and stakeholders in promoting science-based food standards and to enhance the participation of India in Codex Meetings and related activities.

The 2015-2019 Strategic Plan for NCC:

- Presents the vision, goals, and objectives for the NCC and is supported by a more detailed work plan that includes activities, milestones, and measurable indicators to track progress towards the accomplishment of the goals.
 - Informs Members on how NCC intends to fulfill its mandate and to meet the needs and expectations of its Members during the period 2015-2019.
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Global Scenario

The dynamics of the standard-setting activities undertaken by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) have changed dramatically since it was established. Since its establishment, not only has the Codex membership increased significantly but Codex has also seen a more active contribution from all Members, more specifically the developing countries which are contributing more actively to the international food standard-setting process. With India participating as an active member in almost all Codex Meetings and related activities, and being the host country for the recently established Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary herbs (CCSCH), greater participation and scientific inputs are expected. The stakeholders should be able to identify the global emerging issues that are of concern to India and defend them actively in various Committees.

Strategic Vision Statement

As a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, India supports its food elaboration activities with a view to contribute to the development of science based food standards that protect health of consumer and ensure fair practices in food trade by effectively and actively participating in Codex work.

Mission

Participate proactively and responsibly in the Codex Standards development activities while taking into account the national specificities and interests, thereby ensuring that the Codex Standards remain practical and globally acceptable/implementable.

Core Values

In fulfilling its strategic vision, NCC adheres to core values that include:

- Collaboration & engagement
- Inclusiveness
- Consensus building
- Transparency
- Innovation
- Leadership

Goals, Objectives & Strategies

Given that multiple stakeholders exist in India for Codex Activities, achieving our goals is possible only when everyone is engaged with us as partners. Therefore, for each Codex Committee, a parallel Shadow Committee has been constituted by the Food Authority that works for that particular Codex Committee. The various stakeholders for each committee are representatives from different ministries like Ministry of Health and family Welfare, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food processing, representatives from educational institutions, representatives from Industry Associations like Confederation of Indian Industry and FICCI, experts/scientists from concerned areas.

Most of the Shadow Committees are with FSSAI but few are with other line Ministries/Departments since the expertise required to manage these committees are with these Ministries, and therefore, it is very important to follow a uniform streamlined procedure of conducting meetings and formulating India's viewpoints. Achieving all the goals and objectives is only possible when all the members work in tandem towards a common outcome.

The Strategic Plan for NCC (2015 – 2019) has following five broad-based, long-term goals, which are accompanied by associated objectives and strategies:

Goal 1: Enhancing the participation of all the stakeholders in Codex related activities.

Goal 2: Following a uniform streamlined procedure of conducting meetings and finalizing India's viewpoints/comments.

Goal 3: Participating proactively and responsibly in various Codex Activities based on inputs from stakeholders.

Goal 4: Engaging relevant organizations, including but not limited to Educational/Research Institutions, and other member countries including members of Asian region.

Goal 5: Improve the Codex profile of India and provide innovative leadership in the Region.

The *Goals*, *Objectives*, and *Strategies* all align to enable us to achieve our *Mission* and ultimately realize our *Vision*. As used in this document, *Goals* are broad-based statements that outline an outcome to be achieved, *Objectives* are overarching statements that identify an intent to be addressed, and *Strategies* are specific statements that describe methods and actions to be employed that will enable us to achieve a related objective and its goal. In addition, the accompanying *Workplan* outlines the indicators against which we will measure our success.

Goal 1: Enhancing the participation of all the stakeholders in Codex related activities.

***Objective 1.1:** Spreading awareness about Codex Alimentarius and its procedures amongst all the stakeholders.*

Activity 1.1.1: Conducting workshops in different regions of the country providing information about Codex Alimentarius.

Activity 1.1.2: Releasing the electronic newsletter Connect@Codexindia quarterly.

***Objective 1.2:** Increasing the participation of the stakeholders.*

Activity 1.2.1: Engaging the stakeholders in the shadow committee meetings.

Activity 1.2.2: Nominating the stakeholders to participate in various electronic working groups established by the Codex Alimentarius.

Goal 2: Following a uniform streamlined procedure of conducting meetings and finalizing India's viewpoints/comments.

***Objective 2.1:** To develop uniform procedure in conducting the shadow committee meetings and finalizing the country stand across all the Ministries involved in Codex Activities.*

Activity 2.1.1: Developing a uniform step - wise procedure on how to conduct shadow committee meetings and finalizing country stand.

Activity 2.1.2: Informing the officers dealing with Codex with other Ministries in-charge about this uniform procedure.

Activity 2.1.3: Conduct annual delegate training and develop delegate orientation programme.

***Objective 2.2:** To finalise the composition of the delegation.*

Activity 2.2.1: To identify the experts in the concerned areas and sending their registration to the Codex Secretariat well before time.

***Objective 2.3:** To maintain consistency in the delegation for each Codex meeting.*

Activity 2.3.1: Pursuing the higher Authorities to nominate the same expert for each Codex Meeting so that meaningful contribution can be made at the stage of finalizing the comments and also during the meetings. This would also help in building expertise in specific areas.

Objective 2.4: *To prepare and finalise the comments.*

Activity 2.4.1: Conducting the shadow committee meeting well in advance to the main session.

Activity 2.4.2: Sending the comments to Codex Secretariat at least 15 days before the main session.

Goal 3: Participating proactively and responsibly in various Codex Activities based on inputs from stakeholders.

Objective 3.1: *To collect all the relevant scientific data on a particular issue.*

Activity 3.1.1: To identify experts/organizations working on that particular issue and pursue them to submit the available data.

Objective 3.2: *To conduct studies on relevant issues in collaboration with relevant institutes/labs/organizations.*

Activity 3.2.1: To identify the concerned issues on which no data is available and then initiating studies to generate the data.

Objective 3.3: *Conduct annual assessment of India Priorities & to propose new work; a standard/RCP/GL.*

Activity 3.3.1: To identify an appropriate issue or a commodity on which new work may be proposed based on the trade implications.

Activity 3.3.2: Preparing the discussion paper and the project document based on the inputs received from experts working on the concerned issue.

Activity 3.3.3: Circulation of the draft discussion paper and project document to the concerned shadow committee members for review and inputs.

Activity 3.3.4: Sending the discussion paper to Codex Secretariat at least 2 months prior to the main session.

Goal 4: Engaging relevant organizations, including but not limited to Educational/Research Institutions, and other member countries including members of Asian region.

Objective 4.1: *To collaborate with the educational/research institutions to provide data on the current topics from the published literature or by conducting studies.*

Activity 4.1.1: To engage scientists working in the concerned area in the shadow committee meetings and encourage them to provide the data available.

Activity 4.1.2: Enhance Institutional subject matter expertise on Codex Procedures.

Activity 4.1.3: To conduct workshops in the educational/research institutions to sensitize the experts about Codex Alimentarius.

Objective 4.2: *To establish collaborative links with other countries within the Asian Region and outside the region.*

Activity 4.2.1: Meeting with the Delegates from the Asian Region to identify common concerns.

Activity 4.2.2: Informal Meeting with the delegates from other Member Countries at the time of Codex Meetings.

Activity 4.2.3: Collect information about the Codex Activities in other countries from the region during Workshops or electronically.

Goal 5: Improve the Codex profile of India and provide innovative leadership in the region.

Objective 5.1: *Increase Inter Ministry and stakeholder awareness of NCC Strategic Plan (2015 - 2019).*

Activity 5.1.1: Conducting workshop/Conferences to create awareness about the strategic plan.

Activity 5.1.2: Publishing the Strategic Plan on the Codex Page of FSSAI Website.

Activity 5.1.3: Develop capacity and expertise with Regional Codex Member Countries.

Objective 5.2: *Increase awareness about the Codex Procedural Manual amongst the Ministries and the stakeholders.*

Activity 5.2.1: Conducting workshop/Conferences to create awareness about the procedures followed in Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Objective 5.3: *Update and enrich Codex India website. Make it more informative.*

Activity 5.3.1: Providing information about the important and emerging issues through the quarterly published electronic newsletter.

Activity 5.3.2: Uploading the Delegation report, India's Comments and any new work proposal submitted on the Codex India page of FSSAI Website on a regular basis.

Objective 5.4: *Co-hosting the Codex Committee Meetings.*

Activity 5.4.1: Identify the relevant Codex Committees that can be co-hosted by India.

Activity 5.4.2: Making all the necessary arrangements to co-host the Codex Committee meeting.

WORKPLAN

Note: The “Responsible Party” section identifies the lead party that is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the activity identified in the work plan. It is recognized that several other parties will play a significant role in the implementation of the activity. Codex – India should leverage the use of existing reports and data collection activities to monitor progress through the “Measurable Indicators”.

Strategic Goal	Objective	Activity	Responsible Party	Time - Line	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicators/Outputs
Goal 1: Enhancing the participation of all the stakeholders in Codex related activities.	Objective 1.1: Spreading awareness about Codex Alimentarius and its procedures amongst all the stakeholders.	Activity 1.1.1: Conducting workshops in different regions of the country providing information about Codex Alimentarius.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Increased awareness about Codex Alimentarius amongst the stakeholders.	Number of workshops conducted.
		Activity 1.1.2: Releasing the electronic newsletter Connect@Codex India quarterly.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The electronic newsletter released quarterly.	Release of newsletter every quarter.
	Objective 1.2: Increasing the participation of the stakeholders.	Activity 1.2.1: Engaging the stakeholders in the shadow committee	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Increased participation of the stakeholders.	Number of members in shadow committee meetings for each

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		meetings.				Codex Meeting.
		Activity 1.2.2: Nominating the stakeholders to participate in various electronic working groups established by the Codex Alimentarius.	Director (Codex)	2015 - 2019	Participation of India in every concerned ewg.	Number of ewgs in which India participates.
Goal 2: Following a uniform streamlined procedure of conducting meetings and finalizing India's viewpoints/comments.	Objective 2.1: To develop uniform procedure in conducting the shadow committee meetings and finalizing the country stand across all the Ministries involved in Codex Activities.	Activity 2.1.1: Developing a uniform step-wise procedure of how to conduct shadow committee meetings and finalizing country stand.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Uniform procedure of conducting the shadow committee meetings.	The Uniform Procedure.
		Activity 2.1.2: Informing the officers dealing with Codex with other Ministries in-charge about this uniform procedure.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Officers dealing with Codex in other Ministries are aware of the procedure.	Similar procedure being followed by every Ministry.

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		Activity 2.1.3: Conduct annual delegate training and develop delegate orientation programme.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Effective participation of the Delegation.	Number of programmes held.
	Objective 2.2: To finalise the composition of the delegation.	Activity 2.2.1: To identify the experts in the concerned areas and sending their registration to the Codex Secretariat well before time.	NCCP India and the Shadow Committee Chairs	2015 - 2019	The delegation is finalized well before time for every Codex Committee Meeting and information about the same is sent to the Codex Secretariat.	Information about the delegation is sent to the Codex Secretariat at least 15 days prior to the main session.
	Objective 2.3: To maintain consistency in the delegation for each Codex meeting.	Activity 2.3.1: Pursuing the higher Authorities to nominate the same expert for each Codex Meeting so that meaningful contribution can be made at the stage of finalizing the comments and also during	NCCP India and the Shadow Committee Chairs	2015 - 2019	Consistency in the delegation for each Codex meeting.	Number of Codex Committee meetings where same delegation has attended the meeting.

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		the meetings. This will also help in building the expertise in specific areas.				
	Objective 2.4: To prepare and finalise the comments.	Activity 2.4.1: Conducting the shadow committee meeting well in advance to the main session. Activity 2.4.2: Sending the comments to Codex Secretariat at least 15 days before the main session.	NCCP India and other Ministries in charge NCCP India	2015 - 2019 2015 - 2019	The Shadow Committee meetings are conducted 2 months prior the main session. The comments are sent well before time.	The Shadow Committee meetings are conducted 2 - 3 months prior the main session. Number of committees for which the comments are sent on time.
Goal 3: Participating proactively and responsibly in various Codex Activities based on inputs from stakeholders.	Objective 3.1: To collect all the relevant scientific data on a particular issue.	Activity 3.1.1: To identify experts/organizations working on that particular issue and pursue them to submit the available data.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Relevant scientific data is collected from experts/organizations..	Number of issues on which data is collected.
	Objective 3.2: To conduct studies on relevant issues in	Activity 3.2.1: To identify the concerned issues	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Data is collected on those issues where no data is	Number of studies conducted/data

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	collaboration with relevant institutes/labs/organizations.	on which no data is available and then initiating studies to generate the data.			available.	accessed from existing studies.
	Objective 3.3: Conduct annual assessment of India priorities and to propose new work; a standard/RCP/GL.	Activity 3.3.1: To identify an appropriate issue or a commodity on which new work may be proposed based on the trade implications.	NCCP India and Shadow Committee Members	2015 - 2019	Issues are identified on which new work can be proposed.	Number of new work proposals submitted by India.
		Activity 3.3.2: Preparing the discussion paper and the project document based on the inputs received from experts working on the concerned issue.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The discussion paper is prepared.	Number of discussion papers prepared.
		Activity 3.3.3: Circulation of the draft discussion paper and project document to the	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The discussion paper is sent to the shadow committee members.	Number of discussion papers sent.

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		concerned shadow committee members for review and inputs.				
		Activity 3.3.4: Sending the discussion paper to Codex Secretariat at least 2 months prior to the main session.	NCCP India	2015-2019	The discussion paper is sent to the Codex Secretariat 2 months prior to the main session.	Number of discussion papers sent on time.
Goal 4: Engaging relevant organizations, including but not limited to Educational/Research Institutions, and other member countries including members of Asian region.	Objective 4.1: To collaborate with the educational/research institutions to provide data on the current topics from the published literature or by conducting studies.	Activity 4.1.1: To engage scientists working in the concerned area in the shadow committee meetings and encourage them to provide the data available.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Collaborative links established with educational institutions.	Number of educational/research institutions identified.
		Activity 4.1.2: Enhance Institutional subject matter	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Increase in number of experts conversant with the subject matter.	Number of workshops organized.

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		expertise on Codex Procedures. Activity 4.1.3: To conduct workshops in the educational/research institutions to sensitize the experts about Codex Alimentarius.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The educational experts are made aware of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.	Number of workshops conducted.
	Objective 4.2: To establish collaborative links with other countries within the Asian Region and outside the region.	Activity 4.2.1: Meeting with the Delegates from the Asian Region to identify common concerns.	Indian Delegation	2015 - 2019	The delegates attend the Asian Meeting at the Codex Committee meeting.	Number of meetings attended.
		Activity 4.2.2: Informal Meeting with the delegates from other Member Countries at the time of Codex Meetings.	Indian Delegation	2015 - 2019	Informal meetings are scheduled with the members from other Countries.	Number of meetings attended.

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		Activity 4.2.3: Collect information about the Codex Activities in other countries from the region during Workshops or electronically.	NCCP India and the participants	2015 - 2019	Information about the Codex Activities in other Countries is collected.	Number of countries with which the link is established.
Goal 5: Improve the Codex profile of India and provide innovative leadership in the Region.	Objective 5.1: Increase Inter Ministry and stakeholder awareness of NCCP Strategic Plan (2014 - 2019).	Activity 5.1.1: Conducting workshop/Conferences to create awareness about the strategic plan.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Stakeholders become aware of the strategic plan.	Number of workshop/conferences conducted.
		Activity 5.1.2: Publishing the Strategic Plan on the Codex Page of FSSAI Website.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The strategic plan published on the Codex Page of FSSAI Website.	The strategic plan published on the Codex Page of FSSAI Website.
		Activity 5.1.3: Develop capacity and expertise with Regional Codex Member Countries.	NCCP India and the Stakeholders	2015 - 2019	Increase in number of Regional Codex Member Countries attending the Codex Meetings.	Number of workshops organized.

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	Objective 5.2: Increase awareness about the Codex Procedural Manual amongst the Ministries and the stakeholders.	Activity 5.2.1: Conducting workshop/Conferences to create awareness about the procedures followed in Codex Alimentarius Commission.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	Stakeholders become aware of the Codex Procedural Manual.	Number of workshop/conferences conducted.
	Objective 5.3: Update and enrich Codex India Website. Make it more informative.	Activity 5.3.1: Providing information about the important and emerging issues through the quarterly published newsletter. Activity 5.3.2: Uploading the Delegation report, India's Comments and any new work proposal submitted on the Codex India page of FSSAI Website.	NCCP India and the Shadow Committee Members NCCP India	2015 - 2019 2015 - 2019	More information is published related to Codex Alimentarius on the Codex page. The Delegation report, India's Comments and any new work proposal submitted published on the Codex page.	Number of articles published. The Delegation report, India's Comments and any new work proposal submitted published on the Codex page.

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	Objective 5.4: Co-hosting the Codex Committee Meetings.	Activity 5.4.1: Identify the relevant Codex Committees that can be co-hosted by India.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	The Codex Committees are identified which can be co-hosted by India.	Number of meetings co-hosted.
		Activity 5.4.2: Making all the necessary arrangements to co-host the Codex Committee meeting.	NCCP India	2015 - 2019	All the necessary arrangements are made.	Number of meetings co-hosted.

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