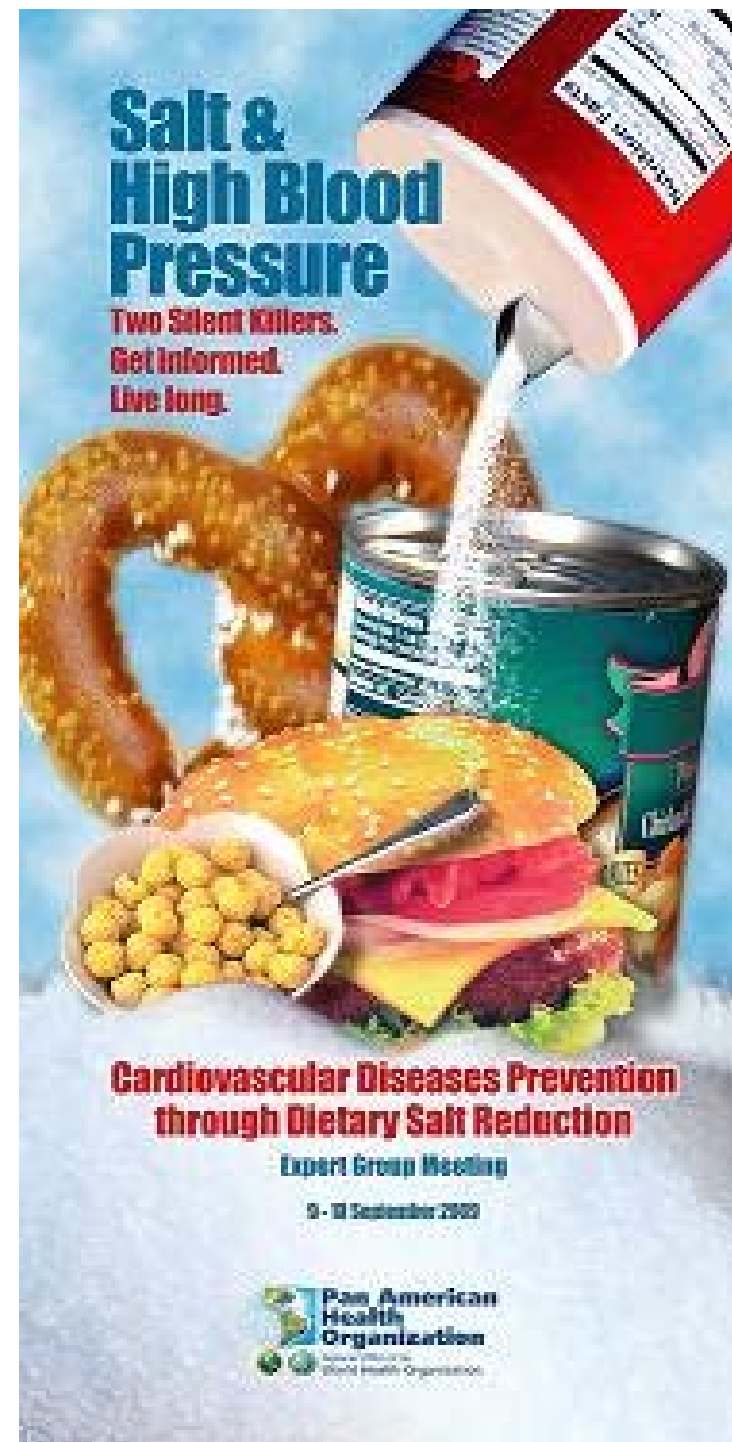


# Cardiovascular Disease Prevention through Dietary Salt Reduction

## First PAHO Expert Group Meeting

Washington, D.C.

9-10 September 2009



# LATINFOODS: OPPORTUNITIES

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**Cardiovascular Disease Prevention  
through Dietary Salt Reduction  
Washington D.C.,  
September 2009**



# Outline

- Introduction
- Achievements
- Current and future plans
- Challenges
- Conclusions

# LATINFOODS

- Is the Latin American Network of Food Data Systems
- Food composition network, co-sponsored by FAO/UNU under its INFOODS project
- Interdisciplinary effort of food scientists, analytical chemists, and nutritionists working together with food industry, computer and information scientists.
- It was established in 1986



## Mission

To develop and strengthen in Latin America, activities in food composition,

tending to elaborate and disseminate national, sub regional and regional food composition tables and data bases,

in order to improve,

- 1.the health of the population,
- 2.protect the consumer and
- 3.for international commerce.

## Objectives

1. To form national networks on food composition, called National Branches
2. To form specialized and multisectoral working groups in various topics related to the production, handling and use of food composition data
3. To generate permanently harmonized, reliable and updated food composition information of high quality,

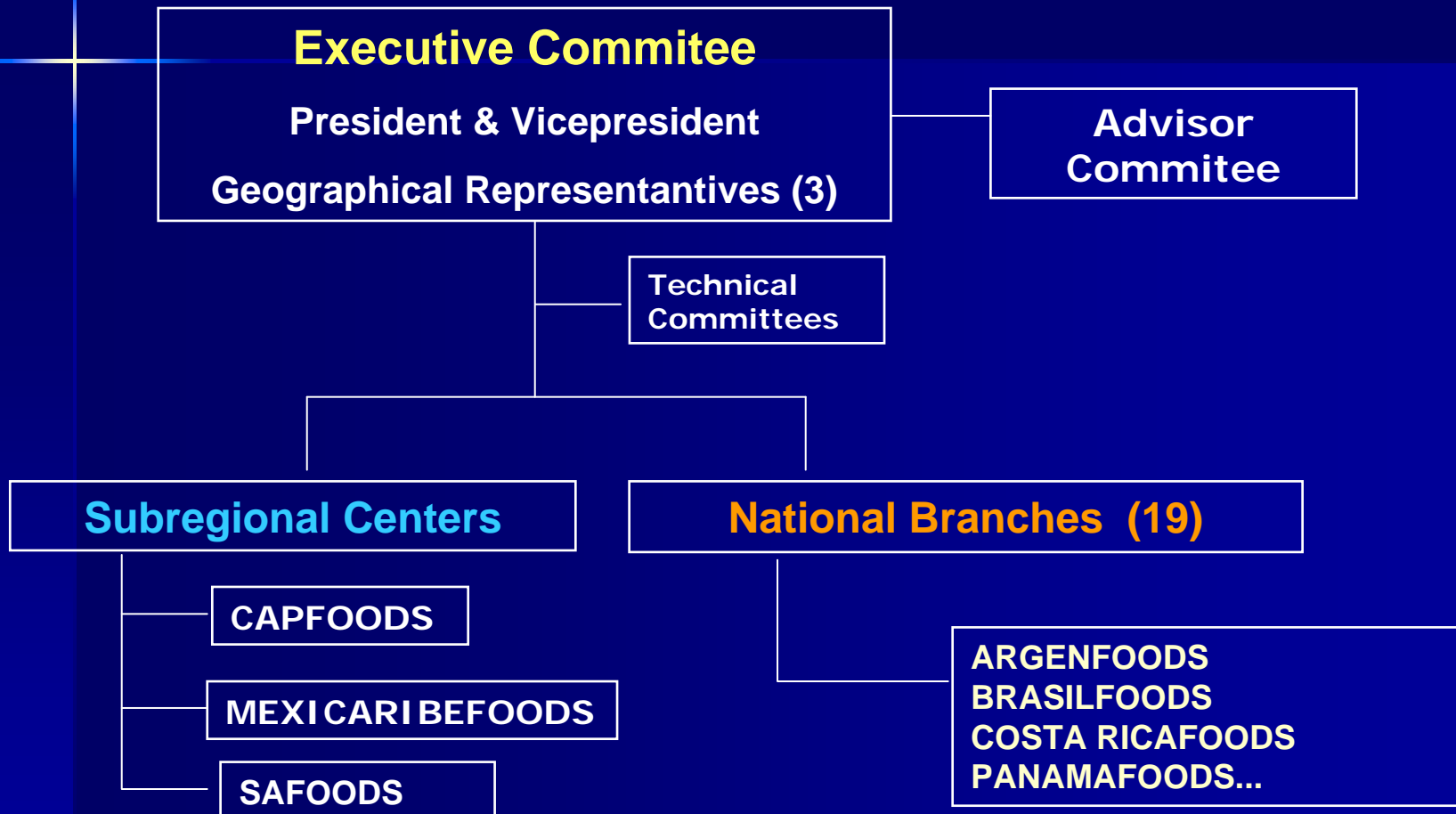
Source: LATINFOODS regulation ([www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm](http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm))

## Objectives

4. To strengthen the analytical capacity of food laboratories in accordance with the processes of quality assurance.
5. To prepare and publish the databases and food composition tables (national, sub regional and regional)
6. To disseminate and promote the use of food composition data

Source: LATINFOODS regulation ([www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm](http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm))

# Structure of LATINFOODS





# Achievements

- 19 National Branches since 1986
- Website: [www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm](http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm)

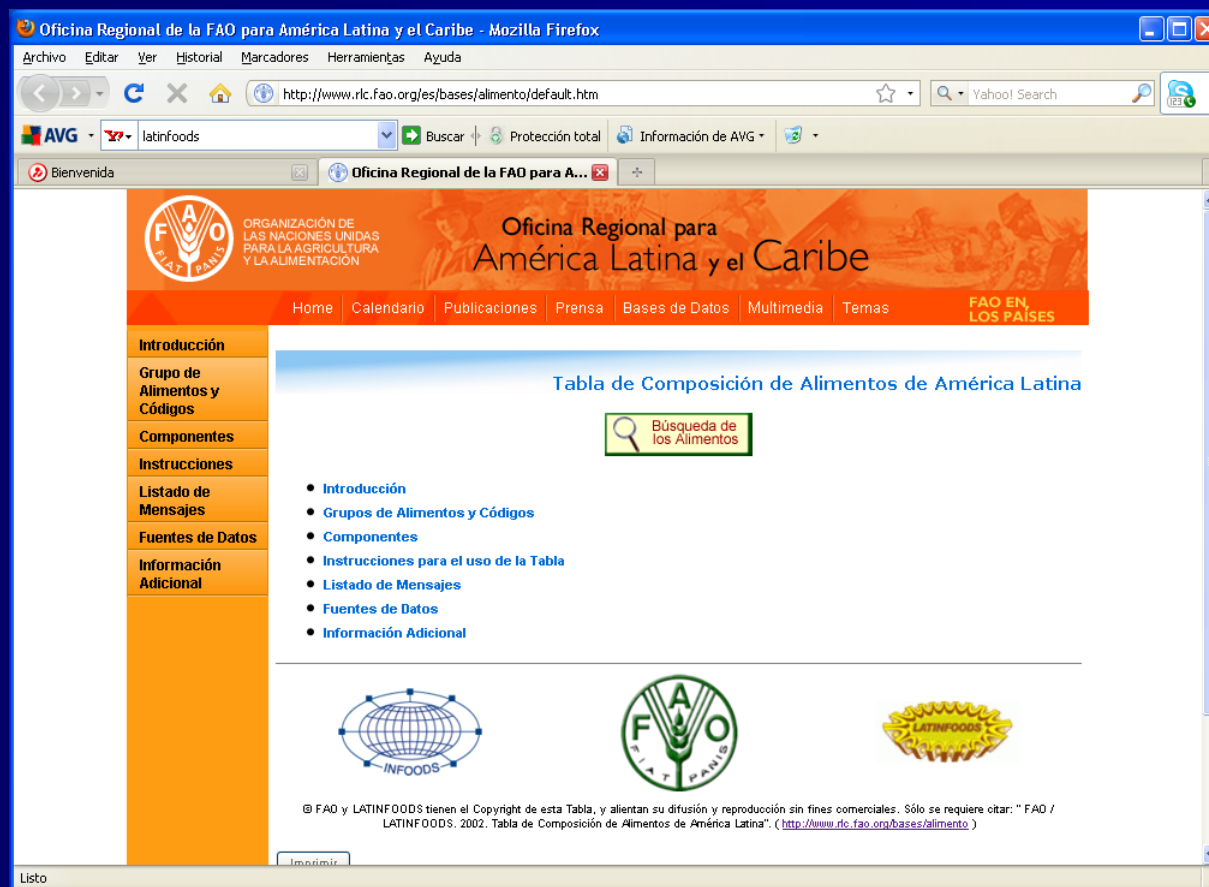


# Achievements

Latin American Food Composition Table (24 components - 4691 items)

Web access: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/es/bases/alimento/default.htm>

<http://www.inta.cl/latinfoods/default.htm>



# Achievements

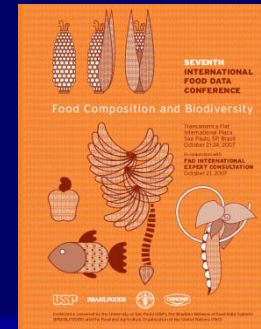
## Training:

- Regional workshops on production, handling and use of composition data
- Food sampling.

## Documents:

- List of 50 priority foods of each country
- Manual and form for compilation of food composition data

# Achievements



- Organization of the 7th International Food Data Conference (BRASILFOODS)
- General Assemblies and FAO/SLAN/LATINFOODS Symposiums
- Electronic Conferences: Compilation and evaluation of data quality for food composition databases and tables

## Current and future plans



- Organization and implementation of the General Assembly LATINFOODS/ Chile, November 2009
- Production of a Manual on food sampling to determine chemical composition (USDA/LATINFOODS)
- Development of a model of a relational database and tools (LanguaL)
- Formulation of joint research projects with EuroFIR

## Current and future plans



- In process a FAO Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) "Development of Databases and Tables of Food Composition in Argentina, Chile and Paraguay to strengthen international trade and consumer protection"
- FAO/ TCP Negotiation for Central America and Dominican Republic
- Support to the Initiative for salt intake reduction in the Americas

## Challenges

- Technical and economic sustainability of the networks.
- Reactivation of 4 National Branches.
- Modernization and updating of the regional database.

# CONCLUSION



The Initiative to reduce consumption of salt (PAHO/WHO) and LATINFOODS, can benefit from working together:

- The subject is closely related.
- LATINFOODS has established a consolidated and dynamic platform.
- The Initiative is a regional priority and will be interesting for many countries.



*A knowledge of the chemical composition of foods is the first essential in dietary treatment of disease or in any quantitative study of human nutrition.*

*-McCance & Widdowson, 1940  
United Kingdom*

**Thank you!**



Río Celeste Volcán Tenorio