

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Use of Codex Standards by Codex Members

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

BACKGROUND

- CCGP – Revocation of the Acceptance Procedure (full or partial adoption of Codex standards)
- WTO – National SPS and TBT Enquiry Points to report on harmonization of national / regulations with international standards
- RCCs – Monitoring use of Codex standards (CCAFRICA, CCASIA, CCEURO, CCLAC, CCNASWP, CCNE)
 - TOR: Exchange of information on:
 - issues related to food quality and safety of concern
 - regulatory initiatives on food quality and safety
 - RCC/Codex members:
 - Information to facilitate trade
 - regional responses for food safety emergencies, etc.
 - Codex
 - problems associated to the development / implementation of Codex standards;
 - Food quality and safety issues that could be solved through the development of standards

BACKGROUND

In the past requests to six Codex Regional Committees to comment in general on “national use of Codex standards”:

- Very low response rates across all regions
- Very unsystematic form of reporting
- Impossibility to compare results between countries

2016/17 Revitalization of Codex Regional Committees:

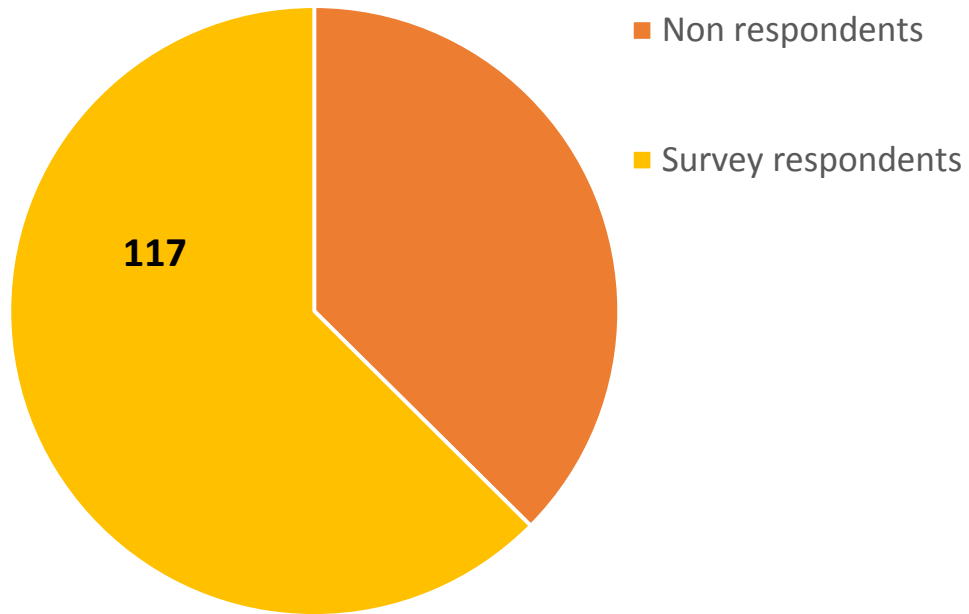
- Introduction of a Survey on the use of specific Codex standards to be repeated and extended to other standards over time
- Option to store information online (database on use of individual standards) under discussion

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

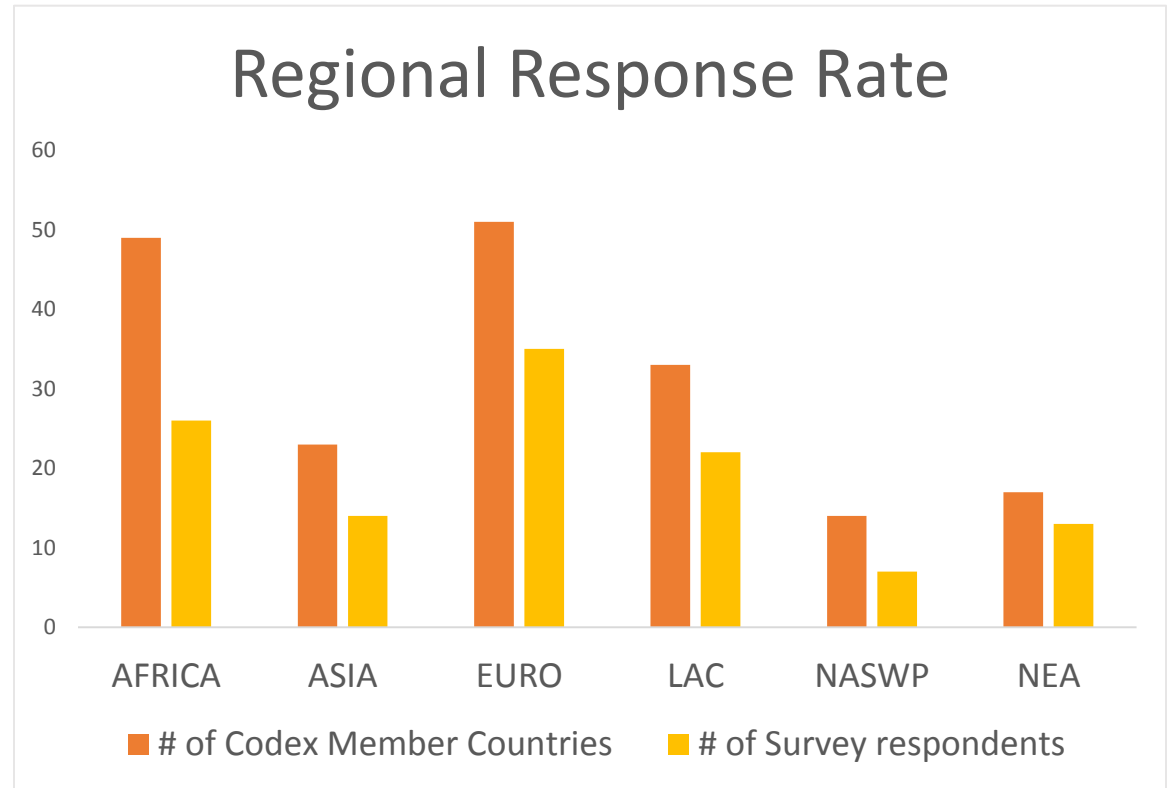
- **Tool:** SurveyMonkey online survey
- **Period:** 2.5 months to reply
- **Recipients:** All 188 Codex Members
- **Thematic Coverage:**
 - Use of MRLs on pesticides in food and feed (**NUMERICAL STANDARDS**)
 - Use of standards on food additives, contaminants in toxins in food and feed, labelling of pre-packaged foods (**GENERAL SUBJECT STANDARDS**)
 - Use of general principles on food hygiene (**PRINCIPLES**)
 - **DIFFICULTIES** associated with the use of Codex standards
 - OPTIONAL PART: user-friendliness of survey
- **Design:** mixture of multiple-choice and open-ended questions

ANSWERS RECEIVED

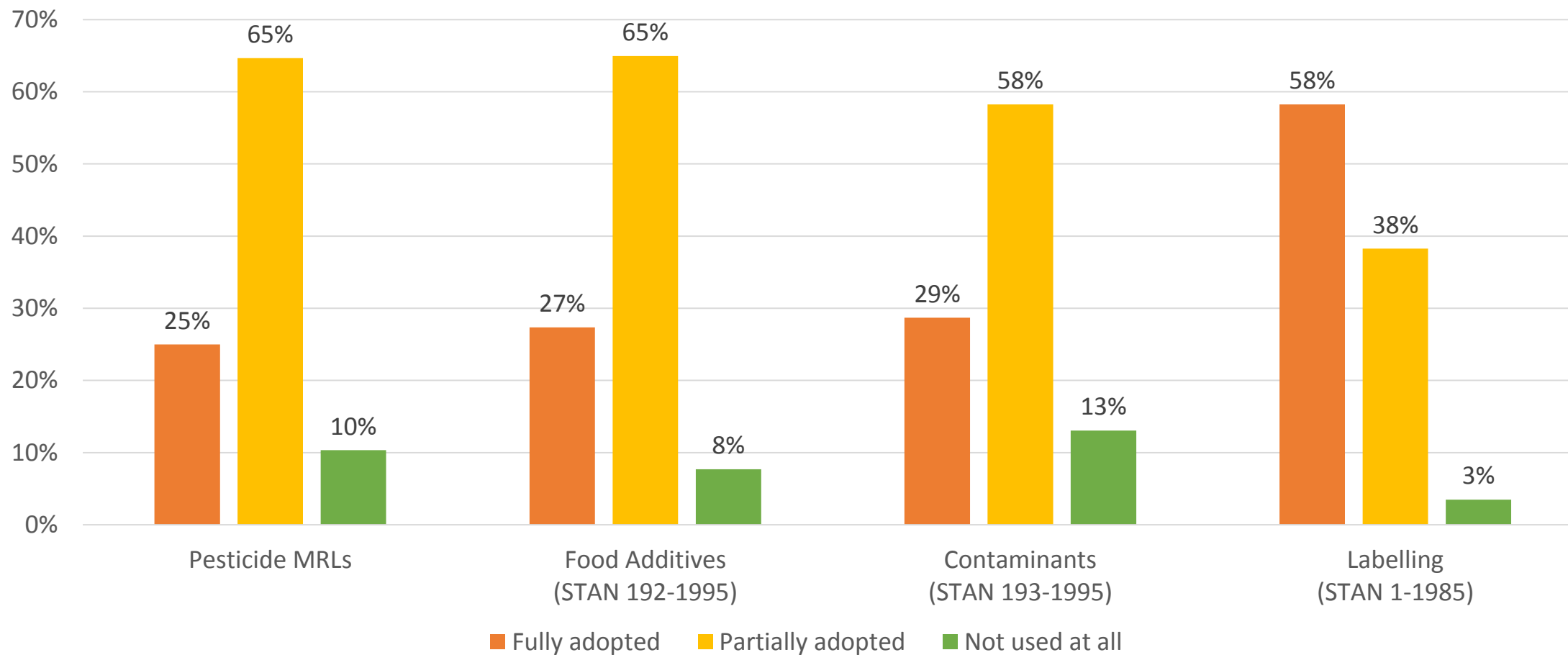
Global Response Rate



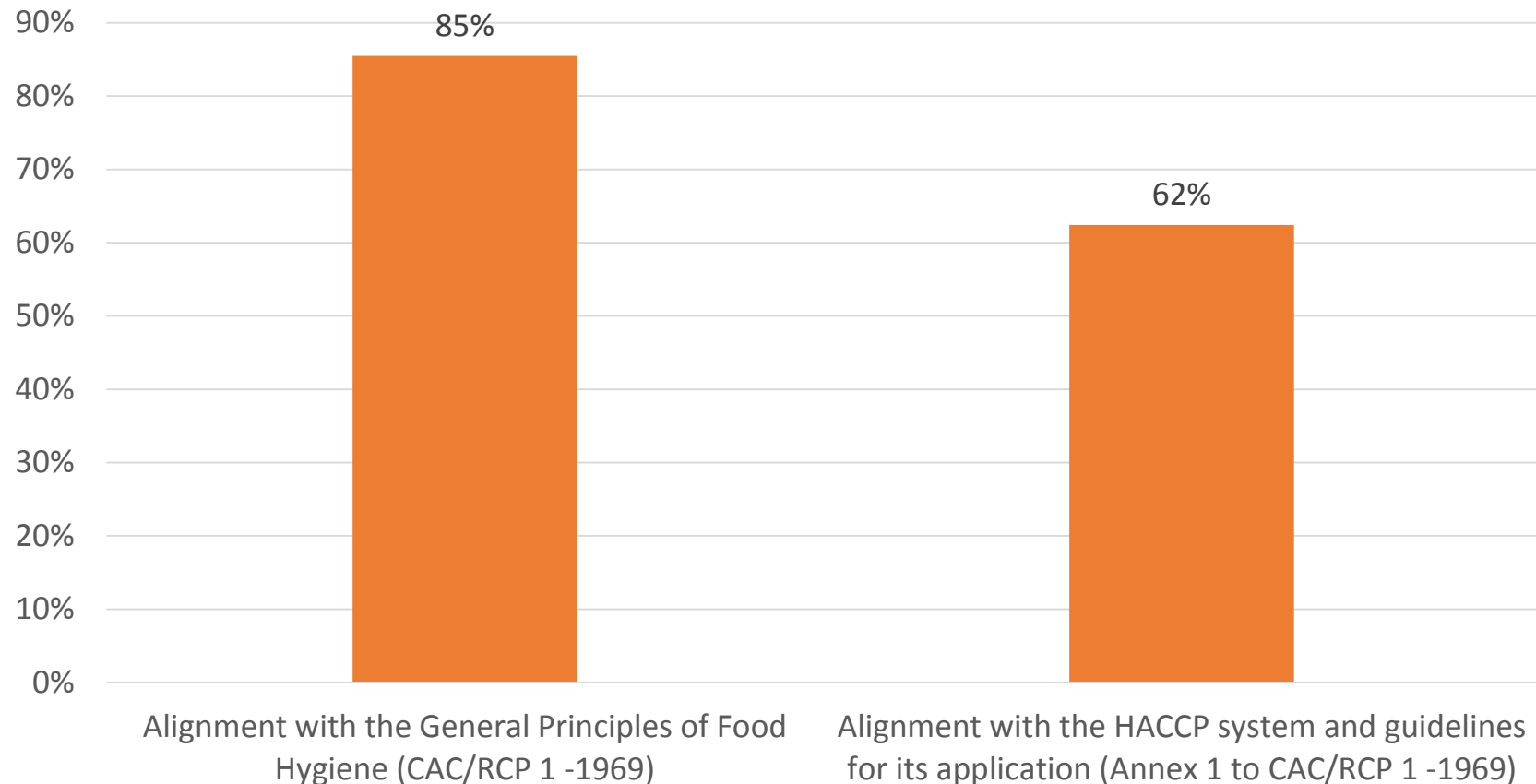
Regional Response Rate



SURVEY RESULTS PART 1(3)



SURVEY RESULTS PART 2(3)



- 85% of respondents (100 countries) align legislation with General Principles of Food Hygiene
- 62% of respondents (73 countries) have legal requirements for HACCP system

SURVEY RESULTS PART 3(3)

Main difficulties regarding the use:

- Resource investments combined with unavailability of local implementation capacity
- Adaptation of Codex standards to the national context/reality
- Duration of Codex standard development and national implementation process (possibly leading to a decrease in the relevance of the final product)

Other difficulties mentioned:

- Language issues
- Differences between Codex and EU or FDA standards
- Lack of basic national food safety laws
- Challenges to catch up with frequent changes in Codex standards and MLs/MRLs
- Lack of awareness of Codex provision in the industry (particularly primary production)

Thank you for your attention

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C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S



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