

GSA Participates in African Codex Conference in Uganda



GSA delegation at the Codex conference

Earlier this year, the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CAFRICA25) convened in Kampala, Uganda, for a critical dialogue on food safety, quality standards, and regional trade.

The session brought together representatives from 24 African countries, 8 observer organisations, and 4 non-regional members to discuss how Africa can enhance food safety frameworks in alignment with its development goals.

The 'Coordinating Committee for Africa' is an African committee established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1972 with a mandate to "exercise general coordination in the preparation of standards

relating to the region of Africa".

Ghana, represented by a delegation from the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) – Mrs. Regina Vowotor, Director of Standards; Mr. Samuel Tetteh Sakitey, Director of Finance; and Mrs. Doreen Gyau Koranteng – played a significant role in these deliberations. The country's active participation reflected its commitment to improving food safety practices and aligning national regulations with international standards, particularly Codex.

The session underscored the importance of harmonising food safety and quality standards across Africa to facilitate intra-regional trade, enhance public health,

and protect consumers. This resonated deeply with Ghana's efforts to integrate Codex standards into its national policies, aiming for better food control systems.

Key outcomes of CAFRICA25 included the development of regional standards for products like Kethiakh (Braised Dried Fish) and Tiacy (Pre-cooked Cereal Granules), as well as the emphasis on capacity-building through the Codex Trust Fund.

The discussions also addressed emerging food safety issues such as antimicrobial resistance, food fraud, and pesticide residues, topics that Ghana has already identified as critical in its domestic food safety landscape.



Group picture of participants at the conference

Furthermore, the session's focus on strengthening multisectoral collaboration and enhancing national food control systems was a call to action for all member countries, including Ghana, to build stronger frameworks to address these pressing challenges.

A Highlight for Ghana: The Recognition of Past CCAFRICA Coordinators

An important moment during CCAFRICA25 was the award ceremony recognising past CCAFRICA Coordinators. Ghana was honoured to receive an award on behalf of Dr. Robert Oteng and Prof. Samuel Sefa-Dedeh, former CCAFRICA Coordinators, who have contributed significantly to the region's food safety standards. This recognition underscores the nation's longstanding commitment to improving food safety standards in Africa.

In a significant development, The Gambia was elected as the new CCAFRICA

Coordinator for the period 2026 to 2027, with the appointment receiving broad support from the session's participants. This marked a moment of transition in leadership, ensuring the continued momentum in addressing Africa's food safety needs.

Ghana's Takeaways from CCAFRICA25

Ghana's participation in CCAFRICA25 highlighted several key takeaways for advancing the country's food safety objectives. The importance of harmonising food safety standards across Africa was a central theme. Ghana must continue to play an active role in Codex standard-setting to ensure African perspectives are represented on the global stage. The session also emphasised the need to strengthen national food control systems, a critical area for Ghana as it tackles emerging issues like food fraud and antimicrobial resistance.

Ghana needs to also position itself strategically to benefit from the 2026 -2031 Codex Strategic Plan.

Regional collaboration was another key point raised at the session. Ghana, as a member of CCAFRICA, stands to benefit from deepening partnerships with both regional bodies like the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) and international organisations like Codex. These collaborations are essential for improving trade access and protecting public health.

Furthermore, Ghana was reminded of the need to integrate Codex standards into its national regulations and continue building the capacity of food safety authorities. This is essential for creating a sustainable food safety framework that ensures the health of the population while facilitating trade.

