The Caribbean Experience
Moving Towards Front-Of-Package Nutrition Labels

Revision of the CRS 5- Specification for Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods to include FOPL
Composition of the Regional Technical Committee

- Regional Technical Sub Committee (RTSC) established May 2018 and work commenced August 2018
- RTSC comprise representatives of 11 Member States
- Representatives include health personnel, regulators and industry professionals
- Currently being chaired by Barbados
- Committee meetings operated principally via online medium
Committee Representation

Antigua and Barbuda  Bahamas  Barbados
Dominica  Haiti  Guyana
Jamaica  St. Kitts & Nevis  St. Lucia
Suriname  Trinidad & Tobago
Content of the Specification

- **Scope**
- **Terms and definitions**
- **General Principles of food labelling**
- **Labelling requirements - general and specific**
- **Additional labelling requirements such as foods for special dietary uses, organically produced foods, etc**
- **Front Of Pack Labelling requirements**
What is the new CRS5?

- The specification has been updated, inserting the requirements of the 2018 version of the CODEX Alimentarius Standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods.

- FOPL Warning label system with criteria for defining products excessive in the nutrients of concern. Supported by Nutritional Facts panel.
Process Update

- Secretariat for work assigned to the Member state of Suriname

- Working draft developed with FOPL (warning label) included and circulated to RTSC members for review and comments

- Member States hold national mirror committee meetings to develop national positions
Process Update

- 1st Face-to-face consensus meeting held in Guyana

- All comments disposed and working draft being amended accordingly. Amended draft to be circulated as a CARICOM Regional Draft Standard (DCRS) to MS for comments

- Original deadline for comments was extended from 11 January, 2019 to 31 March, 2019 upon requests from Member States.
Process Update

- 113 pages of comments received from 14 Member States.

- Consultant engaged to assist with disposition of comments process.

- Comments disposition commenced with editorial comments at 2 Online meetings.
Process Update

- 2nd Face-to-Face meeting held in Suriname 14 – 15 May, 2019 to continue disposition of comments.

- Time insufficient to address all comments, disposition of comments continued via online meetings

- 3\textsuperscript{rd} Face-to-Face meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago 24 – 25 May, 2019 to continue disposition of comments.
Challenges:

- Availability of RTSC members to attend online meetings for the timely completion of the comments disposition.

- Availability of funding for the face-to-face consensus meeting

- Arriving at consensus re: FOPL

- Possibility of shifting FOPL requirements to the Nutritional Labelling standard based on a comment received from two MS.
Next Steps

- Completion of the comments disposition was proposed for by July 23, 2019 however was extended to August 2019

- Updated Draft CARICOM Regional Standard (DCRS) to a Final Draft CARICOM Regional Standard (FDCRS)

- Circulate FDCRS to Member States for acceptance (October - December 2019)
Next Steps Continued

- Submission to CROSQ Editorial Committee for editing and TMC for validation of the process (September 2019)

- Submission of recommendation to the CROSQ Council (Early 2020)

- Submission to COTED for approval (proposed for April 2020)
Upon approval of regional standard: –

- Member States to adopt nationally – Administrative provisions to be put in place nationally to give legal effect for mandatory implementation
- Good regulatory practices to be employed in this regard.
- Necessary education and awareness campaign developed and implemented
Recommendations

- Proposed joint COTED COSHOD Meeting

- Special engagement with the Private Sector in each Member State with presentations on the evidence supporting the “High In” warning label.

- Garner support for the initiative among consumers at the national level through an extensive public education and awareness campaigns.

- Meetings at the national level between Health and Commerce/Trade Ministers
Goal
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