



**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 - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 10

**CX/ASIA 14/19/11
October 2014**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Nineteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 3 – 7 November 2014

CODEX ISSUES RELATED TO THE REGION

Prepared by the Coordinator

Introduction

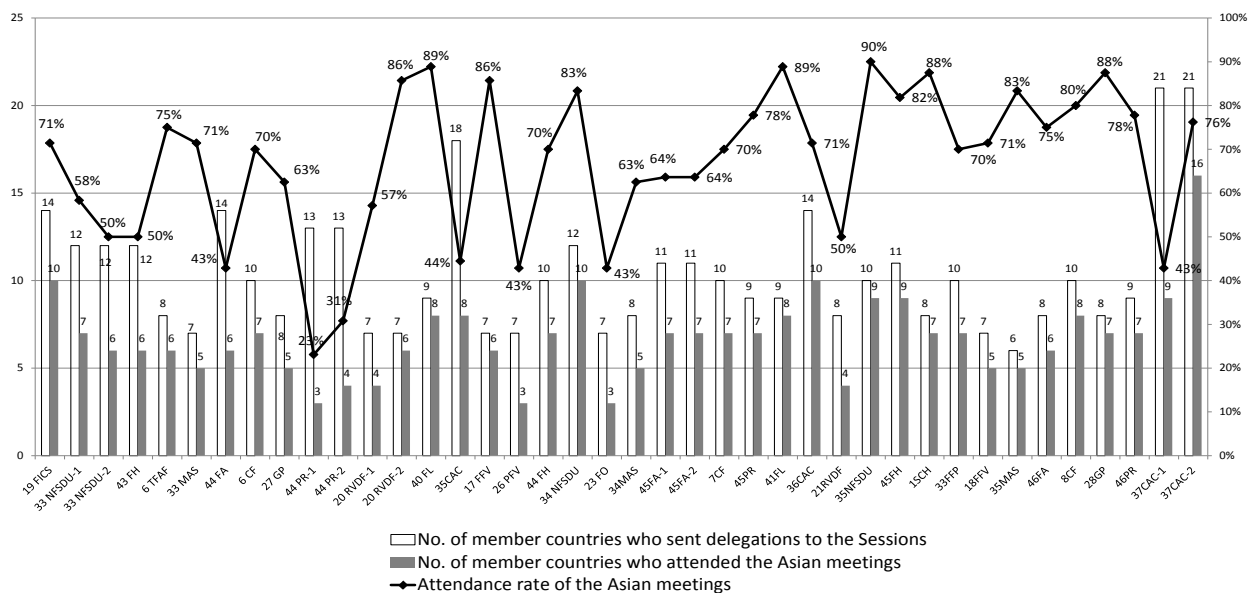
1. The CCASIA16 agreed to add to its agenda, as a standing agenda item, the discussion of “Issues Relevant to the Region” in order to facilitate the development of regional positions, and to request the coordinator for the region to prepare a paper on this subject for consideration at the next session.

2. A Questionnaire was sent from CCASIA Coordinator requested member countries to provide comments and information on activities to increase the participation of the informal meeting of CCASIA and Codex issues relevant to the region to identify common concerns and/or interests in the Asian region. Seven countries; India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand, sent comments/information in response to the questionnaire.

Comments on Question 1.1

Q1.1 Please describe the activities, which the Coordinator and/or the member countries need to do, to increase the participation of the informal meetings of CCASIA members prior to the plenary session of Codex Committees.

3. Japan as a former CCASIA Regional Coordinator provided a chart presenting the level of participation of Asian countries in all Codex meeting during 2011-2014 (see below). The chart showed the percentage of countries participated in the informal meeting of CCASIA ranging from 23% to 90%.



4. The seven countries suggested activities to increase the participation of the informal meeting of CCASIA members which include:

- Coordinator invites and encourages all members to actively participate in CCASIA informal meeting. The time, date and venue of the meetings should be informed well in advance to the CCASIA Members.
- Coordinator communicates to countries who cannot attend Codex meeting and requests to get their concerns and comments.
- The Coordinator should identify the agenda items that are important and also identify the concerns which may have regional connotations.
- All countries who attend Codex meeting should participate in CCASIA informal meeting and provide their concerns and comments.
- Internal communication in each country between CCP and delegation to Codex meeting is needed.
- The informal meeting should attempt to get common regional positions.
- A record note of discussions should be prepared and circulated to the Members for subsequent sessions.
- All the stakeholders must be involved in developing a mutually agreed upon proposal including development of priority areas so that fair trade is ensured within the region.
- Discussion of relevant issues of common interest e.g. labeling, ethnic food, within the region which are in the agenda of CCASIA
- Discussion on Harmonization of standards e.g. FOP among member countries
- Discussion on the use of Codex standards, food safety and control systems, common requirements for import and export
- More capability building activities on risk analysis, strengthen/establish website linkage and exchange of information on food safety issues, and follow-up workshop on standards development

Comments on Question 1.2

Q.1.2 Please describe interests and/or concerns that you have related to the Codex work currently undertaken or you would like to discuss in the future.

Table 1: Summary of issues of interests and/or concerns replied from members.

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
1	Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars (ready-to-drink), canned fruits and canned vegetables	CCCF	Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact	Step 2/3	Member to submit comments/data to support the work
2	Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice	CCCF	Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact	Step 2/3	Member to submit comments/data to support the work
3	Maximum levels for Cadmium in Chocolate and cocoa products	CCCF	The matter is important for the safety of foods preferred by children	Step 2/3	Member to submit comments/data to support the work
4	Maximum level of aflatoxin in ready-to-eat peanut	CCCF	High health and trade impact	Step 2/3	Member to submit occurrence data and actively participate in eWG to support the work
5	Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice	CCCF	Appropriate practices for regional producer, health impact	Step 2/3	Member to submit comments/data to support the work
6	Lack of data on various issues under CCCF	CCCF	There is a lack of data in India specifically with regard to additives and contaminants	Step 3	Collaboration among the regional members to conduct studies and collect data

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
7	Methylmercury in fishery product	CCCF	Anticipate emerging issues in the future regarding methylmercury in fishery product	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
8	Review Mycotoxins In Spices for Prioritization of The Work In Spices	CCCF	Indonesia has high humidity and a tropical country that suitable for mycotoxin producers fungi.	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
9	Maximum level of migration of metals from food contact material to the food consumed	(CCCF)	Tropical condition, such as in Indonesia, will affect the migration of metals from food contact materials to the food consumed, which will affect the safety of food products	Not yet in Codex process	Members to submit comments/data to support the new work
10	Discussion paper on use of additives in additives (secondary additives)	CCFA	To make sure that the level of secondary food additives in the final products does not exceed the maximum level permitted in the final products.	Discussion Paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
11	Revision the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	CCFH	Appropriate practices for different levels of producers	Discussion paper	Feasibility and flexibility in the application should be considered
12	Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites	CCFH	Foodborne parasites are major health burden worldwide and it is important to control foodborne parasites.	Step 2/3	Japan chairs the eWG (Co-chair: Canada) Member countries are encouraged to provide comments, relevant data and information in order to facilitate the work.
13	Histamine	CCFFP	Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact	Discussion paper	Feasibility and flexibility in the application should be considered
14	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce	CCFFP	Appropriate practices to producers in the region to improve safety and quality of fish sauce	Step 6	Member to submit comments/data to support the work, aiming for adoption at step 8 next CAC
15	Revision of Guideline on Organic agriculture: Organic aquaculture	CCFL	Appropriate practices for organic aquaculture producers	Step 2/3	Member to submit comments/data to support the work, flexibility and practically be considered
16	Proposed Draft Revision of The General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Date Marking	CCFL	Various food products that are imported into India face rejections or delay in clearances due to different ways of date marking	Step 3	All the Asian members should cooperate in the development of a universal format of Date Marking
17	Labelling Standard for Non-Retail Containers	CCFL	Requires support from Asian Countries	Discussion paper	India would like to request all Asian

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
					member to support this agenda item at the 42 nd CCFL
18	Discussion Paper on Principles and Guidelines for the Elaboration and Management of Questionnaires Directed at Exporting Countries	CCFICS	To simplified the multiple questionnaire for effectiveness of exporting/importing activities	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
19	Discussion Paper on Consideration of Emerging Issues and Future Directions for The Work of The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	CCFICS	To improve awareness of emerging issues in food world trade, since Indonesia is a country with a large number of population	Discussion Paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
20	Review of codex standard of follow up formula	CCNFSDU	Follow up formula is widely distributed in Indonesia, standard for follow up formula is needed as a guidance for member country to regulate the products	Step 4	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
21	Standard on Black, white and green peppers	CCSCH	Large trade volume and consumption within region	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
22	Regional Standard for Laver products	CCASIA	Large trade volume and consumption with in region	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of mycotoxin and metals (contaminants in food) - development of national and international standards for the control of Aflatoxins, mycotoxin and heavy metals. - A study on regional basis to conduct surveys and analysis of rice from major rice growing areas to assess the level of inorganic arsenic in rice. - An elaborated plan may be discussed and developed to determine the levels of selective pesticide residues in rice to address food safety issues. - Work may be initiated to update Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin in rice, - Need new work on code of practice for prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice. - Adoption of maximum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (CCCF). - CCPPF, - CCPR - CCFE 	<p>Due to direct involvement in testing and research on mycotoxins in food at national level and work on developing national standards for mycotoxin and heavy metals.</p> <p>The country is primarily an agricultural country and is facing immense challenges in trade due to detection of mycotoxins, pesticide residues and heavy metals in different agro-based products. Hence, there is need to develop national standards in line with international standards backed by an effective risk assessment and laboratory testing support.</p>	<p>-Recognizing the need to have an effective and integrated SPS management and official control system in the country the Ministry of National Food Security and Research has implemented a project which aims to put in place a Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Body in the country</p> <p>- Increased concern on food safety issues have necessitated need to update the existing standards of agricultural products and animal and plant health standards in line with the Codex standards</p> <p>- In spite of the</p>	<p>Developing countries like Pakistan need to be supported through Codex Trust Fund for participation in Codex sessions</p> <p>ii). Regional meetings may be held frequently (CCASIA) to better understand the obligation of regional standards and develop proposals at the regional level for projecting regional issues and solutions to address such issues in Codes sessions.</p> <p>iii). Roadmap may be developed by prioritising issues and arranging CCASIA meetings in various countries of the region to sensitize the sector stakeholders and the regulators on food safety issues</p> <p>iv) Technical and financial support to undertake surveys within the country in</p>

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
	limits for methyl mercury in fish and fishery products.			fact that the facility for support through Codex Trust Fund has been stopped which has hampered the work of harmonization of standards, efforts have been made to increase participation in Codex sessions which has been helpful in acquiring knowledge and awareness on the effectiveness of harmonized standards both at regional and international levels. - Currently the standards of agricultural products are being reviewed to update them wherever necessary.	order to collect occurrence data which could be shared with the member states of the region. v). Due to meagre funds available, participation in Codex sessions is limited. Member states may be encouraged to participate in eWG to project their viewpoints on regional and international food safety issues.
24	Harmonization of requirements	CCASIA	Facilitate trade and access to international market	-	Conduct electronic and physical meetings
25	Assessment of nutrition and health claims	CCFL	Common substantiation and data requirements	-	Include in CCASIA for discussion
26	Harmonization of labelling e.g. FOP	CCFL	Trade facilitation and movement of single label within the region	-	Conduct electronic and physical meetings

5. Thailand also provided information extracted from report of the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Task force on Codex (ATFC) on the Codex works currently undertaken which is included in this document as table 2.

Table 2: Information extracted from report of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Codex (ATFC)

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
1	Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars (ready-to-drink), canned fruits and canned vegetables	CCCF	Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/ data to support the work
2	Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice	CCCF	Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/ data to support the work
3	Maximum level for Mycotoxin in Spices	CCCF	Large trade volume and consumption	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/ data to eWG

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
			within region/ high health impact		to prioritise spices
4	Guidance to facilitate the establishment of MRLs for minor crops and specialty crops	CCPR	Minor crops and specialty crops is important to the region		Members to submit comments/ data and actively participate in eWG
5	Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues	CCPR	Important to health and international trade, especially on the acceptance of result of residue analysis	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/ data and actively participate in eWG
6	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce	CCFFP	Appropriate practices to producers in the region to improve safety and quality of fish sauce	Step 6	Members to submit comments/ data to support the work, aiming for adoption at Step 8 next CAC
7	Method of analysis – Marine biotoxin	CCMAS/ CCFFP	Appropriate practices to Laboratories	Step 8	Support adoption of method of analysis. Criteria to be determined by CCMAS on the categorize of the Type of the mouse bioassay method
8	Revision of Guideline on organic agriculture: Organic aquaculture	CCFL	Appropriate practices for organic aquaculture producers	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/ data to eWG
9	Amendments to List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes	CCFO	Important to trade and import-export transportation	Step 2/3	Members to actively participate in both eWG and pWG
10	Standard on Black, white & green peppers	CCSCH	Large trade volume and consumption within region	Step 2/3	Members to submit comments/ data to support the work
11	Regional standard on Non-fermented soybean products	CCASIA	Large trade volume and consumption within region	Step 6	Members to participate actively in the CCASIA19, particularly the product classification, food additive and the use of term “soybean milk”
12	Standard – Processed cheese	CCMMP	Large trade volume and consumption within region	Step 6	Members to actively participate in the work under CCMMP

Recommendation

6. Member countries are requested to discuss on:

- (1) activity to increase the participation of the informal meeting of Codex members as identified in page 2 of the document
- (2) Codex issues of interest and/or concerns from CCASIA members as identified in Table 1 and Table 2 with the aim to facilitate the coordination among the members and, where necessary, formulate regional position on specific issues.