



Strengthening Food Safety Systems in the Caribbean

IICA SUPPORT FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN CODEX

Lisa Harrynanan, PhD
Agricultural Health & Food Safety Specialist

AHFSQ Programme, IICA
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CONTEXT

The type of support IICA provides to strengthen codex Alimentarius to its member countries with emphasis today on the Caribbean

Pre Covid

During Covid

Emerging from Covid

IICA MTP 2022-2026

(IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being.

Provides technical cooperation continuous engagement with its 34 Member States, based on the needs of their agrifood systems.

IICA supports 15 Caribbean countries

Harmonize, update and implement **science-based** health, safety and quality standards, promoting the harmonization, updating and implementation of SPS measures, within the framework of the Application of SPS Measures, the Trade Facilitation and the Technical Barriers to Trade agreements -----

BY strengthening technical capacities for decision making and institutional capacities for the implementation of these agreements

One such area under the AHFSQ program is Codex

Pre-COVID – Delegates

- General Session & Codex Committees
- Participation in virtual colloquiums (IICA invited candidates to come to IICA Office to view sessions and be able to discuss with other colleagues and stakeholders)
- IICA provided support to attend committee meetings through a competitive application process (not all countries submitted proposals) – some countries went with own resources, most Caribbean countries could only attend with IICA support – poor participation or ineffective participation

IICA Support – Promotion of Participation

- In 2000 IICA conducted a survey in 24 countries in LAC, results showed only 15 (62.5%) countries indicated active participation
- As a **Consequences of low or NO participation IICA developed a programme in Oct 2009 for 'Promotion of the participation of the Americas in the CA'** – the activity was intended for:
 - Funding for codex delegates
 - Provide opportunity to coordinate actions and establish a national agenda articulated in Codex issues &
 - Achieve a greater regional coordination of positions
- After 7 years, the results were evaluated

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROGRAMME

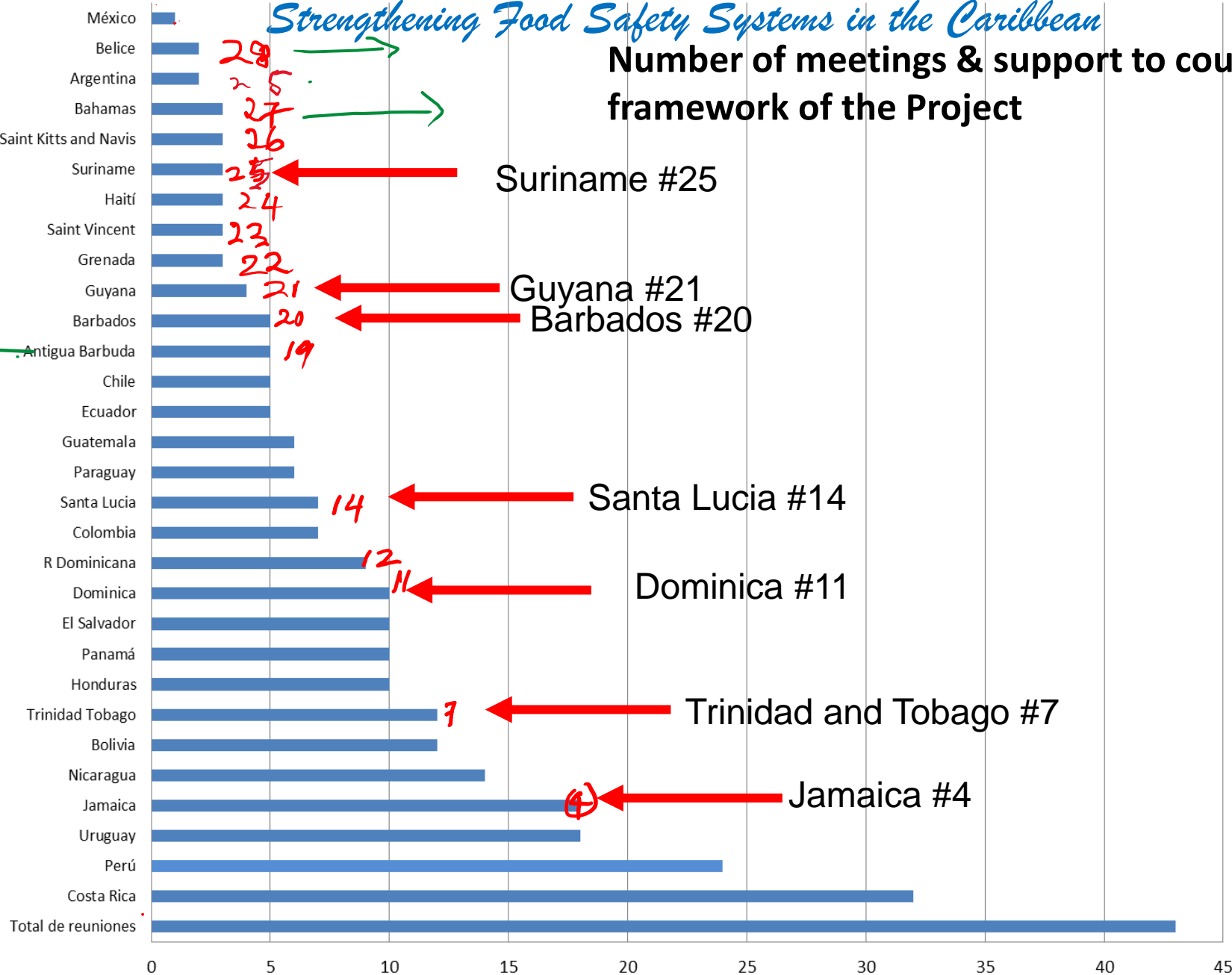
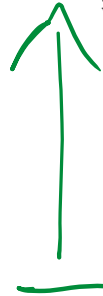
- Coverage: 32 countries members of the IICA and Codex (excluding the United States and Canada).
- Financing of: IICA, USA, Canada, private sector.
- Funding for: Participation/development of capacities/ south - south cooperation.

Achievment from the Programme

- 7 years of program
- 43 meetings of committees supported
- 12 committees supported
- 252 officials supported
- 30 Countries Supported

Strengthening Food Safety Systems in the Caribbean

Number of meetings & support to countries 2009-2015 in the framework of the Project



**SURVEY OF RESULTS
AFTER THE PROJECT**

↑ meetings

Other support actions in Codex



- ✓ Supported and implemented **training events and strategic planning** in LA & Caribbean countries
- ✓ **FAO/WHO CCLAC** - in its management and **promotion of regional coordination**
- ✓ **Codex Symposiums**, inter regional meetings among CCLAC-CCAFRICA-USDA
- ✓ **Colloquio/Colloquiums** - countries discuss and reach consensus on topics of the Codex Alimentarius, **prior to the meetings of the committees**, thus improving its negotiating position.
- ✓ **Twinning Programmes** – drawing on the capabilities and positive experiences of other LAC countries or other regions to complements the efforts of USDA& IICA to strengthen the CAC
 - **2016** –ECS (5 countries) & Brazil plus one additional outcome: Development of an “e-Codex ECS Sub Regional Newtork” – only one meeting held to discuss TOR
 - **2016** – A&B & US Codex
 - **2017** – Bahamas+ twin & Jamaica+twinn

Support to participate in Plenary Sessions

Geneva: CAC 38, 2015



CCFH, Boston 2015



CCLAC, Chile Nov21-25 2016)



15 CARICOM countries plus Dominican Republic.

Other support actions parallel in Codex

- Support for the coordinating country of the CCLAC (Chile & Ecuador)
- Video Conferences of coordination, prior to meetings of the Codex Committees (more than 60 meetings) – **urge country to participate even if not attending the CC Meeting.**
- Training
- Direct participation in some Codex committees at the national level and/or work together at the national level.

Project overview

“Strengthening the functioning of the national Codex structure in Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia and Suriname”.

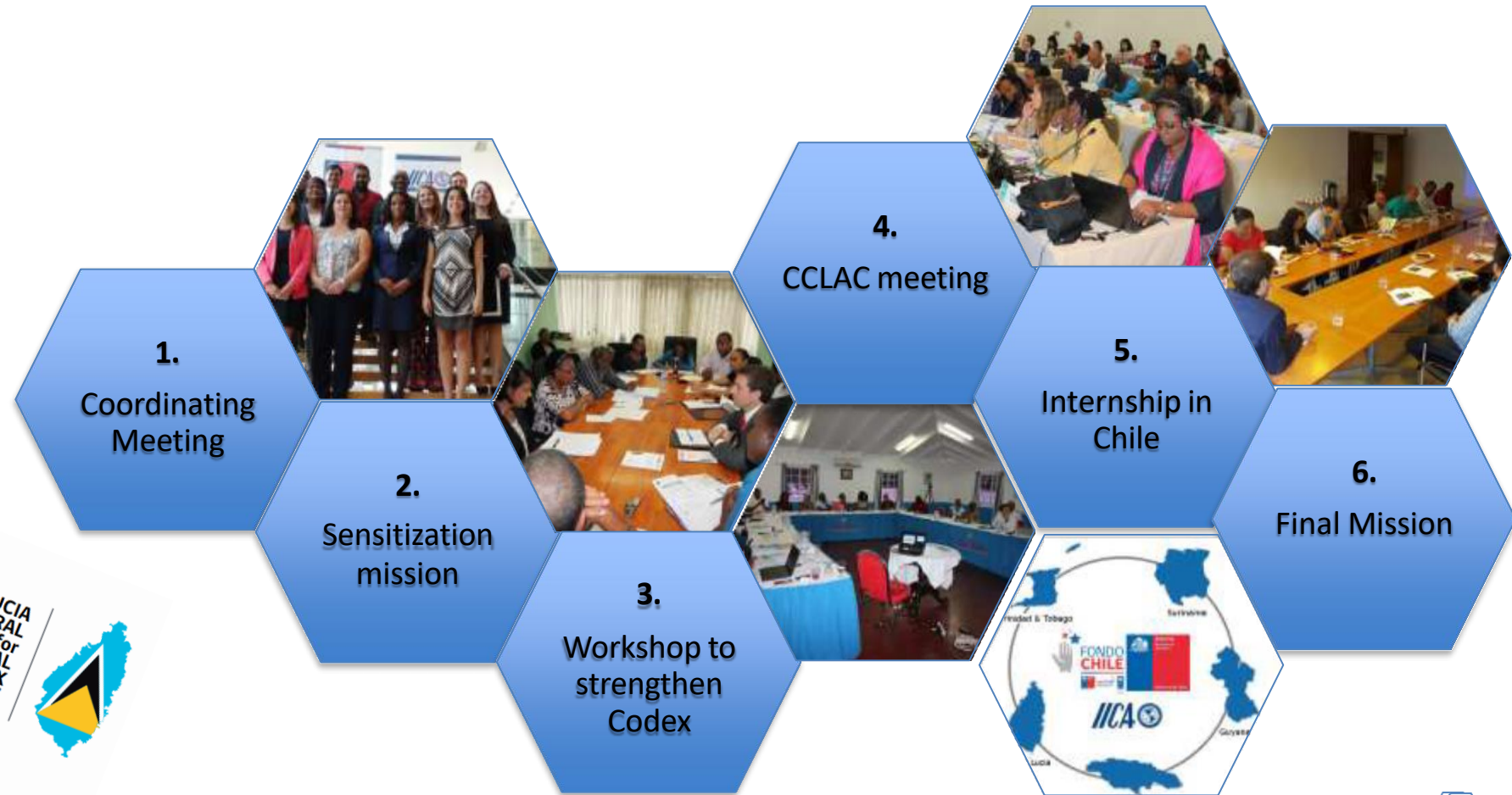
As the CCLAC Coordinator, Chile wished to strengthen the integration of the Caribbean States to the rest of the countries in the region and **enhance their technical capacities to effectively participate in Codex**. Raise awareness about the importance of Codex to key stakeholders. Strengthen the structure National Level.

2YEAR PROJECT – 2016 -2017



S-S COOPERATION –SANTIAGO, CHILE

National Codex Strategy Procedural Manual Communication Component



Codex during Covid

Zoom Meeting

You are viewing Constanza Vergara's screen

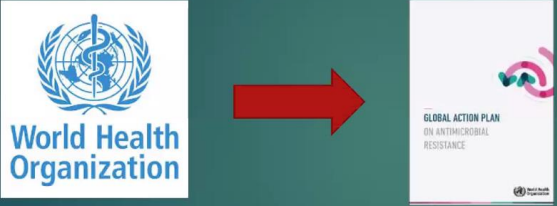
View Options

LISA HARRYNA... Eric Bolaños Led...

Constanza Vergara

Recording

Considerations



World Assembly 2015

Strategic Objective 2. to strengthen knowledge through **surveillance** and research;

Understanding how resistance develops and spreads, including how resistance circulates within and between humans and animals and through food, water and the environment, is important for the development of new tools, policies and regulations to counter antimicrobial resistance;

Participants (72)

Find a participant

- DV Daniela Vivero
- DB Daryl Best
- DL Delcy Lugo
- Diego Varela
- DP Donald Prater
- DO Dr. Ozaye Dodson
- FK Farz Khan
- FL Federico Luna
- FR Fernando Rivera Espinoza Mx S...
- GA Geovanna Amancha Ecuador
- GK Gianna Karg
- GA Gloria Alarcon
- GA Gretel Albert

Unmute Start Video Participants Chat Share Screen English Reactions More Leave

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Focus

10:27 AM 9/16/2020

Support - collaboration

- **Participate in General Session & Codex Committees**
 - CCLAC Coordination meeting on various committees
 - 2020- 15 CCLAC virtual meetings planned (all physical sessions were cancelled, 3 physical inter-colloquiums cancelled, virtual committee meetings were held, poor participation from countries, livelihood disrupted by lockdowns, illness and death)

- **CAC43 –CAC43 for the first time held virtually by members consensus.**



Virtual CAC43 in the hands of Codex Members

08/08/2020

Capacity building in Codex Science-based decision making

Participation in the General Session and Codex Committees

- 6 committees / year
(expected)
- 40 to 50 countries per
year

Regional Coordination with CCLAC and CCAfrica

- 3-5 colloquiums (1
interregional)
- Virtual coordination sessions

Codex during COVID

- No travel
- Participation reduce severely
- Covid – work from home, work reduced, illness of family members
- Low morale

- Reduce Plenary Sessions
- Increased eWGs & vWGs
- Virtual plenary sessions
- **Opportunity for more NCC members to participate**
- Advantage & Disadvantages
- Gradual restart of physical meetings
- Countries no or some own resources
- CAC44- Elections (physical vote)

IICA support for colloquiums:

- Zoom platform
- Translation (E-S-F-D)
- Coordinate with CCLAC
- Collaborate with US Codex/CCAFRICA
- **2022 Sept- CAC 45**
Rome – funding to Caribbean countries with no resources if country delegate wishes to participate

Support for building capacity of NCC

- Codex NCC (CCP) professionals capacity to coordinate Codex Alimentarius was enhanced through direct technical support and facilitation of national codex delegates to prepare for, and effectively participate in: -
 - a specialized training provided 2 officers from countries to develop skills for effectively participating in codex meetings via a Virtual '**Online Consensus Formation**' course,
 - IICA-hosted CCLAC meeting for LAC countries 'Challenges and Opportunities of the LAC Region in the Codex Alimentarius, in the new normal',

IICA Specialist in Country

IICA Specialists contributes to the deliberations of the local Codex Committee & overall coordination

- In Guyana - NCC
- Jamaica NCC- members of National Codex Committee.
- Grenada codex – NCC **(Capacity Building of the National Codex Committee - (6) virtual training sessions - *Understanding Codex Alimentarius, Role of NCC Member, Codex Procedural Manual, How to Review Codex Draft Standards etc*)**
- Dominica -NCC
- CCLAC- support to CCLAC (Zilpaterol, twinning, workshops)

Capacity building in Codex Science-based decision making

- Twinning (coming 2023)
- Exchange of experiences
- Manual on Good Practices of Participation (coming soon)
- Virtual course on the Procedural Manual (coming soon)
- Support to improve CODEX infrastructure
- Support in the development of Regional Positions

CCSCH6



Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs / a trigger for change for industry and consumers

Grenada & Jamaica and ????