

Notices

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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.

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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