



7 March 2017

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

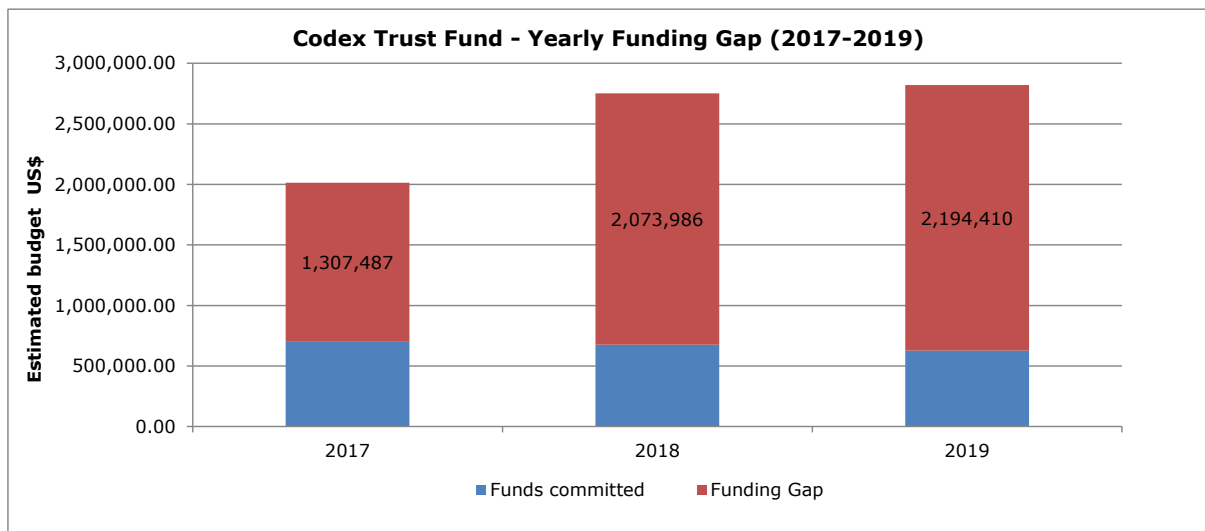
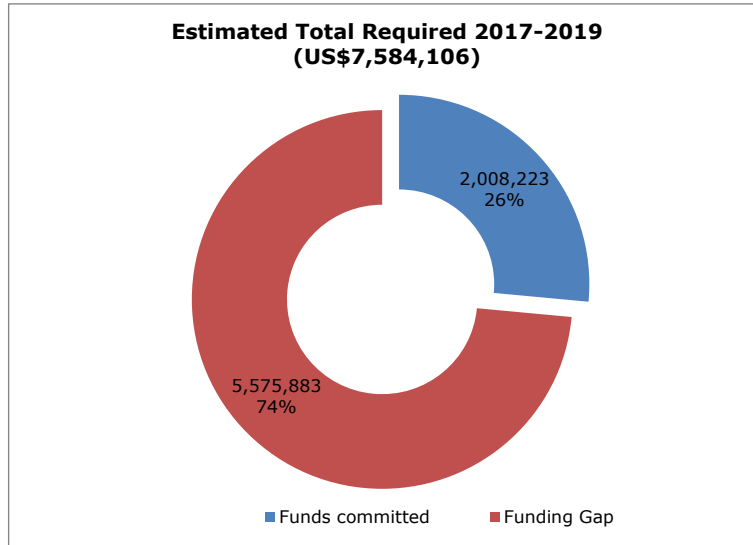
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WHY INVEST IN THE FAO/WHO CODEX TRUST FUND?

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FAO/WHO CODEX TRUST FUND TO THE MARCH 2017 SESSION OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

The following communication, received on 6 March 2017, is being circulated at the request of the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund.

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1. The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund came into being on 1 January 2016 for a period of 12 years to support countries to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
 2. When countries invest in the international food safety standards they are making an important investment that brings a quadruple return:
 - 1) protection of consumer health everywhere in the world;
 - 2) reduction in the economic cost of illness and death from unsafe food;
 - 3) economic gains from safe trade in food; and
 - 4) more sustainable food production, including reduction in food losses.
 3. Investing in the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund ensures that all countries can engage fully and effectively in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. When all countries participate in Codex the resulting standards are truly global standards of relevance to all countries, and can be the basis for national standards to protect consumer health and facilitate the trade of the country.
 4. Support from the Codex Trust Fund is provided for individual countries or groups of countries for up to three years. Currently 103 countries are eligible for support. Four countries were successful in the first application round in 2016 and began implementation of activities in January 2017. A new application round is planned for 2017.
 5. Supported by the Codex Trust Fund, countries can implement an array of activities such as: building awareness among policy and decision-makers to gain the political and financial support for Codex activities; strengthening the functioning of the national Codex Contact Point and National Codex Committee (or equivalent); building the capacity of national officials working in the area of food safety and Codex to prepare for and participate effectively in Codex work at national, regional and international levels; building country capacity to provide scientific and technical input to the international food standard setting process.
 6. US\$3.3 million per year is needed to support each eligible country at least once in the 12 year lifespan of the Codex Trust Fund. The Codex Trust Fund currently has a US\$5.5 million funding gap for the period 2017-2019.



7. FAO, WHO, the Codex Secretariat and the Codex Trust Fund are requesting members of the SPS Committee to raise awareness within their line ministries, as well as ministries of economic, affairs, trade and development of the importance of supporting food safety and Codex work by making a contribution to the Codex Trust Fund. We stand ready to work with all interested parties to secure new contributions to the Codex Trust Fund, increase the level of current contributions, and find ways to receive multi-year contributions to improve the predictability and sustainability of funding in future years.

8. The FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund looks forward to your support.
