

FAO/WHO/Codex Side Event at the
20th Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia

The new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund
What it is? What it does? How to benefit from it?

Wednesday 28 September 2016, lunchtime
(Exact time and venue to be determined)

Context of the side event

The new FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) was officially launched on 27 June 2016 at the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. In the first round of applications for support from the new Codex Trust Fund in 2016, demand from eligible countries was very high with 38 applications making it through to the review stage by the Technical Review Group. Many of these applications were strong, but not robust enough to be considered for support by the Codex Trust Fund.

Many countries need information on the scope and focus of CTF, the criteria against which applications are assessed, and guidance on how to prepare and submit robust applications. Many other countries are interested in learning more about the new Codex Trust Fund and tools for assessing the status of Codex capacity in countries. Side events are being organized at all FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees in 2016 and 2017 to respond to this demand.

Objectives of the side event

- Provide information on the scope, focus and activities of the new Codex Trust Fund
- Assist countries in understanding and using the “Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes” (the Codex Diagnostic Tool)
- Provide information to countries on the criteria used for assessment of applications and how to prepare and submit robust applications.

Provisional annotated agenda

1) The new Codex Trust Fund

- Presentation on the scope, focus and activities of CTF2
- Where to find information

2) The Codex Diagnostic Tool

- Presentation on what it is, why it was developed, how to use it, how to use the results
- Feedback from countries in the region on their experience using the tool
- Exchange on challenges in using the tool and how to address these

3) Preparing and submitting robust applications

- Presentation covering:
 - application forms, guidance material..
 - criteria used by the Technical Review Group in assessing applications
 - elements of robust applications and common weaknesses in applications submitted
 - group applications
- Feedback from countries in the region on their experience in preparing and submitting applications

4) Wrap up session

- Summary of key points from the session
- Where to get assistance in preparing and submitting applications
- Evaluation of the side event

Expected outcomes

As a result of the side event, it is expected that countries in the Codex Asian region will:

- Understand the differences in scope and focus between CTF1 and CTF2;

- Know where to find information and guidance on CTF2;
- Be familiar with the Codex Diagnostic Tool and how to use it at country level;
- Understand the criteria used to assess applications
- Have increased knowledge on how to prepare and submit robust applications

Organization of the event

The side event will be jointly organized by FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat and the training team will consist of FAO and WHO officers from Headquarters and Regional Offices, officers from the Codex Secretariat and representatives of countries in the region which submitted an application to the Codex Trust Fund in 2016. The Codex Trust Fund Secretariat will take the lead in organizing the side event and questions on this event should be sent to the Codex Trust Fund Administrator, Catherine Mulholland at mulhollandc@who.int