Part A. National Food Control System and Consumer Participation in Food Standards Setting

Question 1: Strengthening National Food Control System

Q1.1 Structure and organization of national food control system

Have your country taken any developments/actions to improve national food regulatory systems? If “YES”, describe the developments/actions you have taken.

Introducing reordered version of Food law and Food safety law to Parliament.

Implementing “National food safety programme 2009-2016” with relating organizations.

Developing project Food inquire laboratory and implementing it. Therefore applying administration methods of management by standard ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory. Taking action of improving the skill and knowledge of the workers of the Laboratory by creating phase based training. Making the internal inspection laboratory at manufactories and improving and strengthening the connection with community inspection laboratory. Improving the workers’ capacity as a provided testing equipment to border point government organization for evaluating at first stage food products and raw.

The state supports to study food, scientific analysis and prepare conclusion on food.

Strengthening Capacity of Mongolia to Implement Codex project started in 2012. This project is financed by WHO/FAO and general organizer is Ministry of Industry, Agriculture of Mongolia.

Training -

Developing the food and food safety learning module program for all levels of the school program.

Developing support for proper alimentation cabinet based on health and education organizations in the community and city and organizing workshop continuously.

Q1.2 Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee

Please choose following developments/actions you have taken in your country to strengthen Codex at the national level and promote more effective participation in Codex. If you choose (a), (b) and/or (c), please describe the developments/actions you have taken.

Mongolia has chosen following development:

B) Strengthening the National Codex Committee or alternative scheme/framework

Therefore prepared new organization structure, obligation and secretariat of the National Codex Committee and approved by Decree №79 of the 3rd of April 2009 by the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Lights Industry. Thus we sent letters to the relating government organizations and asked them to join to improve and strengthen the National Codex Committee.

2. Made agreement with the personnel for translation, monitor and execute the documents, instructor, standards relating to documents of the CAC in 2009. Therefore we are working on to extend the agreement.

3. In 2012, improved organization structure and appointed 4 non-vacant secretariats at the National Codex Committee by Decree №102 of the 11th of June 2012 of Minister of Food, Agriculture and Lights Industry for maintaining and fulfill the job of Codex.

Question 2: Promotion of Codex Standards and related Texts
Please describe any significant actions that your country has taken to increase awareness of the importance of Codex among relevant stakeholders, including consumers, food industries etc.
Based on the agreement with “Financial regulatory commission”, made the 137 standard of the Codex which follow by a national standard into soft version and sent to all the related organizations in 2009. Although we are continuously putting codex standards into soft version and making instructions.

Exchanged information with private organizations about threatening issue of food safety, facing problems to develop Codex standards in 2009. Therefore until today if private organization has any support or help needed about Codex standards they can directly contact with the National Codex Committee.

Exchanged information of facing the problems of food safety, locate Codex standard and Food legislation commission and activity by organizing decision makers meetings and seminar named “Improve Codex Activity in Mongolia” support of FAO and WHO in April, 2011. In the seminar, representatives attended from Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affair, Embassy of Japan, FAO and other major government organizations and private companies.

The Mongolian Food Association and National Center of Public Health organized “To habituate health of food products and production proper habit” between meat, dairy and cookies producers in March 2011. In the workshop introduced CAC/MNS standards of “Requirement of the label of packed food product” and “Refer quality of food on the label”.

Involved the 1 month workshop of Active movement and proper nutrition which is organized by the Millennium Challenge Foundation, ( MOH, PHI ) and made the meeting of “Implementation of food producers to decrease the not infectious disease in the population” on the 14th, 21th of March and 7th of April 2011. In the meeting provided information of CAC/MNS standards of “Requirement of the label of packed food product” and “Refer quality of food on the label”.

Attended twice television open discussion broadcast of titles as an “Improve the implementation standard of food products label”.

Made interview under the name of “let’s learn to read labels on food products” at EAGLE TV and interviewed based on the title “Refer quality of food on the label” at MMCC, MNBS.

Question 3: Strengthen Communication and Coordination

3.1 Use of electronic communication system
Please choose the following developments/actions you have taken in your country to optimize the use of electronic communication systems. If you chose any option from (a) to (e), please describe the developments/actions you have taken:
E-discussions amongst member countries on issues of mutual interest
Sharing of national positions/write comments on issues of interest to the region
Development of web page for Codex Contact point

Connected with all the National Codex Committee members in the mail list and improved technic to send information to others and receive information. Also improved the communication and coordination facility for regional networking among Codex Contact Points, due to WHO provided computer, equipment and provided facility to use the internet and international call in 2009. Therefore we are maintaining activities which mentioned above, continuously supporting and improving it until today.
Converted 137 standards, instructions and guidance of CAC which approved by National Standard to the online version for issue the information to cooperative organizations in 2009. Therefore we add more standards and already reached more than 150 standards today.

Developing National Codex website.

3.2 Participation in Codex activity

Q3.2.1 Have you submitted relevant and qualified data to FAO/WHO expert bodies? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please describe the data you have submitted.

Prepared report on the residue of Pesticide evaluation of a Pesticide residue analysis committee of FAO/WHO and send it by e-mail in 2010.

Prepared national offer on evaluation research, project of standard and letter from Codex secretary and mailed it in 2010.

Prepared and mailed the offer on project of standard “food products acceptable highest scale of ractomine” which is discussed by 34th meeting of Food legislation Committee in 2010.

Prepared and mailed the information on questions which is based on “Food safety problems unique to the Asian region and their impact on trade” received from Asian coordinating committee in 2011.

Prepared and sent all the documents relating to standard, report and introduction which provided from Codex Secretariat.

Q3.2.2 Please describe any significant or difficulties that you have experienced in participating in Codex work, including electronic working groups (i.e. Technical, financial etc.)

We are faced with difficulties to translate and prepare those documents which relates to Codex due to we do not have any professional translation team and financial resource to promote those translator who is trying to translate the documents in after their main job. Thus, non-vacant secretaries without any promotions and spending more time on Codex work for translating and prepare documents. Moreover it could affect their performance.

Q3.2.2 Please write the name of the funding you used during this period for activities related Codex.

Main financial supports are provided by:

WHO,
FAO and
Mongolian government (Ministry of Industry and agriculture, MOH and other organizations).

Q3.3 Development of network
(Referred at 3.1)

Question 4: Training and Capacity building

Q4.1 Training programmes/workshops for member countries in the region

Have you organized or participated in any training programs/workshops for member countries in the region are provided assistance to member countries in the region related to the work of the Codex? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please provide the name of the training programs/workshop and the international organization and/or country that supported the program/workshops, if any. In addition, please choose from following options that best describe the objective of the each program and/or assistance.

Chosen (f) Training staff to understand the whole concept and improve their knowledge

In 7th of July, organized the decision makers meeting and seminar about involve
Mongolia to INFOSAN at National Center Public Health in 2009. After all prepared instruction and structure to contact and cooperate INFOSAN Contact Point and gave it to the Ministry of Health. Since then we have upgraded Contact Point related to the every government policy.

In April 2009, Attended 2 officers of the Inspector General Agency to 41st Pesticide residue committee meeting in Beijing, financed the appointment by Mongolian Government.

Participate in Codex meetings (by the Codex Trust fund):
CCFH (41st, 42nd session, 2009, 2010)
CCFEISC (18th session, 2009)
CCFL (35th session, 2008)
CCPR (41st session, 2009)
CCFC and Additives (2007)

In 2010, participated in 2 meetings and therefore every meeting provides important knowledge and understanding. That is why we need to join more meetings and follow the Codex policy and direction.

Q4.2 Training within country

Have you ever organized any training program for technical persons and policy makers responsible for the elaboration of food safety policy in your country on the significance of and needs of considering Codex standards and related texts? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please describe the outline of the training programme with name of supporting international organization and/or country, if any.

Organized training of “implement monitoring of CAC standard” to soft drinks and juice producers and inspectors, with National Center Public Health and Inspection General Agency in 2009. As a result, all the soft drink and juice producers do follow the standards and keep providing information, suggestions and standards for soft drinks and juice producers until today. Therefore developed the opportunity to soft drinks and juice producers to ask the confused problems from the Codex Secretariat directly and get instruction in all the time.

Organized training to improve the opportunity to Codex activity between members of the National codex committee and related decision makers at National Center Public Health, in 2010. At the training we have prepared hand outs and instruction and we do provide the documents to every new members and give consultancy when they join.

Some other training and capacity building referred in Q2. /It could mention as a meeting/

Q4.3 Need for Capacity building and training to strengthen the national food control systems

Q4.3.1 With regard to matters related to national food control systems, please choose from the options below and describe capacity building needs.

Development and/or update of food control systems (e.g. development of HACCP, traceability and recall system, incorporating risk analysis, revision of laws and/or regulations)

Professional advisers on law and regulation system and training for officers who needs to know practical knowledge to use it in working place.

Strengthening implementation of the food regulatory systems, including capacity of inspection and analysis (e.g enhancing equipment, sampling plan, analytical method and laboratory)

Improve the new technological equipment and analytical laboratory and provide information and workshop the government officers about using the laboratory and sampling analyzing method of new technology.

Q4.3.2 With regard to matters related to Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee,
please describe capacity building need.

Whole technological equipment improvement and advanced training to workers who use it.
Get an official full time secretary
Develop sub-committee
Need to organize activities that can improve the involvement of members and scientists.
Contribute to budget for activity expenditure.

Question 5: Use of Codex Standards and Related Text at the National Level
(For Actions 4.5 of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014)

Q5.1 Have you developed and/or updated national food laws and/or regulations? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please write the names of laws and/or regulations and briefly describe the outline of development and/or update.

Introducing reordered version of Food law and Food safety law to Parliament.

Q5.2 If your answer is “YES”, did you use Codex standards and related texts as the basis for the developments/ action? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please write the name(s) of the Codex Standard and/or related texts you used. If your answer is “NO”, please write reasons for not applying Codex standards or difficulty encountered.

Prepared Codex national strategy, introduction and plan of 2010-2014 in 2009 and we do follow this strategy and plan and disseminate to other organizations.
Translated, prepared and issued all those:
“Enhancing Participation in Codex Activities, 17th Edition” with support of WHO
“Codex Procedural Manual” with support of WHO
“Understanding the Codex Alimentarius” with support of WHO
FAO/WHO Joint Coordinating Committee Asia Strategic Plan 2009-2014 with support of WHO
Handbook of based on risk food monitoring with support of WHO
Code Practice for Precooked and cooked Foods in Mass Catering CAC/RCP 39-1993 with the support of MOFA.
Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance CAC/RCP 61/2005 with support of MOFA.

Q5.3 Please describe any action taken in your country to promote the application of risk analysis principles described in the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Government /CAC/GL 62-2007/

Discussing the risk analysis through relating government organizations.

Question 6: Nutrition Issues within the Region
Please describe any update regarding issues related to nutrition, such as: obesity, overweight, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies and any public health-oriented actions undertaken, including nutrition profiles, nutrition education and the use of nutrition labeling and claims and implementation of WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

Nutritional Issues:

Mongolia has conducted the National Nutrition Survey for every 5 years. The latest National Nutrition Survey (2010) showed that undernutrition such as underweight, stunting, iron deficiency anemia and vitamin D deficiency disorders still persist among under 5 years old children.

Within the National Strategy on Micronutrient Deficiencies 2005-2015, the Government of
Mongolia supplement high dose of vitamin A to lactating women and children under five and vitamin D for children under 2 years. It is aimed to reduce micronutrient deficiency among mothers and children through improvement of management information systems for supplementation programmes, creation of sustainable financing mechanisms for supplementation, improved coordination of nutrition-related programmes, improved social marketing of fortified food and nutritious foods, and improved public awareness on micronutrient deficiency.

The Government of Mongolia within the Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia for 2008-2012 works to institutionalize these best practices for scaling up efforts in line with MDGs targets by 2015.

The nutrition training program review was done in all medical schools and colleges and with the technical support from WHO, the comprehensive nutrition training curriculum has been developed and will be piloted in 2011-2012. The nutrition training center has been established at the Public Health School of the Health Sciences University of Mongolia.

According to the results of the 2009 Second STEPS Survey on the Prevalence of NCD Risk Factors are various non communicable diseases prevalent in Mongolia are:

- Prevalence of overweight and obesity among urban population
- Prevalence of hypertension and Cardiovascular diseases
- Prevalence of diabetes

In an effort to combat the increasing burden of disease due to chronic and noncommunicable diseases, as reflected in the five leading causes of morbidity and mortality, the Government launched a National Program for Prevention and Control of noncommunicable diseases in 2006-2013, and has also begun implementing a health project supported by the Millennium Challenge Account. The objectives of the project are the prevention and early detection of noncommunicable diseases; the provision of effective, affordable and long-term treatment of noncommunicable diseases following international best practices in the field; and improvement of the quality and accessibility of health care for noncommunicable diseases and injuries.

National Strategy on Diet and Physical Activity was endorsed in line with the Global Strategy on Diet and Physical Activity 2010-2021.

Question 7: Issues Relevant to the Region

(For actions 3.2, 4.1, 6.1 of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014)

Please describe up to 10 priority concerns and/or interests that you have related to Codex work currently undertaken or you would like to discuss in the future, and that you wish to share with other members of the Asian region.

Improve quality of food inspection regulatory system.

Survey Mongolian food safety and develop a special strategic plan for Mongolian food safety policy.

Involve officers of Government organizations in training, workshop and international meeting to improve their knowledge and skills.

Professional and financial support needs to organize workshops and trainings and improve disseminate methodology of information, report and standards.

Question 8: Implementation of the Regional Strategic plan

Q8.1 Of the actions listed in the Regional Strategic Plan what are the priority areas of your country?

To achieve maximum and effective participation of member countries in the activities of CCASIA, CAC and its subsidiary bodies.

To promote the use of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for national legislation.
Develop and strengthen the national food regulatory system and Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee.

To strengthen scientific and technical of member countries in the region.

Q8.2 Please describe the actions taken in your country to disseminate the Regional Strategic Plan.

We have prepared a strategic plan handbook and issued to related organizations and private companies.

Organized meetings between some of the government organizations, NGO’s and other private industries for introducing a plan of the Codex Strategic Plan.

Q8.3 What additional support is required to support its effective implementation?

Provide information, training documents to the officer of government organizations and improve their knowledge and methodology to implement and disseminate Codex related documents, standards and usage.

Need to participate in every Codex activity and keep in touch every activity that we can follow the Codex without any miss.

We take so much effort to translate, prepare and disseminate handbooks, standards and information to related organizations. Therefore sometimes face with difficulties to organize meeting, seminar and trainings. Due to this issue methodological and financial support will help us develop and strengthen our activities.

Question 9: Scientific activities and data collection activities.

Q9.1 Please describe the ongoing activities to determine food safety priorities and ensure the scientific basis of food safety decisions.

First of all we are improving and reforming the activities, directions and structure of the National Codex committee.

Sent letters to all related organizations to take a comment, suggestion and assessment to improve the National Codex activities.

Taking analysis of previous actions to evaluate and describe the difficulties and problems that are faced Mongolian food safety.

Q9.2 Please describe key data collection activities ongoing to identify and monitor hazards and contaminants of high priority in the food supply.

We are working on the collected data and analyze on it and provide its new National codex committee.

Question 10: Any other matters, Question 11: Comments on the format of this questionnaire.

We are providing documents that received from the previous Codex National team and we are working on the report. Therefore once we finish, we would like to confirm the more detail report and plan to the Codex. Also we are working to improve the structure of the National Codex Committee. Recently, the Government changes, structures and policies of Ministry of Industry and Agriculture are renovated. Therefore we could not provide answers on time and we apologize for it.