



Embarking sustainability in the international food standard-setting: opportunities and challenges in Codex

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CELCAA conference
Reconciling Sustainability & Openness
Trade perspectives in agri-food & commodities

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Codex standards: constraints or drivers for trade?



- Codex standards cover all features of all food products
 - Vet drugs or pesticides MRLs
 - Labelling, certification
 - Commodities description
- Voluntary / But recognized by WTO
 - Hormones / sardines cases
 - ⇒ *It's safer to implement Codex standards*
- More controversial when implications related to production and processing methods
 - ⇒ *Codex standards disseminate strong signals for policy-makers*

Codex standards and sustainability: state of play



- NO specific tool to integrate sustainability in the standard-setting process
- FEW Codex accounting for sustainability:
 - Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food including Concessional and Food Aid Transactions
 - General standard on food labelling: in 2018, amendment of the section on “date marking”
- Existing tools COULD allow effective consideration of sustainability
- On-going work in the area:
 - Sustainability labelling
 - Use & re-use of water in food production
 - Amendment of the standard on sardines (stock of fish?)

Sustainability in Codex: beyond food standards



- A United Nation programm operating in an evolving environment:
 - Under the responsibility of FAO and WHO
 - Codex and the SDGs
 - One Health
- What should we do to make Codex more sustainability-conscious?
 - Improve knowledge on Codex standards' impact
 - Broaden Codex scientific basis (beyond toxicology & epidemiology)
 - Act as risk managers
 - Put emphasis on new works related to sustainability (labelling, pesticides residues, certification)



Thank you for your attention

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