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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Title II Programmatic Monetization Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2000

Pursuant to the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended (Pub. L. 480), notice is hereby given that the following guidelines are available to interested parties for the required thirty (30) day comment period.

Programmatic Guideline Being Applied by the Bureau for Humanitarian Response, Office of Food for Peace (BHR/FFP) in Review of Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Public Law (Pub. L.) 480 Title II Commodity Monetization Activities:

Background: The following programmatic principles concerning the monetization of agricultural commodities being made available to eligible organizations under the PL 480 Title II Program were enunciated by the Deputy Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Response (BHR) Leonard Rogers to the Food Aid Consultative Group (FACG) at its Semi-Annual Consultation in Washington, DC on March 25, 1999. They reflect discussions by USAID/BHR, USDA, FACG members, Congressional staff and those of the U.S. food export and processing industries between December 1998 and March 1999. These guidelines will be used in a pilot program over approximately the next two years in conjunction with BHR/FFP's Modernization Field manual, Pub. L. 480 Title II Programs, and the Development Activity Proposal (DAP) and Previously Approved Activity (PAA) Guidelines released on October 16 and December 8, 1998 respectively, in review of cooperating sponsor monetization activities proposed in Title II-assisted development interventions:

1. In general, Title II Monetization activities will not be undertaken where they would disrupt commercial markets

for U.S.—produced agricultural commodities;

2. Proposals advocating the monetization of value-added (i.e. processed, fortified, bagged, or refined) Title II commodities and sales designed and executed in consultation with the U.S. food export and processing trade will receive priority;

3. BHR/FFP will give priority to monetization in the recipient country;

4. Priority will also be given to monetizations supporting or complementing the direct distribution of value-added Title II commodities and/or resulting in benefits directly linked to the reduction of hunger;

5. Development interventions entirely based on the monetization of Title II commodities will also continue to be considered by BHR/FFP so long as their benefits can be directly linked to reduction of food insecurity and where the U.S. food itself has a clear benefit to hungry people.

6. If there are compelling reasons that preclude in-country monetization, consideration will be given to monetization in an adjacent (i.e. a closely neighboring) country following consultations with U.S. commercial interests in all instances. Regional monetization beyond adjacent countries will be considered only on an exception basis and only after full consultations.

In an effort to determine whether these guidelines should be permanently used in allocating Pub. L. Title II resources for monetization activities by eligible organizations, they will be assessed by USAID/BHR/FFP together with the Food Aid Consultative Group, Congressional oversight committees, the Department of Agriculture, representatives of the U.S. food export and processing trade, and others concerned.

Individuals who have questions or comments on these guidelines should contact David R. Nelson at (202) 712-1828, Office of Food for Peace, Agency for International Development, RRB 7.06-120, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20523-0809.

The thirty day comment period will begin on the date that this announcement is published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: May 14, 1999.

William T. Oliver,

Director, Office of Food for Peace Bureau for Humanitarian Response.

[FR Doc. 99-12807 Filed 5-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 99-030N]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Sessions of the Executive Committee and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Under Secretary for Food Safety United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is sponsoring a public meeting on June 2, 1999. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items to be discussed at the Forty-sixth Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Twenty-third Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which will be held in Rome, Italy, from June 24-25, 1999, and June 28-July 3, 1999, respectively.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 1999, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC. Send an original and two copies of comments to: FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #99-030N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: F. Edward Scarbrough, Ph.D., U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius, Room 4861, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence

Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250;
Telephone (202) 205-7760.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Codex is the principal international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. Codex meets biennially. The Executive Committee serves as the executive body of Codex between meetings.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items will be discussed during the public meeting on June 2, 1999.

1. Election of Officers of the Commission and Appointment of Regional Coordinators.
2. Reports on the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Sessions of the Executive Committee. (These include proposals to the Commission regarding the general orientation and program of work of the Commission.)
3. Report of the financial situation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for 1998/99 and 2000/01.
4. Consideration of the Draft Medium-term Plan for 1998 to 2002. (This plan identifies work to be conducted by the Commission by program area and describes the medium-term objectives of that work.)
5. Consumers' involvement in the work of the Commission.
6. Principles of Risk Analysis.
7. Consideration of Amendments to the Procedure Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. (These are matters that pertain to the operations of the Commission.)
8. Consideration of Draft Standards and Related Texts. (These are items being considered at Step 5 or Step 8 of the Codex Procedure for the elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts.)
9. Consideration of Proposals to Elaborate New Standards and/or Related Texts.
10. Matters Arising from Reports of Codex Committees.
11. Designation of Host Governments for Codex Committees.

Public Meeting

The public meeting is scheduled for June 2, 1999, in Room 107A, Jamie L. Whitten Building, 12th Street and Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC. Attendees will hear brief descriptions of the issues and proposed U.S. positions, and will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments also may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Please state that your comments relate to Codex activities and specify which issues your comments address.

Done at Washington, DC on May 17, 1999.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex.

[FR Doc. 99-12881 Filed 5-21-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Agricultural Statistics Service

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Conduct an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. No. 104-13) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), this notice announces the intent of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to request approval for a new information collection, the Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by July 28, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS: Contact Rich Allen, Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 4117, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-4333.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey.

Type of Request: Intent to Seek Approval to Conduct a new Information Collection.

Abstract: The Fruit and Vegetable Agricultural Practices Survey will be conducted in 14 states. States included in the survey are Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas,

Washington, and Wisconsin. This survey is in compliance with President Clinton's October 1997 directive entitled "Initiative to Ensure the Safety of Imported and Domestic Fruits and Vegetables." The purpose of the survey is to analyze data on agricultural practices related to microbial food safety. Data on sources of microbial contamination on produce, including water; manure; worker, field and facility sanitation; and crop identification systems will be collected.

NASS conducted a pilot Agricultural Practices Survey in California and New York during the spring of 1999. The purpose of the pilot was to test survey procedures and questionnaire design and to analyze survey results in preparation for the 14-state survey.

NASS will summarize the 14-state survey data and publish estimates of frequency of operations carrying out basic agricultural practices. Summarized data will be made available to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). FDA will use the data to analyze current agricultural practices and to develop a baseline to evaluate changes in agricultural practices. USDA will use the data to develop educational outreach materials for growers and packers. These data will be collected under the authority of 7 U.S.C. 2204(a). Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 minutes per response.

Respondents: Fruit and vegetable growers and fruit and vegetable packinghouses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 13,000.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 13,000 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the