2013 was another busy year in terms of New Zealand involvement in Codex. Highlights included:

- Leading significant streams of work in the areas of food hygiene, food labelling and nutrition;
- Supporting adoption of international standards of importance to New Zealand
- Strengthening strategic linkages; and
- Contributing to Codex capacity-building programmes in line with our strategic interests.

**Codex Calendar of meetings**

Since the last newsletter in September 2013, New Zealand has participated in two Codex meetings.

Details of Codex meeting schedules for 2013-2014 can be accessed from the Codex website: www.codexalimentarius.org

**35th Session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) Bad Soden a.T. Germany, 4-8 November 2013**

The major priority for New Zealand at this meeting was to advance the work on the revision of the Codex Standard for Follow Up Formula. The current Codex standard is outdated and needs revision to reflect technological developments, advances in scientific thinking and market developments.

The Committee was however unable to reach agreement at this session on the
scope and possible options for revision and it was clear from the comments at the meeting that further work will be needed to address the issues raised. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic Working Group led by New Zealand to review the nutritional requirements of older infants and young children and come back with a revised discussion paper for consideration at the next session in November 2014.

New Zealand delegation to the session was led by Jenny Reid from MPI and included non-government representatives.

The report of the latest session can be accessed through the Codex website: www.codexalimentarius.org

45th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)
Hanoi, Vietnam 11-15 November 2013

The work of this committee remains a major priority for New Zealand. New Zealand co-led a meeting of the Physical Working group on Control of specific zoonotic parasites in meat: Trichinella spp and Cysticercus bovis immediately prior to the session. Other priority issues for New Zealand included the proposed Code of Practice for Low Moisture Foods and possible new work on Control of Parasites. New Zealand was represented at the meeting by Steve Hathaway, Judi Lee, Emil Murphy and Gillian Anderson from MPI.

Report of the meeting can be accessed from the Codex website. www.codexalimentarius.org

Participation in Working Groups

New Zealand delegates continue to be heavily involved in inter-session electronic and physical working groups across a range of committee and subject areas.

eWG Processed Cheese

As decided by the CAC in July 2013, New Zealand is leading an eWG to determine prospects for developing an international standard for Processed cheese. The eWG has attracted wide interest from Codex members with over 50 member countries and observer organizations joining the group. Based on responses to a questionnaire on the subject New Zealand has prepared a draft report which will be circulated to members for comments in Mid December. Further information will be provided in the next newsletter.

CCFICS Working Group Meetings

To facilitate further consideration of issues in relation to the burden of multiple questionnaires and monitoring of regulatory performance of national food control systems, the Codex Committee on Food Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) organized a workshop in Costa Rica from 2-6 December. New Zealand participated in this workshop and will be attending a further workshop planned to be held in Brussels in February 2014.
Upcoming Meetings

33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Fish & Fishery Products (CCFFP)
Bergen, Norway, 17-21 February 2014

New Zealand continues to have an active involvement in the work of this committee to ensure that the provisions in Codex standards and codes of practice are scientifically justified, non prescriptive and on not create unjustified barriers to trade. Items of interest to New Zealand at the forthcoming session include the Draft Standard for Quick Frozen Scallop Abductor Muscle Meat and the Draft Code of Practice on the Processing of Scallop meat.

For further information on this meeting and other agenda items up for discussion at the forthcoming meeting please contact Jim Sim jim.sim@mpi.govt.nz

35th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)
Budapest, Hungary 3-7 March 2014

In recent years New Zealand has had a significant input into the work of this committee including leading the work on development of international guidelines for sampling and testing in food trade. The focus and interest for New Zealand going forward will be on progressing the development of explanatory notes to support implementation of the above mentioned principles.

Other Committee Sessions in early 2014

Other meetings coming up in the first quarter of 2014 include session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods

Capacity building

New Zealand continues to provide capacity building assistance to developing countries in a number of Codex related areas. NZ Codex Contact Point has been involved in a number of FAO funded projects in the Asia Pacific region aimed at strengthening national Codex Structures and policy frameworks and supporting international harmonization based on Codex.

Questions/comments/feedback

If you have any comments or feedback on any matters related to Codex please contact CodexNZ@mpi.govt.nz

Seasons Greetings

The MPI Codex team wishes all its readers Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to working with you in 2014