



# National Codex Coordination in Kenya

By:  
Esther Ngari

- ❖ KEBS is the National Standards Body (NSB) in Kenya
- ❖ It was established in 1974 under the Standards Act (Cap 496)

## Key Mandate

1. Standardization (National, EAC, ARSO & ISO/IEC)
2. Conformity Assessment (Quality Assurance and Inspection of goods, Product Testing, Market surveillance)
3. Scientific Metrology and Calibration services
4. Training Services
5. System Certification Services

*(For more information, please visit [www.kebs.org](http://www.kebs.org) )*

# National Codex Committee

- ❖ Coordination of Codex is done by the National Codex Committee (NCC)
- ❖ Secretariat – Codex Contact Point CCP (KEBS)
- ❖ Chair - Ministry of Health (2-year term, renewable once)
- ❖ Membership:
  - Drawn from various organizations
  - KEBS contacts government agencies responsible for National Food Control System (NFCS) and other stakeholders using official letters for nomination to NCC
  - Membership is reviewed annually

## ❖ Membership:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Pest Control Products board, Kenya Accreditation Service, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, Kenya Dairy Board, Directorate of Veterinary Service, Horticultural Crop Development Authority, The Government Chemist, State Department of Trade, National Public Health Laboratories, Kenya Fisheries Service, Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute, FAO Country Office, various Public Universities (JKUAT, UON, TUK, KARU, EGERTON), Kenya Private sector Alliance, Kenya Association of Manufacturers

- ❖ Management Support at CCP- Success of Codex at National level depends largely on the activity of the CCP as an organization and as an individual.
- ❖ Political good will- Codex being an intergovernmental body, the political support by the government is very key and ensures success of codex activities.
- ❖ Budgetary allocation- Codex activities incur expenditure e.g stakeholder consultations, Codex meetings and therefore need to have budgetary allocations specifically for National Codex coordination

- ❖ Workplan- To hold the government responsible, Codex activities should be incorporated in workplans of all government institutions involved in NFCS.
- ❖ Awareness- All stakeholders both private and public need to understand the importance of Codex. CCPs needs to create this awareness.
- ❖ Capacity building for CCPs and National stakeholders on codex tools for example EWGs, OCS, the Codex website
- ❖ Higher level policy makers awareness on importance of codex standards and other texts
- ❖ Trainings on consideration for development of National positions on various codex texts in line with National/regional policies, SPS and TBT agreements.

# Opportunities



- ❖ Through participation in the development of relevant Codex Text, and as a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Kenya has enjoyed Global Market Access for its exports.
- ❖ It has been easier for Kenya to align its national policies to these internationally recognized and accepted standards which eliminates unnecessary barriers to trade.
- ❖ Kenya has been able to safeguard the health of its people because Codex standards core mandate is to ensure food is safe for consumption.
- ❖ By being a member of CAC, Kenya has enjoyed fair trade practices between its trading partners that are also members.

# Challenges



- ❖ Inadequate engagement by members in the global system of food standards and trade.
- ❖ Limited participation of members and international engagement through Codex and the WTO TBT Committees due to lack of funding. This hinders reaping the benefits of science and technological progress.
- ❖ Insufficient public-private partnerships to review issues pertinent to TBT and SPS matters, for example: reviewing developments in technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures that are potential barriers to trade for domestic and international partners;
- ❖ Limited coordination between National Consultative Committees on Codex, TBT and SPS, noting that membership is different due to expertise required from the various stakeholders.





**THANK  
YOU**

**KEBS CONTACTS:**

**Email:** info@kebs.org

**Head Office:** KEBS Centre, Popo Road,  
off Mombasa Road

**P.O. Box 54974 - 00200, Nairobi**

**Tel:** (+254 0 20) 6948 000,

**Toll free line** 0800221350 or 1545

**Cell:** 0722 202 137/8; 07334 600 471/2

**SMS Service:** 20023