



**SAMOA NATIONAL CODEX
STRATEGIC PLAN
2017 - 2021**



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This plan required huge amounts of effort and dedication. Still, it would not have been possible if we did not have the support of individuals and our fellow stakeholders. Therefore, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of them.

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INTRODUCTION:

The term Codex refers to the outputs and activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The words Codex Alimentarius derives from Latin meaning “Food Code” or the set of laws/ rules for food. CAC was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations in 1963. The CAC’s main objective is to develop international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Commission also promotes coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations; has published elaborated standards as Codex worldwide or regional standards and amends publishes standards in the light of new developments.

Considering the technical and often complex nature related to codex issues, Samoa has been taking steady progressive steps towards strengthening of codex related issues at the national level and in line with internationally prescribed principles. In progressing on this path, and noting Samoa’s commitment to improving design and implementation of Codex standards and principles that closely align to international best practice tailored to domestic needs, it was agreed that a Strategic Plan is designed to guide Samoa’s National Codex Committee (SNCC) in critical initiatives that will need to be implemented within a five year timeframe. The Strategic Plan is aligned to support the global Codex Strategic Plan within a five (5) year time frame, and seeks to achieve better coordination and interaction among member countries for strengthening national food safety systems, promoting compliance of standards and equivalence of practices in ensuring food safety. It is anticipated that if effectively implemented, the plan would result in increased capacity development which would enhance the level of participation and the technical quality of contribution to Codex work, as well as to raise the capacity for the utilization of Codex standards for strengthening of food safety control systems and ensuring the protection of domestic consumers and consumers in Samoa. It is also the intention of the Strategic plan to facilitate the advancement of the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during the period 2016-2020 in a nationally tailored format.

The work of Codex is critical to evolving the objectives of the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (the TBT Agreement). The SPS and TBT are harmonizing and mutually reinforcing and provide a strong framework of rules and disciplines for technical standards and regulations at national and international levels.

The roles and work of Codex are aligned to the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) and contribute to the achievements of the fourteen (14) Key Outcomes and Strategies of which are linked directly to Codex, *Key Outcome 2 “Re-invigorate Agriculture”*, *Key Outcome 3 “Revitalized Exports”*, *Key Outcome 5 “Enabling Environment for Business Development”* and *Key Outcome 6 “Healthy Samoa”*. The Samoa’s National Codex Committee (SNCC) in the development of its Strategic Plan outlines its vision, mission, values and strategies of how it will contribute to the development of Samoa. The functions of Codex closely links to legislations namely the Food Act 2015, Food Regulations 2016 and the Competition & Consumer Act 2016 which governed food standards and consumer protection

VISION:

Promote health and fair trade locally and internationally

MISSION:

Promotion and coordination of food standards and encourage new standards for locally made products/ imported products and other products to ensure food safety.

VALUES:

- Integrity: Promoting food standards that uphold the public health leading to satisfying all our stakeholders and partners.
- Engagement: We appreciate the insight of our stakeholders and partners and create information- sharing opportunities to inform and guide our activities.
- Innovation: We support innovative technologies and their associated standards that enable sustainable agricultural production and increased food safety and food security.



Measurable Indicators/Outputs	Expected Outcome	Time Frame	Estimate Budget (in thousands of Tala)	Responsible Parties	Activities
Input from members and national Codex standards.	Enhanced ability of Codex to develop standards relevant to needs of all Codex members.	2017	15	All members of Codex	Enhancing the understanding of members on codex standards/ guidelines.
the needs of people specifically for (Breadfruit, Cocoa, other existing health standards)	Identifying and concentration on the needs of people specifically for (Breadfruit, Cocoa, other existing health standards)	2017-2021	40	All Members of Codex	Develop new standards and revise existing standards as needed, in response to needs identified by Members and in response to factors that may affect food safety and fair practices in the food trade.
standards and national standards and transparency between codex	2. Maintenance of guidelines, standards and of codex understanding				members on codex standards/ guidelines.
standards.	1. Enhanced understanding of codex standards.				standards.
1. Increased inputs in the development of people's comments.	1. Increased inputs in the development of people's comments.	Quarterly (2017-2021)	50	All Members of Codex	Increase awareness on the importance and significance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders and the public.
2. More awareness programs on quarterly basis conducted	2. More awareness programs on quarterly basis conducted				public.

the basis for national standards development.

Rationale: Increased harmonization of regulatory standards, policies and practices related to food would contribute to protection of the health of consumers and ensuring food practices in the food trade nationally.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To promote use of codex standards, codex and guidelines as

Measurable Indicator/ Output	Expected Outcome	Time Frame	Budget Estimate (in thousands of Tala)	Responsible Party
1. The number of activities hosted by the codex committee of relevance to codex and the region. 2. Increase in sources of funding used to increase participation at Codex meetings.	Increased and enhanced participation in activities and enhance the level of development initiative.	Ongoing (2017-2021)	10	Codex Contact Point and SNCC to coordinate with the CTF
Regular meetings held with maximum participation of all members.	Strengthened communication and awareness of the codex issues from time to time.	Ongoing (2017-2021)	8	All members of Codex
Increased networking of CCPS/ delegates in the region.	Enhanced networking with exchange of emails and other communication channels.	Ongoing (2017-2021)	10	Members with lead from the contact point.
All members submit written comments on issues of interest to them.	All members exchanging their written comments to inform and assist in formulating and creating national positions/views.	Ongoing (2017-2021)	10	All members of Codex
				Members to participate in working groups and to submit written comments on subjects relevant to national and regional food safety.

Activities	Responsible Party	Estimate Budget (in thousands of Tala)	Time Frame	Expected Outcome	Measurable Indicator/ Output
Identify and prioritize issues that occurred within Samoa when there is a need for scientific research/ evidence.	SROS and MOH and CCP	40	Ongoing (2017-2021)	Local issues that required scientific research and evidence identified with solutions prescribed.	Technical expertise/ information and guidance on the critical emerging issues of interest in data, generation, collection, analysis and storage identified.
Research on codex links/ site information.	All members of Codex	5	Ongoing (2017-2021)	Improved capacity on codex standards/ issues.	Number of shared links of access to information related to codex.
Conduct trainings/ workshops to develop capacity and expertise within codex members.	All members of Codex	50	Ongoing (2017-2021)	Ensure and facilitate appropriate trainings and workshops related to codex matters.	Increase in numbers of trainings conducted on specific areas of interest related to codex matters.
Encourage the communication and sharing of experiences amongst members and with other member countries.	All members of Codex	30	Ongoing (2017-2021)	Increase knowledge and understanding on development related to codex issues.	1. Increase in local networking among members. 2. International training opportunities on codex issues identified.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Promote effectiveness and improve coordination of codex members in the activities of Codex Alimentarius Commission and the CCNASWP region.

Rationale: The participation of all codex members is critical to sound decision- making and ensuring issues identified as being significant at the national level take into account of the full range of interest and viewpoints of members.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To encourage and strengthen scientific, technical expertise, information and capacities of members in the development of codex standards.

Rationale: The exchange of scientific and technical expertise/ information will contribute to enhancing the scientific basis of the various food control measures in the country.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: To promote the development and enhancement of the capabilities of the National Codex Contact Point (CCP), the SNCC, delegates and stakeholders on their core functions and to expand the engagement with the public on Codex updates.

Rationale: Enriched knowledge of CCP, SNCC, delegates and the public will assist in the efficiency of all works related to Codex consequently promoting health and fair trade.

Measurable Indicator/ Output	Expected Outcome	Time Frame	Budget Estimate (in thousands of Tala)	Responsible Party	Activities
Increase in attendance of members in SNCC meetings.	All members to participate and engaged in Codex meetings.	Quarterly (2017- 2021)	10	CCP	Conducting regular meetings of the SNCC
Increase in numbers of activities achieved and implemented before reviewing of Codex Trust Fund.	Active participation of SNCC members in Codex activities and strengthened partnership with relevant organizations that can assist in terms of funding.	(2017- 2021)	50	All members of Codex	Develop a budget for Codex activities, including participation at CCNASWP (and other relevant Codex Committees, which are identified) and have it approved by the committee.
Regular updates of the website on codex related issues.	Strengthened networking of SNCC members through exchange of information via email and other communication channels.	(2017- 2021)	10	CCP	Develop and implement a Codex page on the relevant Ministerial website (where the CPP is located), and a contact through to the CCP for all stakeholders.
Regular report on activities in meetings, where appropriate.	Members are effective participation and reporting to CCP in a timely manner.	Quarterly (2017- 2021)	8	All members of Codex	Regular reporting of Codex activities (by CCP or SNCC etc.), and reports made available internally or on the web.
Avail links for ease of access and encourage local interacting of Codex members and other members and the public	Enhance understanding and learn from other members updates	Ongoing (2017- 2021)	10	CCP	Research on relevant Codex issues and encourage coordination with other Codex members
Increase awareness programs.	Improve work of Codex understanding of Codex members from public's feedback	Quarterly (2017- 2021)	20	All members of Codex	Encourage engagement with the public

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