

Role of Codex in international food standards

Virtual Presentation to BIPM

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What is Codex?

- International Food Standards body set up 1963 by FAO/WHO
- Statute and purpose
 - to promote international standards for health protection and fair practices in food trade
- Current membership
 - 189 (188 countries and 1 Member organization)
- 2023 marks 60th anniversary of Codex

Vision and Mission of Codex

Vision

Where the world comes together to create food safety and quality standards to protect everyone everywhere

Mission

Protect consumer health and promote fair practices in the food trade by setting international, science-based food safety and quality standards



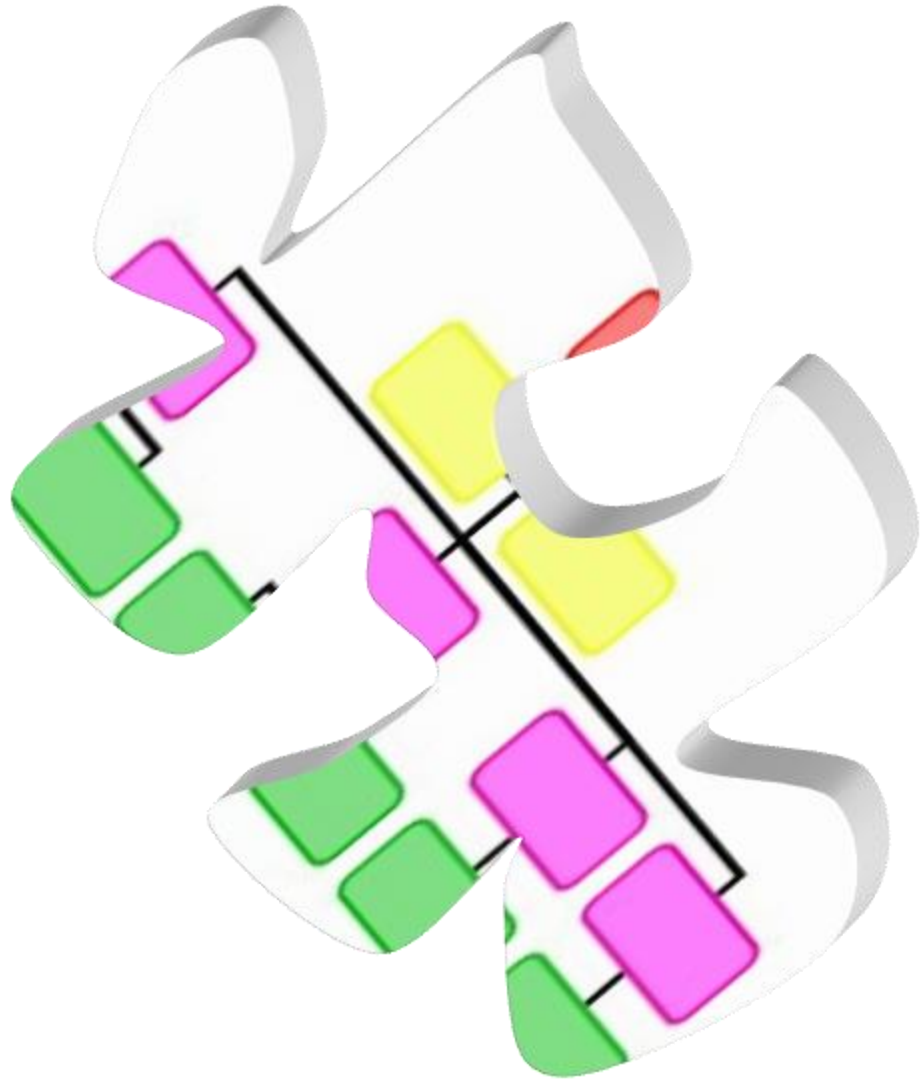
Why is Codex important?

- Codex food safety standards international benchmarks under WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (the SPS Agreement)
- WTO members encouraged to harmonize with Codex standards;
- Minimising unjustified Technical barriers to trade remain important to international food trade
- Food safety and quality standards essential for health protection and trade



What does Codex produce?

- **General Standards** for food hygiene, food labelling, inspection and certification, nutrition, food additives and contaminants, residues of vet drugs and pesticides and methods of analysis
- **Commodity standards** (eg fruits and vegetables, milk and milk products, processed fruits and vegetables, spices and culinary herbs, fats and oils, fish and fishery products, natural mineral waters)

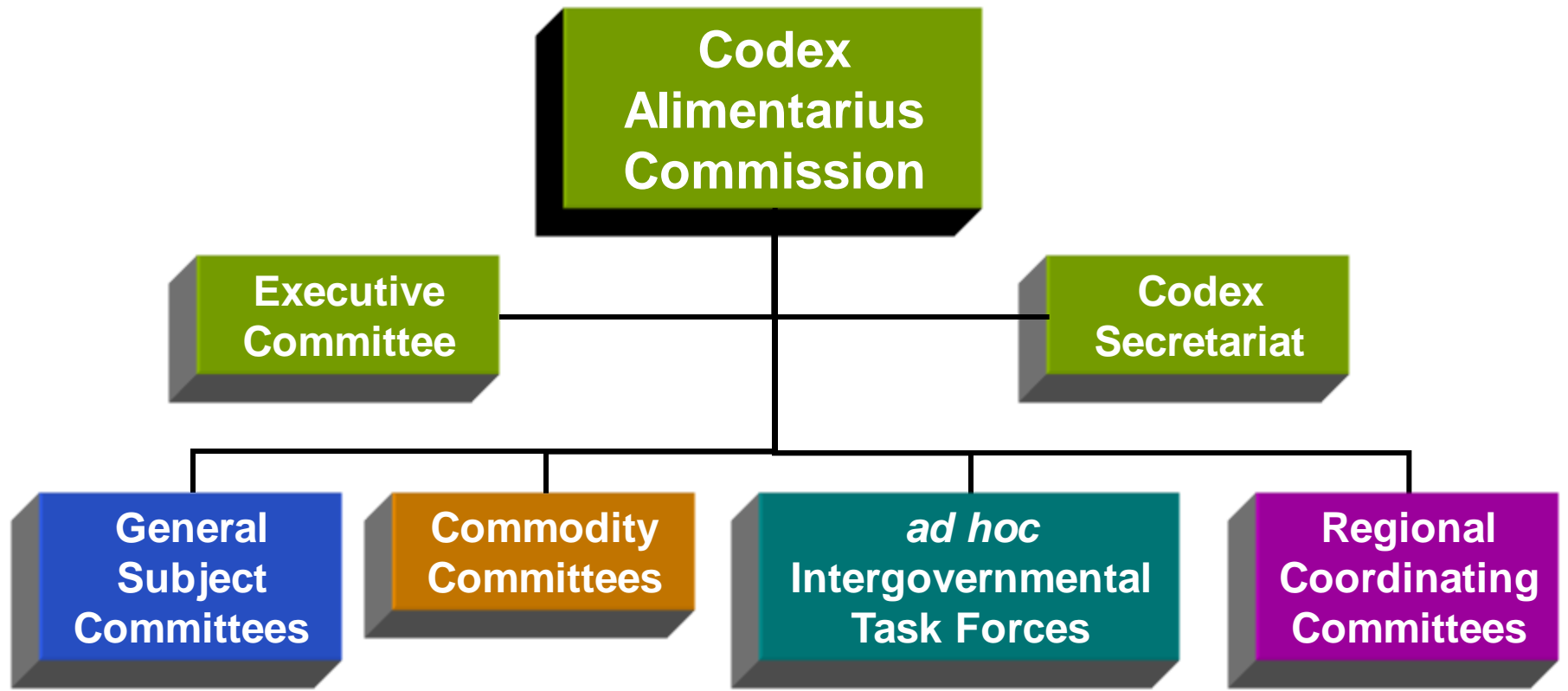


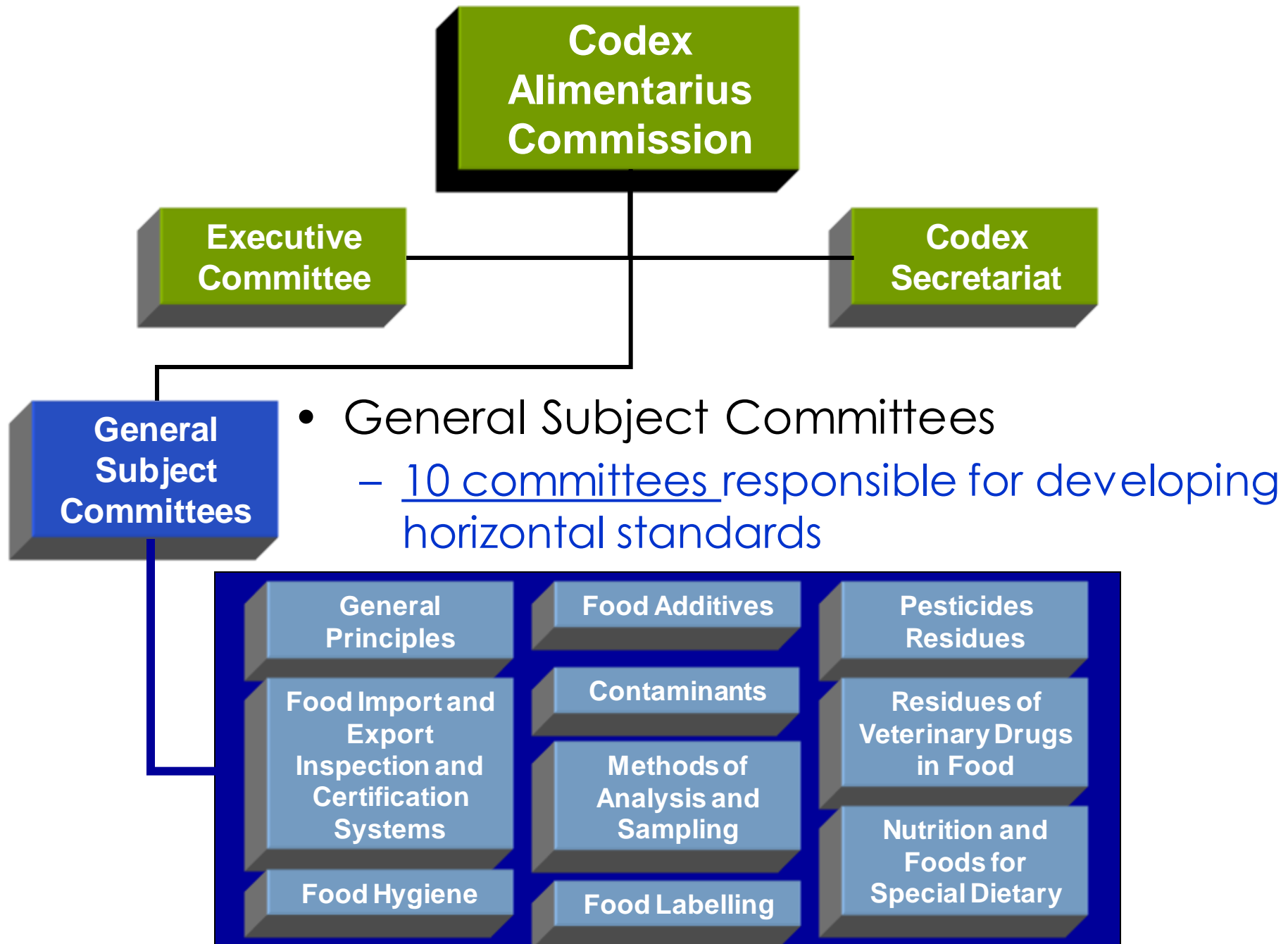
Structure of Codex

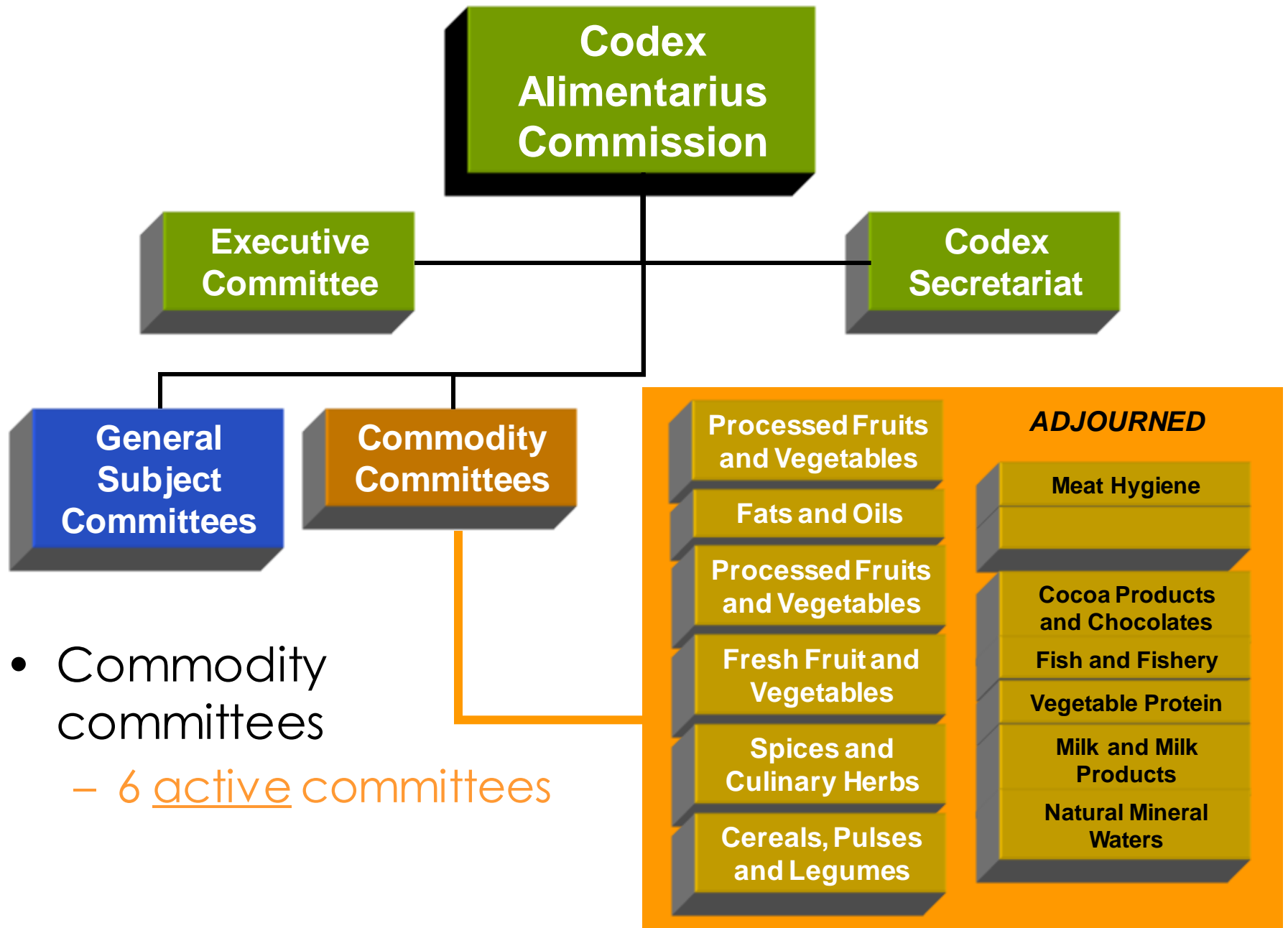
The logo for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, featuring the text "Codex Alimentarius Commission" in white on a green rectangular background with a black drop shadow.

**Codex
Alimentarius
Commission**

- Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
 - high level decision making body
 - meets annually to adopt standards and approve work programme
 - Last meeting held in Rome in November 2022

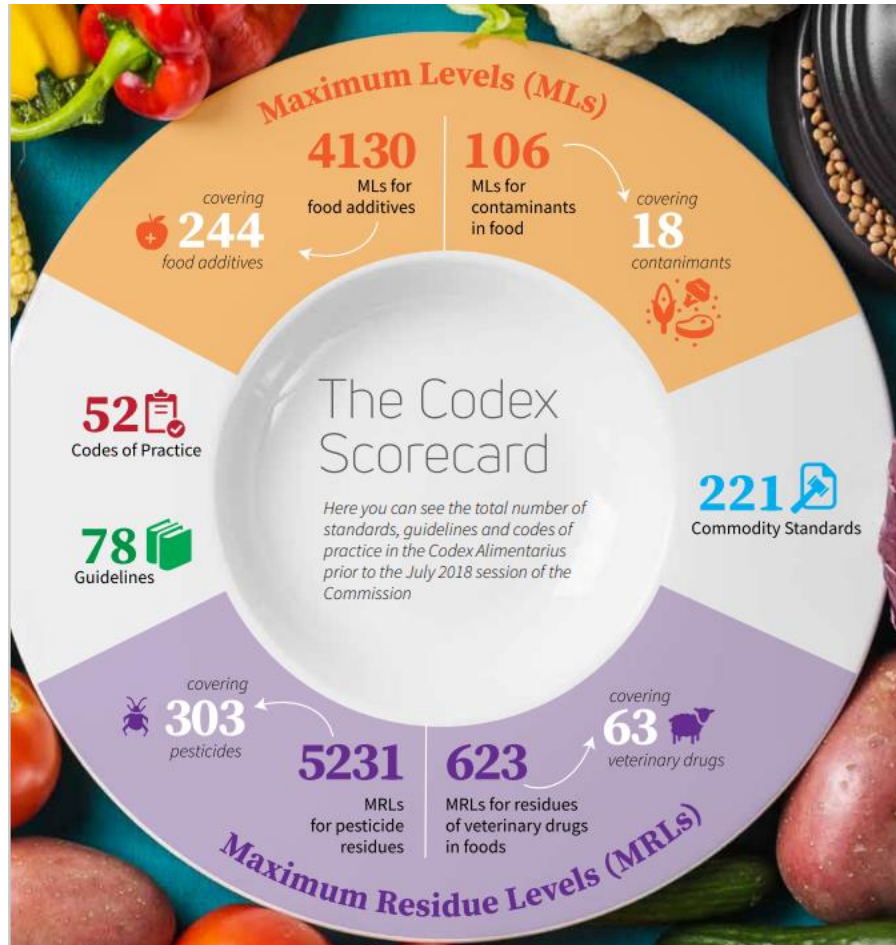






- Commodity committees
 - 6 active committees

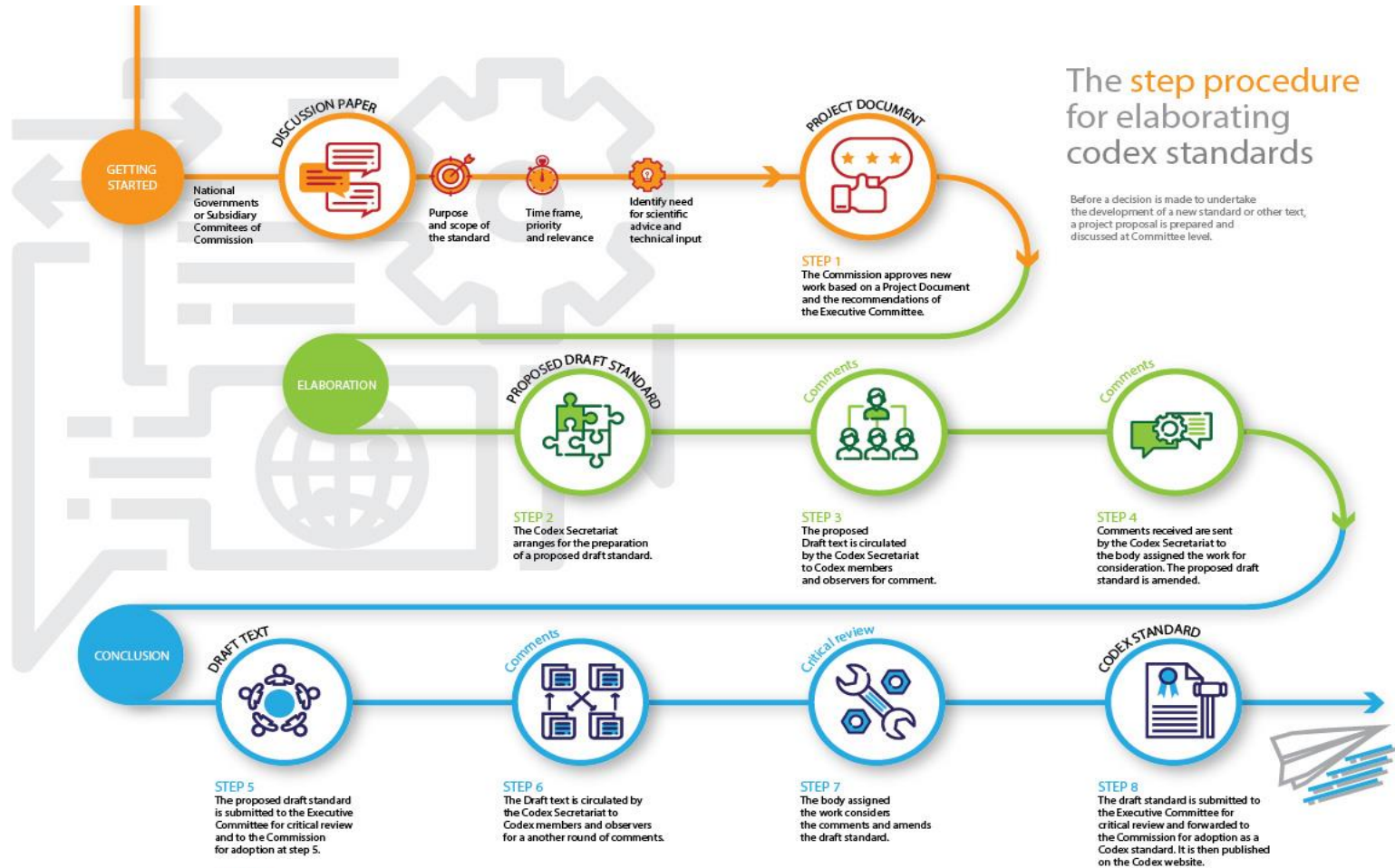
Codex Scorecard



Codex Standards development Process

- Codex standards development involves an 8 step process that covers the initial drafting, consultations and final adoption
- Provides for two rounds of comments (steps 3 and 5)
- Final draft submitted by Committees to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Step 8

Codex standards process



Step 5/8:
Increasingly subsidiary bodies are utilizing a Step 5/8 procedure. This entails texts being submitted for adoption at Step 5 having a recommendation that Steps 6 and 7 be omitted and that the text also be adopted at Step 8. This practice substantially speeds up the adoption process.

Role of Codex Committee on Methods of analysis and sampling (CCMAS)

- Providing leadership in methods of analysis and sampling based on science
- Leading the development of international standards and guidelines
- Working closely with international bodies such as IDF, AOAC, ISO and BIPM in the development of international standards
- Publication and endorsement of methods of analysis and sampling
- Host Country – Hungary and meets annually

Some key activities of CCMAS

- To endorse methods of analysis and sampling plans for provision in Codex standards to ensure food safety and to facilitate fair trade
- Internationally endorsed methods are important to verification of provisions in Codex standards
- Sampling plans and procedures to ensure fair and statistically valid sampling procedures are used when food is being tested for compliance with a particular commodity standard (product specifications)

Recent work on revision of Codex guidelines for sampling

- Sampling plans are important to assess compliance of lots for:
 - Commodity defects, e.g blemishes in fruit
 - Net content (e.g.drained weight of canned peas, fruits etc) and
 - Compositional characteristics (e.g. fat/protein content of milk powders)
- Specify sampling plans for health related properties (e.g. microbiological parameters or chemical contaminants)
- New Zealand led and championed this work in CCMAS

Major outputs of CCMAS

- Principles for the use of Sampling and Testing in international food trade (2015)
- Guidelines on measurement uncertainty (2021)
- Guidelines on Analytical terminology (2009)
- Recommended methods of analysis and sampling (2021)
- General Methods of analysis for food additives and contaminants (2004)

Importance of international collaboration

- Observer organizations play a key role in international standards development by providing technical expertise and insights;
- Codex recognises and values such collaboration during the process of standards development
- ISO, IDF, AOAC and BIPM contribution to Codex work particularly in CCMAS very important to ensure Codex standards benefits from expert advice and are technically sound

Some key priorities for Codex

- Developing standards that address global interests in food safety and fair trade
- Sound science and risk assessment
- Consensus and collaboration
- Increasing impact through recognition and use of Codex standards (international harmonisation)
- Addressing future challenges

Thank You

Other words include: Kiitos, Maake, Terma, Kasih, Obrigado, Spasibo, Mamana, Welalin, Asante, Chokrane, Raibh Maith Agat, Juspaxar, Merci, Obligado, Chokrane, Ua Tsaug Rau Koj, Dankon, Matondo, Dank Je, Grazie, Mochchakkeram, Spasibo, Multumesc, Kia Ora, Spasibo, Dank Je, Mochchakkeram, Kiitos, Multumesc, Chokrane, Niringrazzjak, Asante, Maake, Mamana, Cam on ban, Vinaka, Raibh Maith Agat, Asante, Dyakuyu, Spasibo, Raibh Maith Agat, Kiitos, Mochchakkeram, Maake, Spasibo, Mochchakkeram, Spasibo, Matur Nuwun, Arigato, Chokrane, Raibh Maith Agat, Dank Je, Mochchakkeram, Matur Nuwun, Chokrane, Spasibo, Kiitos, Mochchakkeram, Obligado, Salamats, and Grazie.