

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 8b

ASIA19/CRD 4

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

Nineteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 3 – 7 November 2014

REPORT OF THE PHYSICAL WORKING GROUP ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CCASIA 2015-2020

Tokyo, 1 November 2014

Background

1. At the CCASIA18, the Committee agreed to establish a physical working group (pWG), chaired by the former CCASIA Coordinator, Japan, which would meet immediately prior to the CCASIA19, and working in English only, to consider the revised draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015-2020, the comments submitted and the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan and prepare recommendations for the Plenary.
2. The pWG was held on Saturday, November 1st, 2014. Eight member countries, two observer countries and one observer nongovernmental organization participated in the pWG¹.

Discussion

3. The pWG conducted the discussion referring to CX/ASIA 14/19/9, CX/ASIA 14/19/9 Add.1 and CRD 14 (comments of Indonesia).
4. The Chair briefly introduced the report of the electronic working group (eWG). The Chair raised the remaining issues in the eWG and referred to the comments distributed as CRD14. He also reported the status of implementation of the current Strategic Plan and explained the background of the linkage of the draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 with Codex Alimentarius Commission Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (the global Codex Strategic Plan). The pWG considered the following eight points step by step. New texts added to the draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015-2020 at the eWG and pWG are shown in **bold/underlined** and **bold/double underlined** font, respectively. The deletion is shown in the ~~strike through~~ font (Appendix).

1. Introduction

5. The pWG agreed to include a brief description of the food safety and food trade in Asian countries. The pWG also agreed to delete each Rationale under Objective and to incorporate some important Rationale into Introduction. The delegation from Indonesia proposed to add “standards and” in the 5th sentence of the 2nd paragraph. The pWG agreed with the proposal.

2. Goal

6. The delegation from Indonesia proposed to change the sequence of the goals, moving the Goal 4 to Goal 2. The pWG agreed with the proposal.

3. Objective 1

7. The delegation from Thailand proposed to add “and the FAO/WHO expert bodies” at the end of the Objective 1. Also, the Codex Secretariat proposed to add “to increase scientific inputs from Asian Members to” taking into consideration the Objective 2.3 of the global Codex Strategic Plan. The pWG agreed to open the bracket with some modifications of “and to increase scientific inputs from Asian Members to FAO/WHO expert bodies.”

¹ The participating countries are China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Switzerland, United States of America, and International Council of Beverage Association.

4. Activity 1.4

8. The delegation from Indonesia proposed to change the sequence of the activities, moving the Activity 1.4 to Activity 1.1. Also, the Codex Secretariat proposed to add “and its successor initiatives” taking into consideration the Activity 3.1.3 of the global Codex Strategic Plan. The pWG agreed with these proposals.

5. Activity 2.2

9. Regarding the clarification on the management of the CCASIA website, the Codex Secretariat noted the possibility to integrate the information published on the existing websites of the Codex Regional Committees within the Codex website framework in the near future. The delegation from Indonesia noted the willingness to transfer the management of their website to the next Coordinator. The delegation from Japan also noted that they could provide the contents and information on their website to the next Coordinator. Taking into consideration the comments above, the Chair proposed that the next Coordinator could seek the possibility to manage the website made by Indonesia. The pWG agreed to open the bracket.

6. Activity 6.5

10. The delegation from India proposed to add a new activity, “6.5 Personal exchanges among Asian countries (visits/workshops) to study fully functional National Food Control Systems.” The delegation from Malaysia commented that Activity 6.1 has already covered the proposed activity. The Chair proposed to keep the bracket and to discuss this section in the Plenary in the light of the information provided by India. The pWG agreed with the Chair’s proposal.

7. Status of Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014

11. Referring to Annex III of CX/ASIA 14/19/9, the Chair explained the proposed points that should be incorporated into the next Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020. The pWG confirmed that these points were reflected in the draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020.

8. Linkage with the global Codex Strategic Plan

12. The Chair briefly explained the background of the linkage with the global Codex Strategic Plan. At the CCEXEC69 in 2014, the Executive Committee agreed to establish a monitoring framework of the implementation of the global Codex Strategic Plan including mechanisms for systematic data collection (e.g. templates) to make assessing information from multiple committees easier where these were the main providers of monitoring information. The Executive Committee recommended that the Codex Secretariat be tasked with the elaboration of this framework, and this monitoring framework could be used for an initial report on progress at the next CCEXEC and CAC (REP14/EXEC, paras 42-43). At the CAC37, the Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the CCEXEC (REP14/CAC, para 119).

13. The Chair also mentioned the conclusions of other Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs). At the CCNASWP13, the Committee indicated the linkage of each of the six Objectives of the Strategic Plan for the CCNASWP with the activities of the global Codex Strategic Plan (REP15/NASWP, para 55). At the CCEURO29, the Committee agreed that it would be more appropriate to link the objectives of the regional Strategic Plan with the goals of the global Codex Strategic Plan (REP15/EURO, para 42).

14. The Chair invited comments on the linkage of the draft Strategic Plan with the global Codex Strategic Plan. The Codex Secretariat explained that the RCCs are tasked to monitor the global Codex Strategic Plan as well as the regional Strategic Plan, which would make the duplication of the work. So, they were of the view that the linkage would eliminate the duplication. In view of the difficulties to identify the linkages during the meeting, the Chair proposed to consider the linkages at the Plenary. The pWG agreed with the Chair’s proposal.

Recommendation

15. The pWG recommended the Plenary consider the revised draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 as presented in Appendix of this report.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA 2015-2020

INTRODUCTION

The Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA), as one of the Regional Coordinating Committees, was established by Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in 1978. Starting with 7 member countries participation for its 1st session, CCASIA, now with 23 member countries, has been striving to promote mutual communication among Asian members, as well as develop regional standards for certain products.

Today, in Asian region, the importance of the role of Codex in protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade has been significantly recognized. Since the Asian region constitutes the majority of the global population and agricultural production, more active participation and contribution to Codex activities by Asian Members has been widely expected with the aim to ensure food safety not only regionally but also globally. Additionally, in order to share concerns/interests amongst Asian Members and to identify the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control, Asian Members need to enhance communication and coordination using the regional network. Promoting to develop Codex standards taking into account the needs of the region and to use Codex standards as bases for national standards and legislations would contribute to protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. In order to facilitate Codex related activities in each Asian Member effectively, it is also important to strengthen the functions of Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee as well as their capacities and framework.

The Strategic Plan for CCASIA has been formulated by updating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014 and taking into account the Strategic Goals described in Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and the needs of Asian Members. This Strategic Plan outlines goals and corresponding strategic objectives for CCASIA and Asian Members as well as the specified activities that are necessary to achieve the goals and objectives. The Activities are further supported by measurable indicators to track the progress toward the accomplishment of the goals.

GOAL

The goals of this Strategic Plan are:

1. To promote contribution of Asian Members to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its subsidiary bodies **(Objective 1)**;
- ~~2~~2. To enhance communication and coordination among Asian Members **(Objective 2)**;
- ~~3~~3. To obtain the maximum benefit from Codex activities **(Objective 3 and 4)**; and
- ~~4~~4. To improve scientific and technical capacities of Asian Members **(Objective 5 and 6)**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

This Strategic Plan clarifies six strategic objectives of the Asian region that contribute to achieving above mentioned four goals. **Goal corresponding to each objective is specified.** In implementing each **activity** action, Asian Members may seek cooperation with FAO/WHO and other international organizations.

OBJECTIVE 1:

To achieve the maximum and effective participation of Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies and to increase scientific inputs from Asian Members to FAO/WHO expert bodies (Goal 1)

Rationale:

~~To achieve maximum participation and submit appropriate comments and data from Asian Members are essential for making sound decision at the sessions of CAC and its subsidiary bodies.]~~

Activities Actions:

- ~~1.24.1~~1.24.1 Strengthen the capacity of Asian Members to submit their comments and appropriate scientific data on relevant issues.

1.34.2 Encourage Asian Members to formulate national positions and participate in relevant sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies.

1.41.3 Encourage developing Asian Members to apply for funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the Work of Codex **and its successor initiative**, as well as other sources.

1.14.4 Promote the understanding of Codex rules including the Procedural Manual among Asian Members.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To strengthen regional communication and coordination among Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies (Goal 32)

Rationale:

~~Since Member countries in Asia region tend to share the same concerns derived from similar climate and dietary habitat, Asian Members can benefit from using the network among Asian members to address their concerns through helping and compensating each other for Codex related activities. This network is also important to promote cooperation to form clear and sound regional positions and subsequently increase presence of Asian Members in the Codex activities.~~

Activities Actions:

- 2.1 Maintain and share an up-to-date directory of the Codex Contact Point (CCP) of Asian Members.
- 2.2 ~~{Update and maintain a website of CCASIA and encourage its use.}~~
- 2.3 Encourage the exchange and sharing of submitted comments and relevant data among Asian Members.
- 2.4 Organize informal meetings of CCASIA members at the margin of the meeting of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to develop common position, where possible.
- 2.5 Cooperate to gather data/information and make proposal at the sessions of CAC and/or subsidiary bodies on issues of common concerns or interests.

OBJECTIVE 3:

To promote the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional situations and needs (Goal 43)

Rationale:

~~Asian Members can benefit from using worldwide and/or regional standards developed by taking their identified needs into account.~~

Activities Actions:

- 3.1 Conduct surveys or exchange views with relevant stakeholders in Member countries to capture interests and needs for the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts.
- 3.2 Identify specific food products and area of interest of the region that require standards and related texts to be developed and/or reviewed.
- 3.3 Make proposals at the sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies to reflect interest of the Asian region.

OBJECTIVE 4:

To promote the use of Codex standards and related texts as bases for national legislation by Asian Members (Goal 43)

Rationale:

~~Promoting the use of regulations and measures based on Codex standards and related texts would contribute to protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practice in the food trade.~~

Activities Actions:

- 4.1 Inform and share the results of meetings of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to relevant stakeholders in Member countries.
- 4.2 Train technical personnel and policymakers responsible for the elaboration of food policies including regulations on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts.

- 4.3 Increase awareness of the Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders in Member countries including consumers, industries and academia.
- 4.4 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to harmonize their national policies including regulations with Codex standards and related texts.

OBJECTIVE 5:

To develop and strengthen capacities and functions of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC) (Goal 24)

Rationale:

~~Enhancing capacities and functions of CCP and/or NCC is essential to promote the effective participation of Asian Members in the Codex activities and the dissemination and implementation of Codex work in each Asian Members.]~~

Activities Actions:

- 5.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.
- 5.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or mentoring and training program to strengthen CCP and/or NCC.

OBJECTIVE 6:

To strengthen food control capacities and framework of Asian Members (Goal 24)

Rationale:

~~In order to address food related problems and also to contribute to the work of CAC and its subsidiary bodies, Asian Members need to strengthen their capacities and framework.]~~

Activities Actions:

- 6.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to improve scientific and technical capacities related to food control including those relating to laboratories and inspections.
- 6.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or training courses to improve scientific and technical capacity.
- 6.3 Update and maintain a list of experts and institutions available in the region which can provide the required scientific and technical expertise.
- 6.4 Facilitate the development and/or review of national food control regulatory system including organizations, laws and regulations.

6.5 Personnel exchanges among Asian Countries (visits/workshops) to examine fully functional National Food Control System.]

(Annex: Reporting Form of Monitoring of Implementation of Strategic Plan for the Coordinating Committee for Asia)

Annex: REPORTING FORM OF MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Criteria for Implementation	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
STRATEGIC GOAL 1 To promote contribution of Asian Members to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its subsidiary bodies	OBJECTIVE 1 To achieve the maximum and effective participation of Asian Members in the activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies <u>and to increase scientific inputs from Asian members to FAO/WHO expert bodies</u>	1.24.1 Strengthen the capacity of Asian Members to submit their comments and appropriate scientific data on relevant issues.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of comments and data submitted.	
		1.34.2 Encourage Asian Members to formulate their national position and participate in relevant sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken to formulate national positions for each Codex meetings. Number and outline of sessions participated by Asian Members.	
		1.44.3 Encourage developing Asian Members to apply for funding assistance under the FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the Work of Codex <u>and its successor initiatives</u> , as well as other sources.	Interested Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of applications Asian Members have made for funding assistance Number and outline of the applications approved by authorized organization.	
		1.14.4 Promote the understanding of Codex rules including the Procedural Manual among Asian Members.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken to promote the understanding of Codex rules (e.g. seminars, workshops or training courses).	
STRATEGIC GOAL 3 To enhance communication and coordination among Asian Members	OBJECTIVE 2 To strengthen communication and coordination among Asian Members in the regional	2.1 Maintain and share an up-to-date directory of the Codex Contact Point (CCP) of Asian Members.	Regional Coordinator All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Action taken by the Coordinator to request Asian Members to update the directory of the CCP. Notification made by Members to provide the change of CCP to the Codex secretariat in a timely manner.	
		2.2 [Update and maintain a website of CCASIA and encourage its use.]	Regional Coordinator	On-going <u>2015-2016</u>	Actions taken by the Coordinator to update the CCASIA website in timely	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Criteria for Implementation	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
	activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies		All Members	<u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	manner. Frequency of access to CCASIA website.	
		2.3 Exchange and sharing of submitted comments and relevant data among Asian Members.	Interested <u>M</u> embers	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of actions taken by Asian Members to exchange or share the submitted comments and data with other Asian Members.	
		2.4 Organize informal meetings of CCASIA members at the margin of the meeting of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to develop common position, where possible	Regional Coordinator All <u>M</u> embers	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number of informal meetings for CCASIA organized by the Coordinator. Number of Asian Members participated in the informal meetings. Number and outline of common position developed at those informal meetings.	
		2.5 Cooperate to gather data/information and make proposal at the sessions of CAC and/or subsidiary bodies on issues of common concerns or interests.	Interested Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of gathered data/information Number and outline of proposal made at the session of CAC or its subsidiary bodies.	
STRATEGIC GOAL <u>4</u> To obtain the maximum benefit from Codex activities	OBJECTIVE 3 To promote the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional situations and	3.1 Conduct surveys or exchange views with relevant stakeholders in Members countries to capture interests and needs of the region for the development and/or review of Codex standards and related texts.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number of the surveys and exchange of views conducted by Asian Members and their outline.	
		3.2 Identify specific food products and area of interest to the region that require standards and related texts to be developed and/or reviewed.	Regional Coordinator Interested Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of identified products or area of interest to the region and their outline.	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Criteria for Implementation	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
	needs	3.3 Make proposals at the sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies to reflect interest of the Asian region.	Interested Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of proposal made at the sessions.	
	OBJECTIVE 4 To promote the use of Codex standards and related texts as bases for national legislation by Asian Members	4.1 Inform and share the results of meetings of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to relevant stakeholders in Member countries.	All Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken by Member countries to inform and share the results of Codex meetings to relevant stakeholders.	
		4.2 Train technical personnel and policymakers responsible for the elaboration of food policies including regulations on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts.	All Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outlines of the training courses, seminars or workshops etc. held during this period.	
		4.3 Increase awareness of the Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders in Member countries including consumers, industries and academia.	All Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken to increase awareness of Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders. Actions taken to inform and share the content and importance of Codex standards and related texts among relevant stakeholders.	
		4.4 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to harmonize their national policies including regulations with Codex standards and related texts.	All Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of identified capacity building need to harmonize national policies with Codex standards and related texts.	
STRATEGIC GOAL 24	OBJECTIVE 5	5.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to establish and/or strengthen CCP	All Members	On going <u>2015-2016</u>	Number and outline of identified capacity building need to establish and/or strengthen CCP	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Criteria for Implementation	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
To improve scientific and technical capacities of Asian Members	To develop and strengthen capacities and functions of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC)	and/or NCC.		<u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	and/or NCC.	
	OBJECTIVE 6 To strengthen food control capacities and framework of Asian Members	5.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or mentoring and training program to strengthening CCP and/or NCC.	All Members <u>Interested Members</u>	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken to assist other Asian Members in strengthening CCP and/or NCC.	
		6.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to improve scientific and technical capacities related to food control including those relating to laboratories and inspections.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of identified capacity building need to improve scientific and technical capacities.	
		6.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or training courses to improve scientific and technical capacity.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Number and outline of workshops and/or training courses organized to improve scientific and technical capacity.	
		6.3 Update and maintain a list of experts and institutions available in the region which can provide the required scientific and technical expertise.	Regional Coordinator All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Request made by the Coordinator for Asian Members to update the information on CCP list or send recommendation of the new experts and/or institutions to be listed. Notification made by Asian Members to provide update of the list in a timely manner.	
6.4 Facilitate the development and/or review of national food control regulatory system and risk analysis framework including organizations, laws and regulations.	All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken to develop and/or review the national food control regulatory system and its outline. <u>[Number of visits and workshops organized to help other members understand</u>			

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	<u>ACTIVITY</u> Actions	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u> Responsible Parties	<u>TIME-LINE</u> Time Frame	<u>MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT</u> Criteria for Implementation	<u>STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION</u> Status
					<u>the components and functionality of National Food Control System.</u>	
		<u>[6.5 Personnel exchanges among Asian Countries (visits/workshops) to examine fully functional National Food Control System.]</u>	All Members <u>[Interested Members]</u>	On going <u>[2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020]</u>	<u>[Number of visits and workshops organized to help other members understand the components and functionality of National Food Control System.]</u>	