

## Specialty Crops Program Participates in the Codex Alimentarius Committee Promoting Food Safety



*(Left) Dr. David Ingram, Alternate U.S. Delegate representing the Center for Food Service & Nutrition, joined Dorian LaFond (right) at the 21<sup>st</sup> CCFV session.*

Mr. Dorian LaFond, AMS SCP Program’s International Standards Coordinator participated in the Codex Alimentarius Committee for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables meeting held October 7-11, 2019 in Mexico. The Codex Alimentarius international food standards, guidelines, and codes of practice contribute to the safety, quality and fairness of the international food trade. The Codex system protects consumer health and helps remove barriers to trade. Great information about the Codex Alimentarius is available [here](#).

Dorian summed up his experience by stating... “very rarely do we complete four FFV standard (ware potatoes, kiwifruit, garlic and tropical yams) in one session of the Committee. These four standards, as other Codex commodity standards, directly impact the livelihood of farmers/producers, traders and consumers worldwide. Additionally, they represent commodities produced in both tropical and temperate countries but consumed internationally”.

Delegations representing thirty-eight countries worldwide from Africa, The Americas, the Middle East, South Asia, Europe and the Far East brought an international perspective to the standard development based on their different production, trade and consumption practices and thereby making these standards technically correct. For more details about the 21<sup>st</sup> CCFFV session, please click [here](#).

The United States benefits from attending Codex meetings include:

- 1) protecting the trade interests of U.S commodity producers and exporters by ensuring that no standard is developed or revised that denies new or restricts current market access to U.S. agricultural commodity exports.
- 2) promotes U.S. standards and standardization practices, and
- 3) builds new and strengthens existing relationships for exchanging technical information that quickly resolve agricultural quality disputes arising from trade.

If you would like more information, please email Dorian LaFond at [dorian.lafond@usda.gov](mailto:dorian.lafond@usda.gov) .

