



Agenda Item 8b

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August 2014

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

Nineteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 3-7 November 2014

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CCASIA 2015 – 2020

Prepared by the Electronic Working Group led by Japan

Governments and international organizations in Observer status with the Codex Alimentarius Commission wishing to submit comments on the Draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015 – 2020 (Appendix 1) are invited to do so **no later than 30th September 2014** to the Secretariat for CCASIA:

National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), 50 Phaholyothin Rd., Chatuchak 10900 Bangkok, Thailand (E-mail: codex@acfs.go.th); and

Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-8950, Japan (E-mail: ccasia@nm.maff.go.jp);

with a copy to the Secretariat, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Italy (E-mail: codex@fao.org).

In order to facilitate the compilation of comments and prepare more useful comments' document, Members and Observers, which are not yet doing so, are requested to provide their comments under the following headings:

- (i) General Comments
- (ii) Specific Comments

Specific comments should include a reference to the relevant section and/or paragraph of the document that the comments refer to.

Report of the Electronic Working Group on the Draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015 – 2020

BACKGROUND

1. The 18th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) agreed to establish an EWG, chaired by the CCASIA Coordinator, open to all Members of the Region and observers and working in English only, to prepare a revised draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 to take into consideration the new Codex Strategic Plan and relevant discussion at the present session, for circulation for comments and finalization at the next session (REP13/ASIA, para 201).

2. The revised draft Strategic Plan and the comments received will be considered by a physical Working Group (PWG), chaired by the former CCASIA Coordinator, Japan, and working English only, which will take place immediately prior to CCASIA19, to be held in 2014. The conclusions of the PWG will be considered at CCASIA19 (REP13/ASIA, para 202).

SUMMARY OF EWG

3. In December 2012, the CCASIA Coordinator circulated an invitation via the Codex Secretariat to all Codex members and observers. Seven members and one observer expressed their interests in participating in the EWG (Appendix II).

4. The CCASIA Coordinator revised the draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 based on the discussions during CCASIA18 (REP13/ASIA, para 199). The first draft was circulated to the EWG members in January 2013 and five member countries provided their comments. Taking into account the comments received for the first draft and Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 which was adopted at CAC36, the Coordinator prepared the second draft and distributed to the EWG members in August 2013. The third draft

was circulated in January 2014, taking into account the comments submitted by four member countries regarding the second draft. One member country commented on the third draft.

5. The draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015 – 2020 has been finalized and is presented in Appendix I. New texts added to the draft Strategic Plan provided at CCASIA18 (Appendix 1 of CX/ASIA 12/18/13) are shown in **bold/underlined** font and deletion in the ~~strike through~~ font. Major amendments are as follows;

INTRODUCTION

6. There was a general agreement that INTRODUCTION should include a brief description of the food safety and food trade in Asian countries. There was also a general agreement to delete each Rationale under OBJECTIVE in line with Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and to incorporate some important Rationale into INTRODUCTION. The Coordinator revised the texts of INTRODUCTION accordingly.

Activity

7. The EWG members agreed to use the term “Activities” rather than “Actions” under each OBJECTIVE to be in line with the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019.

ANNEX

8. The EWG members agreed to make the amendments in the structure of Annex of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015 - 2020 for the better readability.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS FOR PWG

9. The followings are four potential discussion points for the elaboration of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020.

INTRODUCTION

10. INTRODUCTION need to be further discussed in order to appropriately include the brief description of the food safety and food trade in Asian countries and the important points of Rationale transferred from OBJECTIVE.

OBJECTIVE 1

11. A proposal from a member country to amend the OBJECTIVE 1 “To achieve the maximum and effective participation of Asian Members in the activities of CAC, its subsidiary bodies **and FAO/WHO expert bodies**” in order to make the text in line with activities 2.3 in Strategic Plan 2008-2013 for the Codex Alimentarius Commission should be considered.

Activity 2.2

12. Management of website of CCASIA need to be discussed. Concerning that now we have two different CCASIA websites, a member country requested that the CCASIA website should be one and should be continuously managed by any of the member who is/ will be approved as the CCASIA Coordinator. The previous CCASIA Coordinator (Japan) could not keep using the website established and updated by former CCASIA Coordinator (Indonesia) due to the security reason.

Activity 6.5

13. A member country proposed to add Activity 6.5 “Personnel exchanges among Asian countries (visits/workshops) to examine fully functional National Food Control System”. The proposed text is incorporated in Activity 6.4 due to the similarity of their content and the Measurable Indicators for the consideration by CCASIA19.

APPENDIX I

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 ~~on~~ of 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, ~~Thus~~ more active participation and contribution to Codex activities by Asian ~~CCASIA~~ Members has been widely expected with the aim to ensure food safety not only regionally but also globally. Additionally, ~~within the Asian region, the geology, climate, religion and diet are diverse from country to country. Due to this diversity within the region, it has not been easy to have consolidated opinion on individual issues. Therefore~~ Additionally, in order to ~~We need to~~ share concerns/interests amongst Asian ~~CCASIA~~ Members and to identify the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control, ~~to enhance the coordination~~ 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 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.

This document sets out the Strategic Plan for the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) for the period 2015-2020. ~~Taking into account the current situation of Asian region and updating the implementation of The Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014.~~ The Strategic Plan for CCASIA has been formulated referring to 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 ~~taken~~ the needs of Asian Members into account. This Strategic Plan outlines presents goals and corresponding strategic objectives for CCASIA and Asian Members, ~~and also includes detailed actions as well as the specified activities~~ that are necessary to achieve ~~these~~ the goals and objectives. The Activities Strategic Objectives and Goals are further supported by more detailed actions and 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. To enhance communication and coordination among Asian Members **(Objective 2)**;
3. To obtain the maximum benefit from Codex activities **(Objective 3 and 4)**; and
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 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:

- 1.1 Strengthen the capacity of Asian Members to submit their comments and appropriate scientific data on relevant issues.
- 1.2 **Encourage Asian Members to** formulate national positions and participate in relevant sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies.
- 1.3 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, as well as other sources.
- 1.4 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 2)

[Rationale:

~~Since Member countries in Asia region tend to share the same concerns derived from similar climate and dietary habit,~~ 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 3)

[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 3)*****[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 4)*****[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 4)*****[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 Measurable indicators/Output	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 [and FAO/WHO expert bodies]	1.1 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.	
		1.2 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.	
		1.3 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, 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.	
		1.4 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 2 To enhance communication and coordination among Asian Members	OBJECTIVE 2 To strengthen communication and coordination among Asian Members in the regional activities of CAC and its subsidiary bodies	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 All Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	Actions taken by the Coordinator to update the CCASIA website in timely manner. Frequency of access to CCASIA website.	
		2.3 Exchange and sharing of submitted comments and relevant data among Asian Members.	Interested Members	On-going <u>2015-2016</u>	Number and outline of actions taken by Asian Members to exchange or share the submitted comments and	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Measurable indicators/Output	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
				<u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	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	<u>On-going</u> <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	<u>On-going</u> <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 3 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 needs	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	<u>On-going</u> <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	<u>On-going</u> <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.	
		3.3 Make proposals at the sessions of CAC and/or its subsidiary bodies to reflect interest of the Asian region.	Interested Members	<u>On-going</u> <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	4.1 Inform and share the results of meetings of CAC and its subsidiary bodies to relevant stakeholders in Member countries.	All Members	<u>On-going</u> <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	All Members	<u>On-going</u>	Number and outlines of the training courses, seminars or workshops etc.	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY Actions	RESPONSIBLE PARTY Responsible Parties	TIME-LINE Time Frame	MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT Measurable indicators/Output	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION Status
	national legislation by Asian Members	elaboration of food policies including regulations on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts.		2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	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 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	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 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	Number and outline of identified capacity building need to harmonize national policies with Codex standards and related texts.	
STRATEGIC GOAL 4 To improve scientific and technical capacities of Asian Members	OBJECTIVE 5 To develop and strengthen capacities and functions of CCP and/or National Codex Committee (NCC)	5.1 Identify the capacity building needs of Asian Members to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.	All Members	On-going 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	Number and outline of identified capacity building need to establish and/or strengthen CCP and/or NCC.	
		5.2 Conduct or participate in workshops and/or mentoring and training program to strengthening CCP and/or NCC.	All Members Interested Members	On-going 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	Actions taken to assist other Asian Members in strengthening CCP and/or NCC.	
	OBJECTIVE 6 To strengthen food control capacities and framework of Asian Members	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 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	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 2015-2016 2017-2018 2019-2020	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	Regional Coordinator	On-going 2015-2016	Request made by the Coordinator for Asian Members to update the information on CCP list or send	

STRATEGIC GOAL	OBJECTIVE	<u>ACTIVITY</u> Actions	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u> Responsible Parties	<u>TIME-LINE</u> Time Frame	<u>MESURABLE INDICATORS/OUTPUT</u> Measurable indicators/Output	<u>STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION</u> Status
		scientific and technical expertise.	All Members	<u>2017-2018</u> <u>2019-2020</u>	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 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</u> <u>2017-2018</u> <u>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>	

APPENDIX II

List of participants in the eWG on Draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015 - 2020

China

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