Cooperation between the OIE and Codex: OIE perspective

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SPS Agreement requirements

The World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS Agreement") requires WTO Members to:

- play a full part in the work of the relevant international organisations, in particular Codex, OIE and IPPC and

- base their sanitary and phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, where they exist (specifically Codex, OIE and IPPC standards, guidelines and recommendations).
Standards for food safety

The OIE animal production food safety standards are complementary to the Codex standards – which are the food safety references under the SPS Agreement.

As the food production chain is a continuum ‘from farm to fork’, WTO Members should take full account of OIE recommendations on animal production food safety in setting measures for safe foods of animal origin.

International standard setting organisations – the ‘Three Sisters’
OIE and Codex standards and the SPS Agreement

For animal health and zoonoses, the SPS Agreement specifically recognizes the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the OIE.

For food safety, the SPS Agreement specifically recognizes the standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

Cooperation between the OIE and CAC is important to avoid duplication, gaps and inconsistencies in standards, etc. falling within the scope of both organizations.
OIE’s international standards

OIE develops and publishes:
Aquatic and Terrestrial Animal Health Codes
Standards for the prevention and control of animal diseases as well as for the safe trade of animals and animal products

Aquatic and Terrestrial Diagnostic Manuals
Biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines

Adopted by OIE Member Countries during General Session each May by consensus

Using a science-based approach
OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Terrestrial Animal Health Code – mammals, birds and bees

Aquatic Animal Health Code - amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

available on the OIE Website
Updating OIE standards

- Issue / problem identified by Delegates, OIE Commissions, industry, scientists, individuals
  - New scientific information e.g. from research or disease outbreak
  - new diseases – emerging diseases
  - new approaches to control e.g. vaccination

- addressed by appropriate Commission as a new or revised standard
  - Using working groups and ad hoc groups for specialist tasks e.g. BSE, epidemiology, avian influenza, TB…
A Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat was adopted by the CAC in July 2005 and is the primary international standard for meat hygiene.

- The Code incorporates a risk-based approach to application of sanitary measures throughout the meat production chain.

Chapter 6.2 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection) refers to the Codex Code and describes the role of the Veterinary Services in meat inspection.
Codex & OIE standards: poultry

A good example of cooperation was the parallel development of OIE and Codex standards on *Salmonella* in poultry;

- OIE and Codex actively participated in each other's standard development process, so the final standards provide a co-ordinated approach from farm to fork.

In 2011 CAC adopted **Guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken meat**

The **OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code** includes:

- Ch.6.4. **Biosecurity procedures in poultry production**
- Ch.6.5. **Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry**

Codex guidelines & the OIE chapters contain cross references
Codex & OIE standards: animal feeding

In 2004 the CAC adopted a Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding.

- The Code applies in addition to the principles of food hygiene already established by the CAC.

OIE has adopted

- Ch. 6.3 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code: “Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed” and
- Ch. 6.1 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code: “Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds”. Both chapters refer to Codex Code of Practice.

In July 2013 the CAC adopted “Guidelines on the Application of Risk Assessment for Feed”. OIE participated actively in the development of these guidelines.
Codex & OIE standards: zoonotic parasites

Both Codex and OIE are involved in the process of developing standards on parasites of food safety concern, e.g. Trichinella.

- The Codex Secretariat and Chairpersons of the Codex WG participated in the work of an OIE ad hoc group on Trichinella.

- the OIE is participating in the work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene Working Group on the draft ‘Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella* spp. in meat of Suidae and *Taenia saginata / Cysticercus bovis*’.
Cooperation between OIE and Codex (1)

The OIE Director General presents a report of relevant OIE activities at the annual meeting of the CAC.

The Chairperson of the CAC presents a report on relevant Codex activities to the annual meeting of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.

OIE submits written comments on Codex issues and OIE representatives have participated and participate actively in the work of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies.

- e.g. those working on meat hygiene, animal feeding, food import and export inspection and certification systems, food hygiene, antimicrobial resistance and general principles.
Cooperation between OIE and Codex (2)

In 2002 the OIE established an Animal Production Food Safety Working Group with participation of experts from OIE, Codex, FAO, and WHO.

- The Working Group coordinates OIE activities related to animal production food safety and provides advice to OIE’s Director-General and the OIE Specialist Commissions. It also seeks to further develop collaboration with the CAC.

- Codex Secretariat participates in the work of OIE ad hoc Groups in drafting texts for inclusion in the OIE Terrestrial Code, etc. and in other OIE meetings
  - e.g. OIE Conferences on Animal Identification and Traceability, and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents.
Harmonisation of OIE and Codex approaches to standard setting (1)

- OIE and Codex have not developed any common standards.

- However, both organisations take account of each other's existing standards and standards in preparation when developing their own standards.

Both OIE and Codex make cross references to each other's standards.
Harmonisation of OIE and Codex approaches to standard setting (2)

Issue considered at the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) in April 2012.

CCGP agreed to establish an electronic working group to propose:

- guidance for the OIE and the CAC on making consistent cross references to standards; and
- guidance to each organisation on how they can better take into account relevant work that has been undertaken or is in progress by their counterpart organisation.

OIE is participating actively in developing this work.
National and regional cooperation

At the international level, OIE and Codex cooperate and coordinate their activities

- e.g. via the APFSWG

It is also important that there is cooperation and coordination between OIE and Codex at the regional and national levels, especially since in some countries the contact points for OIE and Codex are in different ministries/organisations.

Contact details of the national Codex Contact points can be found on the Codex website.
Further information on Codex and its relation to OIE can be obtained via:

- OIE web site: www.oie.int
- Codex web site: www.codexalimentarius.org
- Codex Contact Point in each Member State