

A Tale of Two Worldviews

Credo of “Codex” World Body Clashes with Self-reliant Ethos

By Mark Anderson



The Committee on Food Labeling – which is part of the “Codex Alimentarius” (Latin for “Food Code”) world regulatory body – met in Ottawa, Canada’s national capital from May 14-18, 2012. This writer observed the 40th Session of the Committee, whose task of writing and editing such labels line-by-line was detailed and tedious. Yet behind this micromanagement is the advancement of the Codex agenda to synthesize national governance on nutritional supplements and foods into a global standardized system.

This committee – which confers with attending representatives of nations and non-governmental organizations, operating like a “United Nations of food” – was expected to tackle the crucially important issue of whether to require GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) labeling on foods and food products, but it did not do so.

This writer learned that the highly charged debate on whether to inform consumers (via labeling) about which foods have been tinkered with at the DNA level – a move that could imperil the profits of GMO-practicing argi-giants such as Monsanto – often ends in stalemate. So, the issue is often postponed.

Yet, the overall meaning of the Food Labeling Committee’s function and that of its parent Codex organization – born in Rome in 1963 – have become clear: Thou shall kneel to global rules governing food and nutrition – with a major pitfall being that regulations sought by Codex at-large on nutritional supplements could treat them as drugs. This would drastically lessen the availability and erode the quality of vitamins and various supplements, while boosting prices, according to what Scott Tips, president of the National Health Federation (TheNHF.com), has learned over the years at Codex gatherings.

Because of his hard-earned Codex delegate status, Tips – who speaks at Codex meetings to help shape decisions while uniquely representing genuine health freedom in a virtual sea of health tyrants – helped this writer and assistant, Angie, navigate Codex proceedings for the first time. Tips is well aware

that global control of food and supplements by way of Codex is fraught with peril, and that Codex enjoys an obscurity that needs to be challenged by increased publicity. His assistant, Katherine Carroll, associate editor of NHF's magazine, *Health Freedom News*, also attended the Ottawa event. Among other things, she observed that harmful substances could be hidden under generalized labeling.

“The proceedings became vastly more meaningful . . . when I realized that MSG [Monosodium Glutamate, a flavor enhancer considered harmful] could actually be tucked right into the description of ‘salt’ and not demand label identification. Were some diligence not applied, we’d be consuming MSG completely unaware. The same concepts will hold true of aspartame [a harmful artificial sweetener] and other things that can be hidden under the broad labeling umbrella of salt or sweetener,” as she wrote on her NHF blog.

But beyond Codex and the global food and supplement web that it's weaving, it is wise to urgently consider viable alternatives that help people thrive. This is vitally important because the centralized, global control of food is a major component of population control – on par with the private (interest-bearing) issuance of national currencies by private central banks that doom populations to infinite debt, as well as the widespread, corporate privatization of public water supplies, corporate control and manipulation of the seed supply, and other avenues to illicitly harness the essentials to human existence. Such fundamental underpinnings of human life just cannot be left in the hands of collusive public-private partnerships that lead to ruthless monopolies and the demise of self-reliance and healthful living.

IN TEXAS, ANOTHER APPROACH

But cursing the controllers is not enough, so, to taste a different world, this writer and Angie in mid-April visited the remarkable East Austin Urban Farm Tour in Texas – which represents the exact opposite of what Codex symbolizes.

In Austin, several neighborhood farms well within city limits featured local gardens, egg-laying chickens, cows, and delicious dishes. The ingredients of the dishes were grown on these urban farms – prepared by local chefs who regularly use these fresh, organic, non-GMO ingredients at their restaurants.

The farm tour heralded the freedom-friendly option of growing one's own food or getting it from neighboring farmers – as opposed to the Codex rule-making system that intertwines with the global free-trade system and therefore incorporates prematurely picking crops (often the genetically modified variety) from distant farms that American consumers know nothing about. This “global food grid” requires spraying produce (such as potatoes and onions) with ethylene gas, as the Codex panel in Ottawa discussed, to prevent sprouting.

And while bananas, avocados, and some other fruits and vegetables naturally produce ethylene as a ripening agent, artificial ripening of tomatoes, for example, with ethylene gas at pre-retail distribution centers produces mealy, substandard tomatoes that may be nutritionally dead.

This farm tour, which drew hundreds of people, stands out as an example to follow as more Americans realize they can challenge the overall global-management system by way of local agrarianism – to create a nationwide patchwork of local gardens so they can know what they eat and know who produces it, in this age of fast foods and boxed foods, the origins of which are a mystery.

Growing urban gardens usually requires navigating often harsh local zoning laws, but doing so positively affects the bigger picture by accenting the large community gardens that have replaced scores of demolished houses in places like Detroit. In this manner, society's fall can lead to its rebirth. And being the source of our own food and other vitals, instead of being herded and spoon-fed by a global establishment within a web of debt, is a major means to achieving and maintaining real freedom.

SOURCES

For related information, go to: www.EdibleAustin.com (1-512-441-3971) and www.BoggyCreekFarm.com (1-512-926-4650).

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