



Technews

**National Dairy Development Board
For Efficient Dairy Plant Operation**

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No. 81

WTO, CODEX AND IDF

This bulletin includes technical information based on latest developments on products, systems, techniques etc. reported in journals, companies' leaflets and books and based on studies and experience. The technical information in different issues is on different areas of plant operation. It is hoped that the information contained herein will be useful to readers.

The theme of information in this issue is **WTO, Codex and IDF**. It may be understood that the information given here is by no means complete.

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- **Introduction**
- **World Trade Organization (WTO)**
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1. INTRODUCTION

The international trade is largely governed by the guidelines of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO Agreements specify measures consistent with international standards and recommendations to be established for the international trade. The WTO itself does not develop these standards but accepts those developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). In developing standards pertaining to milk and milk products, the CAC also takes help of the International Dairy Federation (IDF). Since these guidelines and standards have important bearing on the international trade, it is useful for the dairy processors to know about these organizations. Information on these organizations was briefly provided in the *Technews* Issue No. 22 (Sep.-Oct. 1999) and Issue No. 29 (Nov.-Dec. 2000). This issue of *Technews* presents updated information on the WTO, CAC and IDF.

2. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established in 1948 with India as one of the first signatory countries for regulating international trade through multilateral negotiations. Agricultural issues were not included in those negotiations. Agricultural issues were, however, included subsequently in the WTO which replaced GATT.

The World Trade Organization (WTO), an inter-governmental organization, came into existence with the successful conclusion of Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Marrakesh on 15 April 1994.

The WTO, headquartered in Geneva, began its operations on 1 January 1995 as the umbrella organization for international trade. Presently 153 countries, including India, are members of the WTO.

The WTO's objective is to help trade flow smoothly, freely and fairly. It does this by:

- Administering trade agreements
- Acting as a forum for trade negotiations
- Settling trade disputes
- Reviewing national trade policies

Decisions in WTO are made by the entire members. This is typically by consensus. A majority vote is also possible but it has never been used in the WTO. The WTO's Agreements have been ratified in all members' Parliament.

The WTO's top level decision making body is the Ministerial Conference which meets at least once every 2 years. Below this is the General Council (normally Ambassadors and heads of delegations in Geneva but sometimes officials sent from members' capitals) which meets several times a year in the Geneva Head Quarters. The General Council also meets as a trade policy review body and the dispute settlement body. At the next level the Goods Council, Services Council and Intellectual Property (TRIP) Council report to the General Council. Numerous specialized committees, working groups and working parties deal with the individual agreements and other areas such as the environment, development, membership applications and regional trade agreements.

Three significant agreements, among others, Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement – are part of the treaty which established WTO and are of special interest for export of dairy products. SPS Agreement and TBT Agreement have formally recognized the international standards, guidelines and recommendations, including the Codex Standards, as reference points for facilitating international trade and resolving trade disputes in international laws.

2.1 Agreement on Agriculture: The objective of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is to reform trade in the sector and to make policies more market-oriented. The Agreement was to be implemented over a period of six years by developed countries (i.e., by 2000) and ten years by developing countries (i.e., by 2004).

The AoA incorporates obligations and commitments to:

- **market access** – various trade restrictions confronting imports
- **domestic support** – subsidies and other programmes, including those that raise or guarantee farm-gate prices and farmers' incomes
- **export subsidies** and other methods used to make exports artificially competitive.

The new rule for market access in agricultural products was 'tariffs only'. Before the Uruguay Round, some agricultural imports were restricted by quotas and other non-tariff measures. These have been replaced by tariffs. Those countries which tariffed non-tariff measures were entitled for Special Safeguard (SSG) provision. Under this, they could impose additional duty on import of a product when either the volume of imports exceeded or the price of imports fell below the reference trigger levels. India was not entitled to SSG.

The AoA distinguishes between support programmes that stimulated production directly, thereby affecting import / export markets, and those that were considered to have no direct effect.

Domestic policies (support) that had a direct effect on production and trade had to be cut back. WTO members calculated how much support of this kind they were providing per year for the agricultural sector (using calculations known as 'total aggregate measurement of support' or 'Total AMS') in the base years of 1986-88. Developed countries agreed to reduce these figures by 20% over six years starting in 1995. Developing countries agreed to make 13% cuts over 10 years.

Least-developed countries did not need to make any cuts. (This category of domestic support was sometimes called the 'amber box', a

reference to the amber colour of traffic lights, which means ‘slow down’.)

Measures with minimal impact on trade could be used freely – they were in a ‘green box’ (‘green’ as in traffic lights). They included government services such as research, disease control, infrastructure and food security. They also included payments made directly to farmers that did not stimulate production, such as certain forms of direct income support, assistance to help farmers restructure agriculture, and direct payments under environmental and regional assistance programmes.

Also permitted, were certain direct payments to farmers where the farmers were required to limit production (sometimes called ‘blue box’ measures), certain government assistance programmes to encourage agricultural and rural development in developing countries, and other support on a small scale (‘de minimis’) when compared with the total value of the product or products supported (5% or less in the case of developed countries and 10% or less for developing countries).

The AoA prohibited export subsidies on agricultural products unless the subsidies were specified in a member’s lists of commitments. Where they were listed, the agreement required WTO members to cut both the amount of money they spent on export subsidies and the quantities of exports that received subsidies. Taking averages for 1986-90 as the base level, developed countries agreed to cut the value of export subsidies by 36% over the six years starting in 1995 (24% over 10 years for developing countries). Developed countries also agreed to reduce the quantities of subsidized exports by 21% over the six years (14% over 10 years for developing countries). Least-developed countries did not need to make any cuts.

Current Position of Negotiations on Agricultural Issues: Article 20 of the AoA stipulates that negotiations for continuing the reform process would be initiated one year before the end of the implementation period, which meant 1999, implementing period being

1995-2000. Accordingly, the Third Ministerial Conference in 1999 at Seattle also had the objective of setting up a framework for agricultural negotiations. However, this did not happen in Seattle. Issues on agriculture were then taken up in the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar. The Doha Ministerial established the broad framework for negotiations on agriculture. The mandate, as stated in the Ministerial Declaration, included mainly:

- Substantial reductions in trade distortions in domestic support
- Reduction of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies
- Substantial improvement in market access
- Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries shall be an integral part of all elements of negotiations

The Declaration considered its agenda as Development Agenda. The detailed modalities for further comment were required to be established in the Fifth Ministerial Conference in Cancun in September 2003. However, no substantial progress was made on this due to various reasons and, therefore, Cancun Ministerial could not discuss agricultural issues objectively but it affirmed to carry on negotiations under the Doha Declaration Framework.

It was agreed that the detailed modalities should be worked out for the Sixth Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong scheduled in December 2005.

As a result, proposals were made and discussed in special meetings of ministers, meetings of Committee of Agriculture and General Council meetings. Proposals of modalities on negotiations on agriculture were made mainly by three important groups of countries: Group 20 (G-20) of developing countries, the EU and the USA. All these proposals proposed reduction in domestic support, export subsidies and tariffs, but the proposed reduction rates were different in each proposal. These proposals were discussed in the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference during 13-18 December 2005 and after several days of intensive negotiations the Ministerial Conference approved a declaration. The

developed countries agreed to allow quota and tariff free imports from all least developed countries and 2013 was set up as the deadline for eliminating agricultural export subsidies. It was, however, noted in the declaration that much remained to be done in order to establish modalities and to conclude negotiations.

The Doha Development Round negotiations has since been on a 'modalities' phase. Modalities set numerous targets for achieving the objectives of the Doha Round and determine the shape of negotiations' final outcome. The first draft modalities paper was released by the Chair of the agriculture negotiations in July 2006.

Since then five revisions have been released, with 6 December 2008 text being the latest.

In this process numerous technical meetings and formal and informal negotiations have taken place with the results reflected in the newer versions of the draft modalities. The disagreement still persists on several issues. Generally, the issues which have disagreements among the member countries include:

- Trade distorting domestic support measures
- Tariff cuts for developed countries
- Sensitive products
- Special products
- Special safeguard mechanism, and
- Cotton

Two other outstanding issues, namely tropical products and trade related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) were also prominent. The major sticking points in the discussions were:

• **Agricultural market access:**

- The USA wants 90% reduction of highest farm tariffs and average tariff cut of 66% for developed countries. While the EU agreed to raise its share of average tariff cut to close to the G-20 proposal of 54%, this was unacceptable to the USA

- The USA also considers the EU's maintaining 8% of its farm products as sensitive products to be too high.
- **Agricultural subsidies:** The USA proposed to reduce its overall trade distorting subsidies by 53%, but the EU and the G-20 did not agree to it. They demanded minimum cuts of 60% and 75% respectively, but the US refused to oblige.
- **Industrial market access:** It was agreed that industrial tariffs should be cut according to the so called 'Swiss formula' – higher cuts for the highest tariffs and the introduction of a tariff ceiling, but the negotiators failed to agree on the actual structure of the reduction formula or the level of the cap. The EU and the USA had suggested that maximum tariff on manufactured goods should be 10% for developed countries and 15% for developing countries. However, developing countries wanted a tariff cap of 30% for themselves. While the EU was prepared to permit the intermediate tariff gap of 20% for developing countries the US insisted for a maximum difference of 5 percentage points between developed and developing countries coefficient.

The disagreement continues and there is no immediate hope of resolving the deadlock. Because of the deadlock, the Ministerial Conference which should be held at least once in two years and should have met in 2007 did not meet. However, the WTO General Council on 26 May 2009 agreed to hold the Seventh Session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva from 30 November – 2 December 2009. The general theme for discussion will be 'The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment'. According to the General Council Chair, the meeting is not intended as a negotiating session but rather a regular gathering of ministers to engage in the broader evaluation of the multilateral trading systems.

In view of the above, the fate of Doha Development Agenda is uncertain as of now.

2.2 SPS Agreement: It provides guidelines to countries to set their food standards.

Member countries are encouraged to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations where they exist. When they do, they are unlikely to be challenged legally in a WTO dispute. However, members may use measures which result in higher standards if there is scientific justification. And they can to some extent apply the 'precautionary principle', a kind of 'safety first' approach to deal with scientific uncertainty. Article 5.7 of the SPS Agreement allows temporary 'precautionary' measures.

The agreement allows countries to use different standards and different methods of inspecting products. If an exporting country can demonstrate that the measures it applies to its exports achieve the same level of health protection as in the importing country, then the importing country is expected to accept the exporting country's standards and methods.

The agreement includes provisions on control, inspection and approval procedures. Governments must provide advance notice of new or changed sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, and establish a national enquiry point to provide information. The agreement complements that on technical barriers to trade.

Under the SPS Agreement all countries agree to maintain measures to ensure that food is safe for consumers, and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among animals and plants. These SPS measures can take many forms, such as requiring products to come from a disease-free area, inspection of products, specific treatment or processing of products, setting of allowable maximum levels of chemical contaminants or permitted use of only certain additives in food. Sanitary (human and animal health) and phytosanitary (plant health) measures apply to domestically produced food or local animal and plant diseases, as well as to products coming from other countries.

The SPS Agreement requires countries to employ Codex Standards for food safety, unless they can scientifically prove that their own standards need to be higher. Several key provisions in the Agreement for setting food standards include the following:

- regulations based on science
- use of risk assessment
- use of internal standards
- specific reference to Codex as the provider of standards
- participation in the development of standards by international organizations, such as Codex

Some of the measures required under the SPS Agreement are:

- Food additives in foods
- Contaminants in foods
- Toxins in foods
- Veterinary drugs or pesticide residues in food
- Certification of food safety / animal or plant health
- Processing methods with implications for food safety
- Labelling requirements directly related to food safety
- Plant/animal quarantine
- Requirements for the establishment of pest/diseases to a country
- Sanitary requirements on other imported products i.e., imported pallets used for transport of animals

In a trade dispute regarding a sanitary or phytosanitary measure, the normal WTO dispute settlement procedures are used, and advice from appropriate scientific experts can be sought.

SPS Committee: The SPS Committee, established by the SPS Agreement, provides a forum for consultations about food safety or animal and plant health measures which affect trade. It also ensures the implementation of the SPS Agreement. The Committee is open to all WTO Member countries. The Committee also invites representatives of

several international intergovernmental organizations as observers, i.e., Codex, OIE (Office International des Epizooties, also known as the World Animal Health Organization), IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) etc. The SPS Committee meets at least twice a year.

2.3 TBT Agreement: The Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) tries to ensure that regulations, standards, testing and certification procedures do not create unnecessary obstacles.

However, the agreement also recognizes countries' rights to adopt the standards they consider appropriate – for example, for human, animal or plant life or health, for the protection of the environment or to meet other consumer interests.

The agreement also sets out a code of good practice for both governments and non-governmental or industry bodies to prepare, adopt and apply voluntary standards. Over 200 standards-setting bodies apply the code.

The agreement says the procedures used to decide whether a product conforms with relevant standards have to be fair and equitable. The agreement also encourages countries to recognize each other's procedures for assessing whether a product conforms. Without recognition, products might have to be tested twice, first by the exporting country and then by the importing country.

Manufacturers and exporters need to know what the latest standards are in their prospective markets. To help ensure that this information is made available conveniently, all WTO member governments are required to keep each other informed through the WTO – around 900 new or changed regulations are notified each year.

The TBT Agreement covers all technical regulations, voluntary standards and procedures to ensure that these are met, except when these are SPS measures. Measures for environmental protection (other

than related to animals or plants), to protect consumer interests and for the welfare of animals are included in this Agreement. For foods, labelling requirements, nutrition claims and concerns, quality & packaging regulations are normally subject of the TBT Agreement.

TBT Committee: Like in the case of SPS, the TBT Agreement has also established a Committee on TBT Measures, called the 'TBT Committee'. The Committee meets at least twice a year to discuss aspects of technical regulations, labelling, packaging and commodity standards. The Committee ensures that the TBT Agreement is implemented.

2.4 Trade Dispute Settlement: The WTO has set up procedures for settlement of trade disputes of the member governments. Non-governmental entities can represent their problems to their government which can seek redress through the WTO.

The WTO's dispute settlement procedures encourage the governments involved to find a mutually acceptable solution thorough formal consultation. If this fails, then they can choose other listed means of dispute settlement, including good offices, conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Alternatively, a government can request an impartial panel of trade experts to be established to resolve the disputes.

The panel can seek technical/scientific advice from technical expert groups. The panel submits its recommendations for consideration by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), where all WTO member countries are represented. Unless DSB rejects the recommendations by consensus, or unless one of the parties appeals against the decision, the defending party is obliged to implement the panel's recommendations.

3. CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was established jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health

Organization (WHO) in May 1963. Its main objectives are:

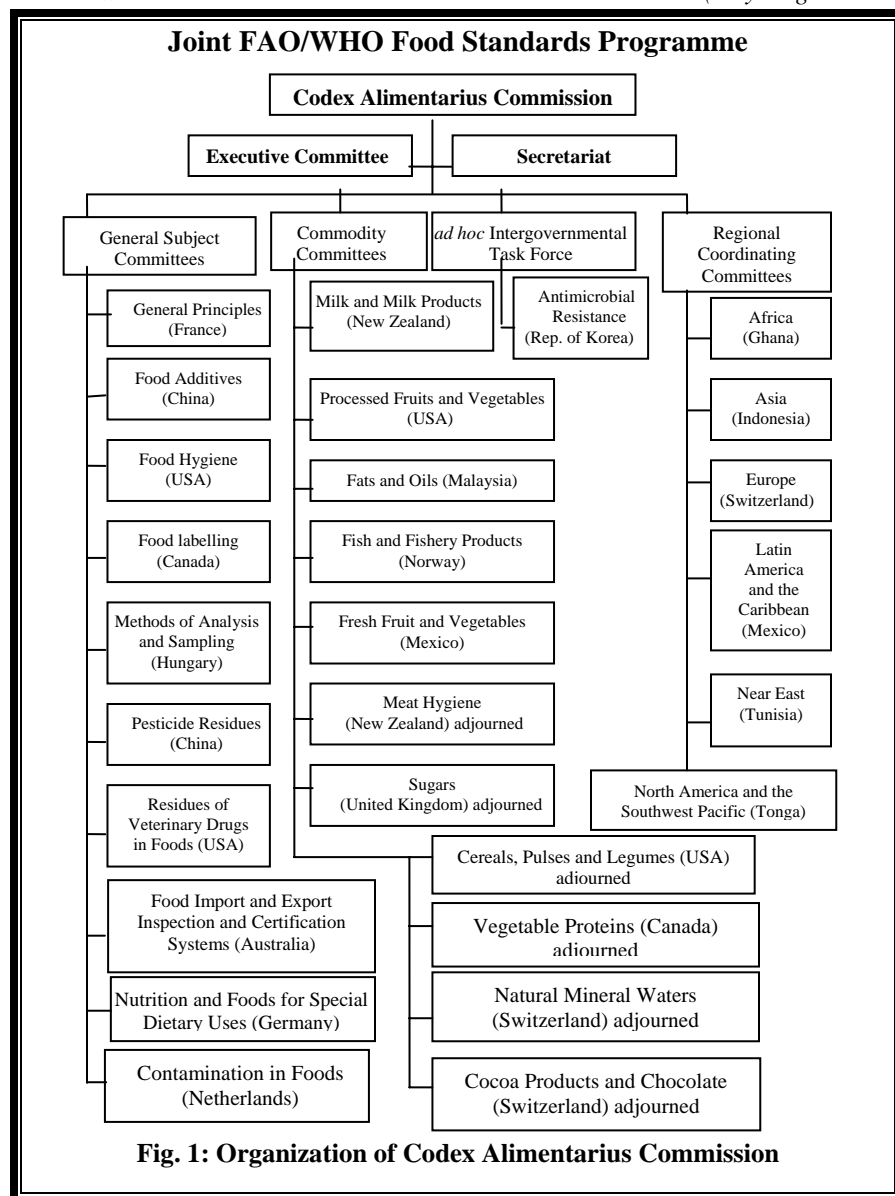
- Preparing and finalizing/modifying international food standards,
- Coordinating food standards work of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, and
- Protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

The WTO Agreements (SPS and TBT Agreements) recognized Codex standards, guidelines and recommendations as reference points for international trade and trade dispute settlement. Hence, Codex work has assumed special significance in the last 15 years.

Presently, 182 countries, including India, and 1 member organization are members of the CAC, representing 98% of the world's population.

3.1 Organizational Structure: The CAC functions through the organizational structure as shown in Fig. 1.

- **Codex Alimentarius Commission:** The standards/guidelines are formulated and developed appropriately by the Codex Committees assisted by, whenever required and necessary, Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committees, International Dairy Federation (IDF), OIE and other international organizations. The Codex Secretariat administers and services Commission and Executive meetings, and co-ordinates the activities of the various Codex Committees. The Commission meets at least once a year since 2003, before which it used to meet once in two years. The meetings of the Commission are held alternatively at FAO Headquarters in Rome and at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. In these meeting sessions, the Commission considers the proposed draft standards for adoption, reviews the work in hand and approves new work. The last session was held in Rome during June-July 2009.



- **Executive Committee:** The EC consists of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Coordinators of the Commission. In addition, it has 7 members on regional basis, one each from the region of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, North America and South-West Pacific. These members are elected by the Commission from among the members of the Commission and can hold office for a term between two consecutive sessions (that is 1 year). The members can be re-elected for another term in continuation. The EC acts on behalf of the Commission as its executive organ. The EC normally meets before the CAC sessions.
- **Subsidiary Bodies:** The Commission has established two kinds of subsidiary bodies:
 - **Codex Committees**, which prepare draft standards for submission to the Commission, and
 - **Coordinating Committees**, through which regions or groups of countries co-ordinate food standards activities in the region, including development of regional standards.

Normally each Committee is hosted by a member country which also provides its Chairperson.

Codex Committees: Codex Committees are of two types: General Subject Committees and Commodity Committees.

There are ten **General Subject Committees** (Fig.1) which carry out work that has relevance for all Commodity Committees. Hence these are also referred to as 'horizontal committees'.

There are eleven **Commodity Committees** (Fig. 1) which develop standards for specific foods or classes of food. They are often referred to as 'vertical committees'.

Coordinating Committees: There are six regional Coordinating Committees, one each for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East, and North America and South-West Pacific.

Coordinator/Chairperson for each Coordinating Committee is elected for a term of 2 CAC Sessions and may be re-elected for another term only. The subsidiary committees meet at one/two-year intervals according to the need.

3.2 Support from expert bodies: While developing standards, the Codex subsidiary bodies seek, whenever required, technical assistance/advice, such as on food additives, chemical and microbiological contaminants, from the FAO/WHO Expert Committees. There are three such expert bodies:

- Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA)
- Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)
- The Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA)

These expert bodies are not officially part of the Codex Alimentarius Commission structure. However, they provide independent scientific expert advice to the Commission and its specialist Committees.

Additionally, the CAC and its subsidiary bodies also seek technical inputs from other international organizations such as International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF).

3.3 National Codex Committees: Each member country is represented in the Codex Alimentarius Commission by its National Codex Committee (NCC). The National Codex Committee communicates with the CAC through its designated National Codex Contact Point (CCP). India's Codex Contact Point is Assistant Director General (PFA) & Liaison Officer, National Codex Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi.

For finalizing its technical opinion on any draft standard received from the Secretariat of the Commission on behalf of the Codex Committees,

the NCC of India has Shadow Committees on the important Codex Committees, such as Shadow Committee on CCMMP. The Shadow Committees are composed of relevant experts, and meet whenever required.

3.4 Elaboration of Codex Standards: The Codex Standards are developed through an 8-step procedure (see Table 1). A proposal for a standard to be developed can be submitted to the CAC by a national government or a subsidiary committee.

Table 1: Elaboration of Codex Standards

Step 1	Commission decides to elaborate a standard, assigns to a Committee
Step 2	The Committee arranges for the preparation of the <u>proposed draft standard</u>
Step 3	Members of the Commission invited to provide comments on the <u>proposed draft standard</u>
Step 4	The Committee reviews and considers the <u>proposed draft standard</u> and the comments received for changes / modifications, if any.
Step 5	The Commission/EC considers the <u>proposed draft standard</u> , submitted by the Committee through the Secretariat, for adoption as a <u>draft standard</u> . Members' comments are also taken into consideration.
Step 6	Members of the Commission again invited to provide comments on the <u>draft standard</u>
Step 7	The Committee reviews and considers the <u>draft standard</u> and the comments received for minor changes / modifications, if any.
Step 8	The Commission considers the <u>draft standard</u> , submitted by the Committee through the Secretariat, for final adoption as a <u>standard</u> . Members' comments are also taken into consideration.

A Codex Commodity Standard includes the following:

- * Scope
- * Description, essential composition and quality factors
- * Food additives
- * Contaminants
- * Hygiene and weights and measures
- * Labelling
- * Methods of analysis and sampling.

4. INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) was founded in 1903 in Brussels as an independent international organization. However, it attained the status of international non-profit association in November 1955 by Belgium Royal Decree. Its registered office will remain in Brussels.

IDF's mission is to represent the dairy sector as a whole at the international level by providing the best global source of scientific expertise and knowledge in support of the development and promotion of quality milk and milk products to deliver consumers with nutrition, health and well-being.

IDF is an international non-governmental, voluntary, non-profit association of dairying nations whose members are National Committees generally constituted by dairy organizations in each country. The National Committee represents its country in the IDF. India is a full member of the IDF represented by the Indian National Committee.

The present membership of the IDF is 38 full members, 13 associate members and 10 honorary members. Only full members of the IDF have voting rights while others have no such right and participate partially in IDF's activities.

4.1 Organizational Structure: The IDF has lately reorganized its management structure as per the Strategic Business Plan, approved by General Assembly (Shanghai, 2006). In the revised structure, as shown in Figure 2, the policies of the IDF are determined by the General Assembly of its members and the IDF Board. Their decisions are then implemented by the IDF Secretariat comprising the Director General and other IDF staff.

- **The General Assembly (GA)** of the members of the Federation is the supreme authority of IDF. It is formed by maximum two delegates of each National Committees of full members. Associate members may attend the General Assembly as observers represented by a single delegate. Honorary members may also attend the General Assembly in a consultative capacity. Each National Committee of full member has one vote. Decisions are carried by a simple majority vote of the NCs of full members present or by proxy. A quorum is constituted by at least 50% of the NCs of full members present or represented by proxy.

The GA meets at least once a year.

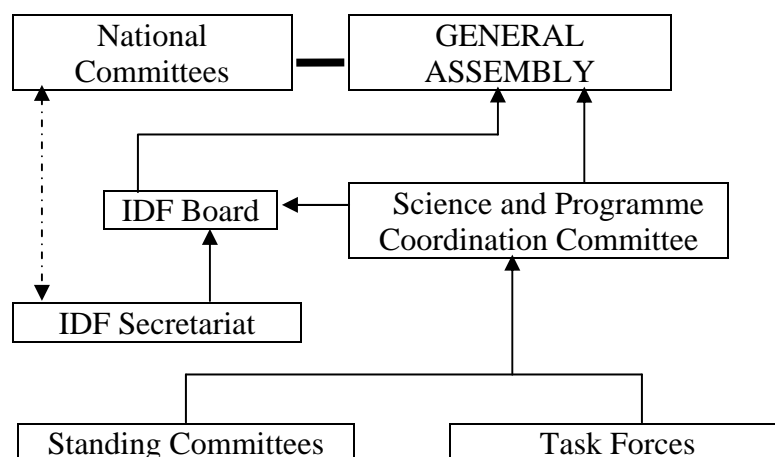


Fig. 2: Organization chart of the International Dairy Federation

The GA elects its President (who presides over the GA Session) from the candidates nominated by NCs of full members. The President is elected for four years and is not eligible for re-election.

The GA has the exclusive power for the following decisions: approval of fees, budget and accounts; admission & exclusion of members; election of the President, Chair and members of the Science and Programme Coordination Committee (SPCC), and members of the IDF Board; approval and modification of Constitution and Rules of Order; endorsement of policies and priorities elaborated by the IDF Board and the SPCC; and dissolution of the Federation.

- **IDF Board:** Between the General Assembly meetings, the Federation is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of the Federation President, Chair of Science and Programme Coordination Committee, 6 members at large and a representative of the Secretaries of National Committees. All these members are voting members. The members-at-large and the representative of the Secretaries of National Committees are elected by the General Assembly from amongst the candidates proposed by National Committees. The term of office of all the members-at-large and the NC Secretaries representative is 2 years and eligible for reelection for second 2-year term. The Board of Directors also includes the Director General as a non-voting member.

The Board of Directors has all powers of management and administration other than those of the General Assembly. Decisions are carried by a simple majority of the Board members present. A quorum is constituted by at least 5 voting members present.

- **IDF Secretariat:** The Secretariat of the IDF is responsible for the administrative and office work of the IDF and the general coordination of the IDF's activities.

The organization and management of the Secretariat is the responsibility of the Director General who is appointed by the GA. He reports to the IDF Board.

- **Science and Programme Coordination Committee:** The Science and Programme Coordination Committee coordinates the programme of work of the IDF. It consists of a Chair and ten members elected by the General Assembly among candidates nominated by NCs. The term of office of Chair is four years and not eligible for re-election. The other members can serve for a term of two years and are eligible for re-election for one additional 2-year term.

The SPCC makes recommendations for, and ensures coordination and supervision of the scientific, technical and economic considerations of dairy issues reflecting the policy of the IDF laid down by the General Assembly.

The SPCC meets at least once a year.

- **Standing Committees and Task Forces:** The Standing Committees (SCs) and Task Forces (TFs) carry out the technical work. Presently IDF has 18 SCs and one TF.

The SCs / TFs consist of experts nominated by the National Committees. National Committees are consulted on all the works through questionnaires and new work item proposals which are sent by the IDF Secretariat.

SCs may appoint Action Teams of experts from among their members or outside to deal with individual work items. The Task Force has restricted work item to complete in a fixed time schedule. TF and Action Teams are disbanded after completion of work.

4.2 IDF Programme of work: The IDF's programme of work includes issues related to various areas of dairying, such as: animal health; dairy science and technology; food safety; food standards; methods of analysis and sampling; nutrition and health; marketing, dairy economics and policies; dairy farming; and environment.

NCs are consulted on all the works through questionnaires which are sent by the IDF Secretariat.

NEWS SECTION

Indian Food Laws

- **Notification GSR 606 (E) of 28 August 2009 of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:** The notification is the latest corrigendum to an earlier notification GSR 356(E) of 7 June 2005 (refer *Technews* Issues 60, January–February 2006 and 61, March–April 2006). The Corrigendum indicates that the provisions in the GSR 356 (E) on the definitions, food additive provisions and microbiological specifications for a few specified dairy products (cheese, processed cheese, processed cheese spread, ice cream/kulfi/chocolate ice cream/softy ice cream, dried ice cream mix/dried frozen dessert/confection, frozen dessert/frozen confection, milk ice/milk lolly and yoghurt) shall come into force after 4 years and nine months from the date of publication of the GSR 356(E). Therefore, these provisions are now likely to be applicable from 7 March 2010. All the other provisions of the notification 356(E) became effective from 7 March 2006.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- Meetings of the following Codex Committees are scheduled during October - November 2009:
 - *Ad-hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, 12-16 October 2009, Jeju, Republic of Korea
 - Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, 02-06 November 2009, Dusseldorf, Germany
 - Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 16-20 November 2009, San Diego, USA

International Dairy Federation (IDF)

IDF has published the following Standards recently:

- IDF/RM – 228 ISO/TS 27265: Dried milk – Enumeration of the specially thermoresistant spores of thermophilic bacteria
- IDF/RM 225 – ISO/TS 11059: Milk and milk products – Method for the enumeration of *Pseudomonas* spp.

For purchasing the IDF publications, the following may be contacted:

Mr. Oscar Chavez
Office Manager
International Dairy Federation
Diamant Building
Boulevard Auguste Reyers 80
1030 Brussels
Belgium
E-mail: OChavez@fil-idf.org
Tel: +32 2 7069647
Fax: +32 2 7330413

WTO, CODEX AND IDF

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Please send your letters to:

Dr. N.N. Varshney
National Dairy Development Board
Post Box No.40
Anand 388001
Gujarat

Fax No. (02692) 260157
Email : nnv@nddb.coop