

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

**Agenda Item 5**

**ASIA/19 CRD26**

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Nineteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 3-7 November 2014

### COMMENTS OF MALDIVES

#### 1- Food Control system

##### **Maldives Food and Drug Authority**

was established by a presidential decree in 2006.

- Regulatory Authority for Food and Drug
- Development of standards, regulation and Laws related to Food including MRLs MLs settings.
- Responsible for Food safety in the country
- Codex Contact point for Maldives.
- Competent Authority for food exports.
- INFOSAN Contact Point
- EU/RASFF Focal point

##### **Ministry of Economic Development**

- Responsible agency for trade facilitation
- The SPS/TBT enquiry point
- A Standard and legal Metrology Bill was drafted.

##### **Health Protection Agency**

- Responsible for public Health.
- Enforcement Agency for Food Hygiene
- Inspection of food imports
- IHR National Contact Point

##### **Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture**

- Responsible for primary production ( live stock)
- EU competent Authority for fish catch certification and IUU Compliance
- OIE National focal Point
- IPPC focal point
- Both Fisheries and Agriculture Ministry are represented in the National Codex Committee.

#### **Food Safety Related Laws, Regulation, standards and related texts**

Food Bill is Drafted and in Attorney General's Office, ready for submission to the parliament.

Public Health Act 2012- which states about the hygiene of catering services

Consumer Protection Act 1996 – lays down the labelling requirements, advertisement and protect the consumer from misleading.

Food Establishment Regulation 2008 – lays down the requirements of Hygiene of Food establishments.

The revised Regulation on Food Establishments covers the registration of food establishments , street vended foods, etc was gazette on 29 October 2014 – Will enact on 29 April 2015.

Port Health Regulation – lays down the minimum requirements of food imports.

Food Advertisement Regulation 1995

Breast Milk Substitute Regulation 2008 – Involve registration of children food

Labelling Standards on prepackaged foods adapted from Codex

Standards on dried tuna 2014

Standard on food storage and transport.

Standard on minimum requirements for food imports.

Stakeholder consultations to draft a Food Safety and Policy is schedule to February 2015, funded by WHO.

To introduce a Scheme for GAP in the SAARC region, FAO has assisted Maldives in participating the project on establishing a SAARC GAP Scheme. Maldives has agreed to take part in the pilot project, and MFDA would be engaged in the implementation of the SAARC GAP project.

UNIDO has funded a project to strengthen, legal metrology, National Food Control System which includes development of Food regulations and standards, strengthening the capacity of National Health Laboratory (the referral laboratory of Maldives). The National Health Laboratory was certified to ISO 17025. Under the third phase of the UNIDO project on Standards Metrology and Quality, the project is assisting in the re-accreditation of the National Health Laboratory.

Under the first and second phase of the UNIDO project, 7 food processing plants were certified to ISO 22000 FSMS and the cargo area of the International Airport were certified for HACCP.

Importation of Food Supplements is an emerging issue, where unapproved food supplements are being imported to the country.

The inconsistency of documents received from different countries, during importation is difficult for verification of its authenticity. This cause delays and slow down the process of health clearance at the border.

## **2. Codex Activities**

We have formulated a National Codex Committee Maldives became a full member of the Codex. The NCC consists of different stakeholders including the consumer organizations. The participation is not at its best. We also have technical working groups formulated for the development of standards such as Fish and Fishery committee, Pesticide Committee etc.

We have planned a codex awareness workshop for next year among stakeholders. Two of the official participated in the codex training program in New Delhi in 2010.

Local food inspectors training programme has been planned, but we were able to cover two atolls every year due to funding constraints. In 2014, we were not able to conduct the Food Inspectors training, due to lack of funding.