LATIN AMERICA - 2009 / 2010

ILSI LATIN AMERICAN PROJECT
"Alignment of Reference Values for Nutritional Labeling Purposes"

GENERAL OBJECTIVE:
To reach an alignment of energy and nutrients reference values for all labeled products.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
To propose an alignment for energy and nutrients reference values for all countries through the Academia based on: existing reference and official regulation; nutritional guidelines for the population in those countries; and the assessment of significant differences.

To encourage institutions to consider the proposal as reference guidelines in the countries in the region following appropriate timeline.

BACKGROUND:
In a globalized world, the food industry is increasingly involved in inter-country trading – which results in competitive edge and satisfaction to consumers. Although countries do keep their own habits and traditions in their eating habits, a wide range of products is clearly of universal consumption. Through their corresponding regulatory institutions each country sets its own nutritional programs to meet the specific needs of their population.

However, quite a wide range of food products is consumed by the general populations – some of them voluntarily enriched. Based on the few existing differences in the guidelines on energy and nutrition levels, such scenario stands for an opportunity to reach a consensual harmonization to make label authorization simpler and easier.

EXPECTATIONS:
To reach an alignment proposal of energy and nutrients reference values to be made public and accessible through publications, conferences, and all other means in order to create the awareness for the benefits it will bring. To have such proposal analyzed and eventually adopted after consensual adaptation by the different countries through their corresponding institutions.

PLANS FOR 2010

- ILSI Latin American Project "Alignment of Reference Values for Nutritional Labeling Purposes"

  Next Steps:

  - Paper elaboration on the Project (phases, results and next steps).
  - Establishment of a new SLAN (Latin American Society of Nutrition) Task-force to work in the next 3 years, coordinated by Dr. Hélio Vannucchi (ILSI Brasil) – scientific coordinator of the ILSI LA Project. The results will be presented in the next SLAN Congress, in 2012 in Cuba.
  - Presentation on the Project at ILSI Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico

- Pre Codex Meeting in Chile, Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, November 1-5, 2010

- Improvement in the communication among LA Branches

- Resources optimization among LA Branches

- Translation of LA Branches publications

  Example: Series of publications "Well-established Nutrients Function Statements" of ILSI Brasil translated to Spanish