

International Agri-Food Network 2017 Activity Report

Throughout 2017, the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) continued to engage in international development processes in a number of UN fora, from Rome to New York.

In 2017, IAFN was re-elected for the next two years to be a focal point for the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and a new chair was elected for IAFN and PSM: Donald Moore, CEO of the Global Dairy Platform.

While IAFN's presence in Rome and in the food security space is now established through its involvement in the CFS and the implementation of SDG Goal 2, IAFN developed new areas of expertise in 2017, with a focus on biotechnology and food safety standards.

In addition, IAFN's scope expanded this year to cover not only global UN processes but also regional ones with the establishment of the IAFN Asia Chapter.

1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – SDG indicators

As part of its role in engaging with the SDG process on behalf of the private sector, the IAFN has attended meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) and the FAO Expert Meeting for Indicator 2.4.1¹, and has also conducted outreach with member countries.

The IAFN developed a position paper on sustainability that promoted the use of a set of existing indicators. IAFN representatives carried out consultations with governments and representatives of member states at FAO (the custodian agency of the indicator).

In terms of the pilot for 2.4.1: It is proposed that the methodology will be tested in 5 countries. Pilot studies are currently taking place in Kyrgyz Republic, Rwanda, Italy, Bangladesh and Ecuador.

¹ 2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Dimension	No.	Themes	Sub-indicators	Proposed sustainability criteria
Economic	1	Land productivity	Farm output value per farm agricultural area	Above one third of the 90th percentile
	2	Farm profitability	Net farm income	Zero and above
	3	Financial Resilience	Access to financial services	Access to at least one of the financial services
Environmental	4	Soil health	Soil health	At least half of farm not affected by soil degradation
	5	Water health	Water use	No inter-annual trend detected in groundwater level over last 5 years
			Water quality	Nitrogen concentration in rivers and aquifers below 50 mg/l
	6	Biodiversity	Heterogeneity of agricultural landscape	Shannon Evenness Index above 0.3, Average patch size lower than 2 ha and Edge density below 0.01
Social	7	Decent work	Wage rate in agriculture	Equal to or above the international poverty line
	8	Well-being	Agricultural household income	Equal to or above the international poverty line
	9	Access to land	Secure rights to land tenure	Positive response to at least one of the secure rights conditions

A final meeting of the IAEG-SDGs² took place in late November in Bahrein to review indicators. The report from this meeting, which was prepared by IAFN member, the International Fertilizer Association, indicates the following:

- 2.4.1 was not upgraded to Tier II because a review of the pilot study and more testing are needed
- 2.3.1 still TIII - needs definition of small scale producers
- 2.3.2 still Tier III
- 12.3.1 food loss still Tier III - documentation will be reviewed
- 15.3.1 degraded land - still Tier III waiting for land productivity methodology

² https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/meetings/iaeg-sdgs-meeting-06/6th%20IAEG-SDG%20Meeting%20tier%20reclassification%20requests_list%20of%20indicators_web.pdf

It was noted that further work was needed.

2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – High Level Political Forum (HLPF) July 11-20

The HLPF is the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. IAFN is a member of Business 2030, the coalition of business groups formerly named “Global Business Action for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.” Business 2030 is led by the International Chamber of Commerce. IAFN was able to achieve four activities in this environment:

Delegation Coordination:

The Secretariat coordinated the participation of several IAFN members at the annual session of the HLPF in New York for the second consecutive year, which focused on the implementation of 7 goals, including Goal 2: Ending Hunger.

Agriculture and Food Day:

IAFN partnered with 12 organizations to host an Agriculture and Food Day on July 13th at the Yale Club in New York City. The purpose of this event was to raise awareness of the critical need for investment in Sustainable Development Goal 2 (“zero hunger”) for the achievement of all the Agenda 2030. The day involved a thematically-focused plenary session, a series of roundtable discussions to address interlinkages between SDG’s, and a luncheon featuring youth in agriculture.

Agriculture and Food Day provided an opportunity to hear directly from individuals throughout the agrifood chain on what we need to do to achieve Goal 2. It also allowed the **181 participants** to network, share knowledge, and explore future collaboration in an open and dynamic environment. The report can be found [here](#).

SDG Business Forum:

Following the success of the 2016 inaugural forum, the second annual SDG Business Forum took place at the United Nations during the ministerial segment of the HLPF. The IAFN was able to participate through its membership in Business 2030, a coalition of business groups led by the International Chamber of Commerce. This allowed the IAFN to lead a session aimed to highlight the role business plays in implementing the SDG Goals of focus (Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, and 17) by providing case studies. The IAFN coordinated **15 rapid-fire presentations** to illustrate concrete actions mobilized by the private sector to further the SDGs of focus.

3. IAFN Regional Meetings

In view of the higher level of activities and engagement outside of Rome, there was an expressed desire during CFS 2016 to find opportunities for increased regional engagement.

IAFN Asia Chapter

At the end of 2016, CropLife Asia proposed to establish an Asian regional coordination body for IAFN. The IAFN Asia Chapter was established to mirror and expand IAFN’s work in the Asia-Pacific region. The activities of this region started with an inaugural meeting on January

13th, 2017; the IAFN Asia attendees agreed that CropLife Asia will serve as its first coordinator. The Chapter was particularly helpful in identifying, selecting and coordinating the participation of farmers and private sector representatives to attend the FAO Biotechnology Meeting for Asia that took place in September in Kuala Lumpur.

FAO Regional Meetings on Biotechnology

In 2016, IAFN coordinated a business delegation at the FAO International Symposium on Biotechnology. In 2017, the FAO carried out two regional meetings on biotechnology, for Asia in Kuala Lumpur in September 2017 and for Africa in Addis Ababa in November 2017. Key achievements include at these events included:

FAO Biotechnology Meeting for Asia:

- 12 delegates attended
- 2 farmers were sponsored by IAFN (Rosalie Ellasus of the Philippines and PPS Pangli of India)
- Coordination with Global Farmer Network to identify profiles of farmers

FAO Biotechnology Meeting for Africa:

- 28 delegates requested to attend
- 7 were offered travel support by IAFN
- Coordination with Global Farmer Network and USDA-FAS

4. Engagement with FAO

The Secretariat facilitated delegations at FAO biotechnology meetings. Other achievements include:

- Securing a meeting with FAO's Director General during CFS
- Meeting on a regular basis with staff of FAO's Office of Communications and Partnerships
- Securing participation for IAFN members in Goal 2 expert group meetings
- Engaging with FAO regional groups through bilateral meetings throughout the year
- Meetings with the Deputy Director General

5. IAFN Coalition for an Enhanced Codex

In 2017, the Coalition and Funders' Group expended resources to organize themselves and to develop underpinning materials. The many meetings with the permanent representations of countries indicated that governments appreciate the concrete suggestions the coalition is making.

The FAO OEWG on Funding for Scientific Advice, established in 2017, reflects the importance being placed on Codex. Following two meetings, the recommendations from the OEWG on the use of the unspent balance of the 2016-17 appropriations without alterations to fund Codex scientific advice were endorsed by the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee and were subsequently submitted and endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2018.

The FAO Council approved the following resolution: “The establishment of a blind trust fund designed to enhance contribution from state and non-state actors, aimed at supporting a sustainable funding solution to FAO’s work and activities related to scientific advice for food safety and the Codex Alimentarius ... with an initial level of USD 1.5 million.” See more details of the budgetary resolutions on page 3 of the joint Programme and Finance Committee Report here: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv224e.pdf>.

The member states indicated this year that the budgetary process, which occurs in the broader FAO / WFP / WHO context, was a precursor to further reforms. It will be important for the Coalition to work on the reform process in 2018.

With funding in place, the way should be cleared for more advanced discussions on reform. However, support for broader reform from groups as diverse as the African Regional Group to the QUAD³ and the Codex leadership itself has been expressed. There seems to be commitment to consider funding special projects on reform, as well as interest in new modes of funding.

The power of the Coalition to reach out domestically through its country contacts is a significant opportunity that could be explored more in 2018. The Secretariat also finalized the year with a series of calls with the USA (USDA-FAS), which is contemplating providing funding to Codex in some areas specifically related to the 7 recommendations laid out in the position paper, such as funding for Crop Groupings or Electronic Submissions.

Background

Delays in the establishment of MRLs, or the failure to develop MRLs, and the resulting lack of national/international harmonization subject the global food trade to an unpredictable international trade environment and have important consequences for market access, productivity, and farmer livelihoods. This unpredictability includes national governments applying zero, near-zero, or undefined default tolerances to traded commodities.

Enabling Codex to perform its role more effectively and efficiently by addressing current capacity challenges, embracing new scientific and administrative methods of evaluation, and ensuring adequate resources are available, is essential to supporting global food security and trade.

It is to address these concerns that the Coalition for an Enhanced Codex was established in 2016 before joining as part of the market facilitation efforts undertaken during the International Year of Pulses. The Coalition’s sustainability was ensured when it joined the International Agri-Food Network in 2017.

The coalition developed a set of seven recommendations outlined in its position paper⁴:

1. Increase the availability of experts
2. Secure a budget for secretariat staff and experts
3. Maximize the use of electronic tools

³ USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand

⁴ <https://agrifood.net/documents/codex/218-codex-psm-position-paper-1>

4. Peer review of national reviews and MRLs established by national authorities:
5. Maximize the use of crop grouping and representative commodities: JMPR
6. Avoid rework and delay
7. Ensure the consistency of application and adherence to the policies adopted by JMPR, CCPR

In addition, in early 2017, the Coalition developed a Mission document:

Mission: The Codex Alimentarius plays an integral role in establishing food safety standards, protecting the health of consumers and enabling the global trade of agriculture products to the benefit of farmers and consumers. The IAFN Coalition for an Enhanced Codex seeks effective and impactful Codex reforms to ensure the continued production and trade of safe, high-quality and diverse food in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Year in review

2016 in numbers

- Coalition built in 2016 counting 18 members and 9 observers
- 3 coalition calls held
- 19 countries approached (Australia, Canada, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Switzerland, Uganda, United States).
- 27 official letters sent
- 54 companies and organizations contacted
- Bilateral meetings organised with 7 countries
- Migration to IAFN Umbrella in 2017 to ensure legacy

2017 in numbers

- Coalition expanded to 29 members and 8 observers
- 9 coalition calls held
- 4 funders' group calls held
- 3 companies and organizations contacted to join
- Bilateral meetings with 21 countries (see full list above)
- Development of new material to govern the coalition and its funders' group

The Coalition for an Enhanced Codex was officially established under the IAFN umbrella in the first quarter of 2017. It established new governance guidelines, a workplan and budget. A funders' group was established to manage budgets and ongoing work.

The objective of the Coalition is to advocate for an improved Codex process on MRLs. Advocacy for large-scale Codex reform was conducted by coordinating all the interests across livestock, field crops, horticulture and other parties in Codex.

1. Coalition Material

The coalition developed a series of founding documents including:

- A white paper

- Principles document
- Funders' Group Terms of Reference/Coalition Modalities
- Calendar of meetings
- Priority list of countries and agencies / key staff for outreach (capital, Rome and Geneva permanent missions)
- Tracking sheet of all meetings
- Draft concept paper on Funding for Scientific Advice
- Key messages on funding

2. Delegation coordination

The Secretariat coordinated the participation of its members in delegations at several events (briefing calls, briefing meetings, onsite support):

- 1st Meeting of the FAO Committee on Agriculture's Open-Ended Working Group on Funding for Food Safety Scientific Advice – 4 members attended
- 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR49) – 10 members attended
- 3rd Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-3) – 12 members attended
- 2nd Meeting of the FAO Committee on Agriculture's Open-Ended Working Group on Funding for Food Safety Scientific Advice – 3 members attended
- UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) – 9 members attended
- WTO SPS Training – 1 member presented on MRLs and the Coalition
- 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC-11) in Argentina – 2 members attended, assisted with speaker for side-event on scientific advice

3. Side-events

Lois Rossi (an independent consultant) organized two side-events and the coalition assisted with speakers from its group:



Presenters Lois Rossi, Louise Roberge, Geoffrey Onen and Lucy Namu at CCPR Side Event in Beijing, China

- Americas MRL Workshop in Quito, Ecuador (March 2017)
- CCPR49 (April 24-29, 2017) in Beijing China. The side event was entitled “Codex Maximum Residue Levels: The Need and Initiatives of Increasing the Capacity of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPPR)”. It was held on Monday, April 24, 2017. There were three presentations made:

- “Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs): The Need and Increasing Capacity” presented by Lois Rossi
- “IAFN Coalition for Increasing Codex Capacity and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Intergovernmental Group on Tea (FAO/IGG)” presented by Louise Roberge

- “Overview of the WTO Workshop on Pesticide MRLs and Possible Next Steps for Consideration by the SPS Committee” presented by Geoffrey Onen, Delegation of Uganda and Lucy Namu, Delegation of Kenya

Lois Rossi noted that the side-event was well attended. Ms. Rossi was asked to speak to the CCLAC at their daily meeting the next day to answer further questions, and discussion on the “catch-up” plan was had with the WHO, FAO, and Codex Secretariats. Also, the “catch-up” plan was discussed in detail with the head of the Australian delegation, which also chairs the Priorities Electronic Working Group into which the “catch-up” plan will feed.

4. Presentations

The Secretariat also made presentations on the role of the coalition in several events:

- International Spice Conference (ISC - 2017) from February 12 - 14, 2017, at The Leela, Kovalam – Kerala, presentation on “Codex and MRLs” made by Robynne Anderson
- Ceylon Tea Conference in Sri Lanka in August 2017, presentation on “Global Engagement”, also mentions Codex and MRLs, made by Robynne Anderson

5. Outreach activities

The workplan noted that the expected outcome of the outreach activities was that governments were made aware of the issues and of the specific ideas to tackle them. This activity was aimed at getting their support to do so. In the case of CCPR affected countries, support for specific reform initiatives in CCPR is needed, with experts and funding to JMPR and in CCPR.

The Secretariat organized outreach activities with member states at key events:

- 49th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR49) - Bilaterals
- IAFN / PSM Annual General Meetings – Luncheon on Codex and bilaterals
- UN Committee on World Food Security - Bilaterals

Over the course of 2017, the following countries / agencies were met with in bilateral meetings (in several cases more than one meeting occurred):

1. Codex Secretariat
2. Head of the FAO Food Safety and Quality Unit
3. Argentina
4. Australia
5. Cameroon
6. Canada
7. Chile
8. China
9. Egypt
10. European Union
11. India
12. Indonesia
13. Iran
14. Japan
15. Kenya

16. New Zealand
17. Philippines
18. Switzerland
19. Thailand
20. Turkey
21. USA

Over the course of the year, the Secretariat had conversations with several countries, in particular with the United States and Canada, regarding additional funding for Codex.

The Secretariat also had an important meeting with the Head of the FAO Finance Committee, the permanent representative of the Philippines, to discuss the shortfalls in funding, the need for reform, and to highlight the small sum required to adequately fund scientific advice.

6. Case-studies

The Coalition's outreach efforts highlighted a need to build better awareness with FAO and Codex officials, technical experts and member countries on why new approaches to setting MRLs are required and the consequences of status quo. The Coalition started the development of a series of global case studies to document the real-life impact of missing maximum residue limits (MRLs) on farmers' ability to both produce sustainable food and access world agricultural markets. Four case studies were commissioned to four suppliers on the following topics:

- Quinoa in Peru
- Cranberry exported from the US to the EU
- Beans and peas in Kenya
- A veterinary drug used to control worms in sheep that was delayed in reaching the UK market

The secretariat prepared these case studies for dissemination in two formats:

- Individual four-pagers
- A booklet compiling all 4 case-studies into two-pagers

Achievements

Key internal outcomes include:

- Transfer of institutional home from IYP2016 to IAFN secured at the beginning of the year
- Expansion of the coalition to 29 members and 8 observers and expansion of the funders' group to 7 paying organizations
- Successful fundraising to cover year's budget among members: €74,000
- Outreach to 20+ countries in bilateral meetings
- Side-events to raise awareness on the issue among member states
- 4 Case-studies produced and formatted for dissemination

Key milestones towards achieving the objectives of the coalition:

- Establishment of the COAG's Open-Ended Working Group on Funding for Scientific Advice after advocacy for its creation to key member states
- Extra member country funding secured for Codex from Canada and the USA

- Participation as private sector representatives secured at COAG's Open Ended Working Group on Funding for Scientific Advice

1. Workplan review

The below workplan was developed by the funders and reviewed through the year by the funders' group and the coalition at-large.

Activity 4 was the "catch-up plan": it was taken out of the workplan and is being implemented independently by Pulse Canada.

Activity + Expected outcome	Status & Next Steps
<u>Secretarial Services (EA):</u>	ACHIEVED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking out new coalition members representing international sectors or commodity specific sectors to join existing group; • Engaging with new members of the coalition and attracting potential funders; • Coordination with Chair the organisation of monthly calls with flexible dates and three months in advance, following up actions meeting-to-meeting, agendas, engaging IAFN codex committee inbetween calls; • Outreach, event organisation and proposals of key outreach events; coordination of coalition delegations during meetings and coordinate most importantly industry messages; seeking approval on events to attend; • Seeking out consultants to work on technical projects; drawing up contracts; engaging and managing workload, e.g. point 3 of workplan, and reporting back to funders group; • Travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +10 new coalition members • 7 funders secured including a new member: PepsiCo • 9 coalition calls held • 3 funders' group calls held • Briefings prior to large events with members' delegations, division of efforts for outreach according to priority list • Quarterly review of the workplan • Contacted and secured 4 suppliers for the case-studies • Raised €74,000 to implement workplan
<u>1. Preparatory documents</u> a) Principles: Develop a set of high level principles. b) Terms of Reference: Develop guidance for group of coalition members identify their role in the Codex reform effort.	ACHIEVED a) DONE: http://agrifood.net/documents/codex/224-coalition-mission-and-principles b) DONE as Funders' Group ToR/Modalities

Activity+ Expected outcome	Status & Next Steps
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<p><u>2. Stakeholder/opportunity mapping</u></p> <p>a) ID key decision-makers, contacts in order to help develop nature of actions and to target them later.</p> <p>b) ID key events in 2017.</p> <p>c) Collate and define target members and messages.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>a) Priority list of countries and agencies staff (see below)</p> <p>b) CALENDAR 2017-2018 updated through the year</p> <p>c) List of potential coalition members</p>
<p><u>3. Problem analysis + communication</u></p> <p>a) quantifiable macro-level global impact on trade;</p> <p>b) real-world case studies of problems faced due to lack of MRLs.</p> <p>Thereafter:</p> <p>c) the above to be packaged into case for reform, with emphasis on adverse impacts on developing countries, and how reform would contribute to food security, trade, and development goals.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>RFP sent on June 30 Deadline to submit: July 30 4 suppliers selected Deadline to complete: September 30 Completed by 4 suppliers Case-studies reformatted in 4-pagers and in booklet</p>
<p>Activity + Expected outcome</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p><u>5. Position paper</u></p> <p>Develop a position paper for IAFN on the impact of Codex procedures on the trade of agricultural commodities and farmers' access to markets and on the need for reform.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>Available online: http://agrifood.net/documents/codex/218-codex-psm-position-paper-1</p>
<p><u>6. Outreach to countries</u></p> <p>The first external activity is outreach to countries. This will be done on a bilateral or regional basis.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>21 countries met in bilateral meetings at key events: -CCPR -IAFN/PSM AGM -CFS + meetings from calendar</p>

<p>Activity + Expected outcome</p>	<p>Comments</p>
<p><u>8. Participation</u></p> <p>Coalition partners are expected to participate in the process at FAO, WHO, Codex Commission and relevant committees.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p> <p>Calendar of events showing which coalition members were present at which events</p>
<p><u>9. Year-end report</u></p> <p>Drafting of an assessment of past actions and development of new actions. The outcome is that members are informed</p>	<p>ACHIEVED</p>

about progress to date and can share with their governance group the progress made thus far.	
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PSM Final report is filed separately.