Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Meeting proceedings

FAO national training workshop on strengthening food safety standard setting and enhancing effective participation in Codex activities

30 August – 1 September 2017
Quezon City, Philippines

Conducted under the FAO project
"Support for capacity building for international food safety and implementation in ASEAN countries"
(GCP/RAS/295/JPN)

MAFF
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
JAPAN

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
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Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations and acronyms

BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
DA	Department of Agriculture
DOH	Department of Health
FAORAP	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
MSO	Management Support Office
NCO	National Codex Organization
NMIS	National Meat Inspection Service
SCFICS	Sub-Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TC	Technical Committee
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive summary

The national training workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in the Philippines was conceptualized as a Way Forward after the participation of DA and DOH personnel who are NCO members to the FAO Regional Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries that was held on 9-11 January 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities was held on 30 August to 1 September 2017 in Sequoia Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines. The activity was jointly organized by the National Codex Organization (NCO) and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP).

The objectives of the training workshop were to provide participants with:

- enhanced understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade, structure and function of CAC, up-to-date information of recent Codex meetings, and food safety risk analysis
- opportunity to share knowledge and experience on current national Codex activities
- training on development of national/regional positions through mock sessions to enhance participants' capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work

A total of forty nine (49) participants consisting of personnel from the food safety regulatory agencies of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and the private sector actively participated in the three-day training workshop. Three (3) ASEAN participants from Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam served as observers so that they will have an idea as to how a national Codex training can be organized in their respective countries. Philippine participants to the Codex training are also active members of different National Codex Organization Technical Committee and Sub-Committees.

Comparative analysis of the result of the pre and post training examination revealed significant improvement in the knowledge and understanding of the participants on the subject matters. Further, 96% of the participants gave an excellent rating as to the quality of the workshop in general. Based on the mentioned parameters, the following initially identified objectives were met: (1)Enhanced knowledge on structure and function of CAC, latest meeting of CAC and impact of Codex standards on international trade (2)Enhanced understanding of risk analysis within the Codex framework and the role of scientific expert bodies (3)Participants trained on development of national/regional positions and (4)developed participants with the capacity and commitment to contribute effectively to Codex work.

Participants were appreciative of the mock session as this provided new NCO members and incoming Sub-Committee Chairs with the knowledge and experience on how Codex plenary sessions are conducted. Majority of the participants suggested that a similar mock session trainings be conducted on how to prepare written comments and/or country positions and how to prepare new work proposals. Similar trainings were also suggested for members of the DA SPS Focal Group as well as to the NCO DOH FDA Sub-Committee Chairs and members.

Background

The national training workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in the Philippines was conceptualized as a Way Forward after the participation of DA and DOH personnel who are NCO members to the FAO Regional Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries that was held on 9-11 January 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities was held on 30 August to 1 September 2017 in Sequoia Hotel, Quezon City, Philippines. The activity was jointly organized by the National Codex Organization (NCO) and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP).
Dr Imelda Santos, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Import and Export Inspection System (SCFICS) served as the Focal Person for the organization of the training workshop. Efficient secretariat and logistical support for the training activity were provided by the DA-BAI and the NCO- Management Support Office (MSO).

Highlights of the training workshop

1st day (30 August 2017)

The Training Workshop on Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities commenced with a ceremony in the morning of 30 August 2017. The DA-Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, Program Development, R&D and Regulations, Dr Segfredo R. Serrano gave the welcome address on behalf of the DA Secretary. Mr Jose Luis Fernandez, the FAO Representative in the Philippines delivered an inspirational message. After the Opening Ceremony, the participants were asked to answer the pre-test questionnaire to gauge the level of knowledge and understanding of the participants on Codex activities. The participants who got the highest score in the pre-test were given small tokens as incentives/rewards. Dr Imelda J. Santos, Chairperson of the NCO-SCFICS opened the workshop proper with a session on Overview, Objectives and Methods of the training course. Annex 1 shows the Program of Activities.

A total of forty nine (49) participants consisting of personnel from the food safety regulatory agencies of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Health and the private sector actively participated in the three-day training workshop. Three (3) ASEAN participants from Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam served as observers so that they will have an idea as to how a national Codex training can be organized in their respective countries. Philippine participants to the Codex training are also active members of different National Codex Organization Technical Committee and Sub-Committees. The list of participants to the training workshop can be seen on Annex 4.

Dr Masami Takeuchi of FAORAP presented the History of Codex and its objectives, its Structure and Functions as well as the Codex Committees and subsidiary bodies. She then discussed the WTO/SPS and TBT and its relationship to Codex and the impact of Codex standards on international trade. She also gave an overview of Codex meetings in 2016 and early 2017.
During the afternoon session, Dr Takeuchi continued with an Overview of Risk Analysis. The following topics were covered in her presentation: Process and principles of Risk Analysis in Codex, Steps of Risk assessment (Hazard Identification, Hazard Characterization, Exposure Assessment and Risk Characterization), Risk Management, Risk Communication and the Role of scientific expert bodies.

Dr Amelia Tejada, Former Director of National Food Authority-Food Development Council and former FAO Secretary of JMPR presented the risk analysis works in the Philippines. She talked on the historical overview, implementation and experiences such as practices, strengths and weaknesses as well as way forward and requirements as per the Philippine Food Safety Act.

The ASEAN Observers from Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam represented by Dr Vansilalom Viengxay, Dr Kyaw Hnin Nandar and Dr Nguyen Thi Minh Ha respectively, shared their experiences as to the current status of Codex implementation in their respective countries.
Ms Lara Navarro, Officer-in-Charge of the DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards presented the Philippine Food Safety Act and Codex.

2nd day (31 August 2017)

Dr Ma. Victoria Pinion, Chief of Product Research and Standard Development Division, Center for Food Regulation and Research of the Food and Drug Administration-Department of Health, presented the Current Process and Status of Adopting and Implementing Codex Standards in the Philippines for Processed Food. She also discussed how to develop new work proposals for setting Codex standards as well as how to generate project document/discussion paper and regional position/written comments. She briefly talked about the process of Codex plenary session.

Dr Marvin Vicente, Chair of the National Codex Organization Technical Committee further discussed how to develop effective national positions and written comments for Codex participation. Ms Kaye Adao of DA-Policy Research Service taught the participants how to access the Codex Alimentarius Commission website and explained how to prepare for attendance to the CAC Committee meetings. Ms Maribel Marges, DA Consultant briefed the participants on how to prepare for the mock session. She instructed the participants to group themselves into five (Country A, B, C, D, and Observer) in preparation for the group exercises of preparing national/regional positions. The participants were then tasked to nominate the head of delegation for each group/country.

The groups were given specific tasks to prepare their respective country positions and develop proposals for new work in preparation for the mock plenary session. They were also instructed to conduct informal meetings between delegations during break time as part of simulating real Codex committee meetings.

3rd day (1 September 2017)

During the first two days of the training workshop, the venue was arranged in a conference room set up. For the mock session activity, the room was arranged to simulate the conduct of the plenary session. The Mock Plenary Session on JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products Thirty fifth Session was chaired by Dr Marvin Vicente as Codex Chair, Dr Masami Takeuchi as Codex Secretariat, Dr Imelda Santos as Host Country, Dr Pinion as FAO representative and Dr Alicia Lustre as WHO representative. Each group was represented by a head of delegation. The set-up of the mock session as to the seating of delegates and observers replicated the real Codex committee meetings.

***Photos during the Mock Session**, top to bottom: Codex Chair with Country Host, WHO representative, Codex Secretariat and FAO representative; Head of Country Delegations; Country delegates*

At the end of the mock session, Dr Takeuchi expressed her appreciation for the warm involvement and participative attitude of the body during the mock session. The rest of the Codex Session panelists provided their comments and insights as to how well the participants carried out the activities of the mock session. The panelists also gave pointers on how to prepare for the session and how to articulate the country's comments on the agenda issues.

For the post workshop activity, the participants were instructed to answer the post-test questionnaire and training feedback evaluation form. Annexes 2 and 3 show the results of the pre-test and post-test and the training evaluation respectively. The training workshop was officially concluded with the distribution of certificates of appreciation and tokens for resource speakers and certificates of participation and USB files for the attendees.

Conclusion and recommendations

Comparative analysis of the result of the pre and post training examination revealed significant improvement in the knowledge and understanding of the participants on the subject matters. Further, 96% of the participants gave an excellent rating as to the quality of the workshop in general. Based on the mentioned parameters, the following initially identified objectives were met: (1)Enhanced knowledge on structure and function of CAC, latest meeting of CAC and impact

of Codex standards on international trade (2)Enhanced understanding of risk analysis within the Codex framework and the role of scientific expert bodies (3)Participants trained on development of national/regional positions and (4)developed participants with the capacity and commitment to contribute effectively to Codex work.

Participants were appreciative of the mock session as this provided new NCO members and incoming Sub-Committee Chairs with the knowledge and experience on how Codex plenary sessions are conducted. Majority of the participants suggested that a similar mock session trainings be conducted on how to prepare written comments and/or country positions and how to prepare new work proposals. Similar trainings were also suggested for members of the DA SPS Focal Group as well as to the NCO DOH FDA Sub-Committee Chairs and members.

Annex 1. Program of activities

Wednesday, 30 August (Day 1)	
08:00-09:00	Registration/Morning Coffee
09:00 - 09:20	Opening session • Welcome Remarks *Segfredo R. Serrano,* Undersecretary for Policy Planning, Program Development, R&D and Regulations - Department of Agriculture • Opening Remarks *Jose Luis Fernandez* - FAO Representative in the Philippines
09:20 – 09:30	Group Photo
09:30 - 945	Roll Call of Participants by Agency Overview, objectives and methods of the training course *Dr Imelda J. Santos, Chairperson, NCO-SCFICS and Philippine Participant, The FAO Regional Training Workshop: "Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries" January 2017, Bangkok, Thailand*
09:45-10:15	Coffee Break
The Codex Alimentarius Commission and Its Relevance to Food Trade	
10:15-11:15	The Codex Alimentarius Commission - History of Codex and its objectives - Structure and Functions - Codex Committees and subsidiary bodies CAC and International agreements governing food trade - WTO/SPS and TBT and relationship to Codex - The impact of Codex standard on international trade Codex meetings in 2016-2017 and outcome - Overview of Codex meetings in 2016 and early 2017 *Dr Masami Takeuchi, FAORAP Resource Person*
1115-1130	Q and A and Discussion
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch
Risk Analysis in the framework of Codex	
1:00 – 2:00	Overview of Risk Analysis - Risk analysis process and principle in Codex - Steps of risk assessment (Hazard identification, Hazard characterization, Exposure assessment, and Risk characterization) - Risk Management - Risk Communication - Role of Scientific expert bodies *Dr Masami Takeuchi, FAORAP Resource Person*
2:00 – 2:20	Risk Analysis in the Philippines - Historical Overview - Implementation Experiences: Practices, Strengths and Weaknesses - Way forward and requirements as per the Philippine Food Safety Act *Amelia Tejada, PhD* *Former Director, Food Development Center (FDC), National Food Authority* *Former FAO Secretary of JMPR*
2:20 – 3:00	Q and A and Discussion
3:00 – 3:30	Coffee Break
Codex Activities in ASEAN and in the Philippines	

3:30 – 4:15	Current status of implementing international standards at national level and ASEAN countries - Analysis result of questionnaire ASEAN's Approach on Codex and current state of implementation at national level - ASEAN Harmonization on Food Safety Standards *Dr Masami Takeuchi, FAORAP* Sharing of experiences from ASEAN *Lao PDR – Dr Vansilalom Viengxay, Ministry of Health-FDD* *Myanmar – Dr Kyaw Hnin Nandar, Ministry of Health and Sports – DFA* *Viet Nam – Dr Nguyen Thi Minh Ha, Ministry of Health*
1615-1700	Current Process and Status of Adopting and Implementing Codex Standards in the Philippines -The Philippine Food Safety Act 2013 and Codex: Presentation on the standards adopted in Codex, which have been adopted in Philippines (either as PNS and/or as mandatory regulation). • For Primary and Post-Harvest Food and Feed *Ms Lara V. Navarro, OIC Chief, Standards Development Division, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS)* • For Processed Food *Dr Ma. Victoria D. Pinion* *Chief, Product Research and Standard Development Division,* *Center for Food Regulation and Research- FDA* *Chair, NCO Sub-Committee on Coordinating Committee for Asia*
Thursday, 31 August (Day 2)	
Effective Participation in Codex work	
9:00-9:45	Participation in Codex work - How to develop new work proposals for setting Codex standards - How to develop project document/discussion paper - How to develop regional position/written comments - Process of plenary session *Dr Ma. Victoria D. Pinion*
9:45-10:30	Developing National Positions/ Written Comments *Dr Marvin Vicente (Chair, Technical Committee, National Codex Organization and former Chair, SCVDRF)*
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:30	Introduction to the Codex Alimentarius Commission Website - How to access the CAC website - How to prepare for attendance to the CAC Committee Meetings *Ms Frances Kaye Ann Adao, Department of Agriculture*
12:30-13:30	Lunch
Mock Session	
13:30-14:30	Preparations for the Mock Session *Ms Maribel Marges, Consultant, DA Policy Office*

14:30-15:30	Mock Session: Preparing national/ regional positions [Group Exercise] *Trainers for 5 groups: (Country A, B, C, D, Private Sector)* *5 delegations attending the CCFFP35*
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	Continuation of Mock Session
Friday, 1 September (Day 3)	
Continuation of Mock Session	
09:00-10:00	Mock session: - Preparing national/ regional position - Informal Meeting between delegations + Exchange of views with other delegations [Group Exercise]
10:00-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-12:00	Mock session: Plenary of CCFFP Chair: Dr Marvin Vicente Codex Secretariat: Masami Takeuchi
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:30-15:30	Mock Session: - Continuation of the plenary session of CCFFP - In-session Working Group *How to articulate your intervention when confronted with a specific trade concern?* *What specific language templates to use to articulate your positions?* *How to lobby/negotiate with your regional partners*?
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	Discussion/ Debriefing: Lessons learned from the Mock Session Facilitated by Dr Masami Takeuchi, *FAORAP*
16:45-17:30	Closing session • Summary of the training workshop • Closing Ceremony and Distribution of Training Certificates

Annex 2. Pre-test and post-test questionnaire

NAME	PRE-SCORE	POST-SCORE
CB	3	10
MZ	5	13
MLJ	6	
DT	6	11
NCI	6	11
DD	8	13
HN	8	
MC		8
ET	8	12
FP	8	13
MU	8	11
RT	9	12
CR	9	13
LJ	9	13
AN	9	13
HNK	9	13
MCG	9	11
AL	9	11
GT	9	
NTMH	9	13
MFC	9	12
PP	10	14
HG	10	11
VV	10	12
FKA	10	
FLG	10	12
ESJ	11	
JA	11	13
AA	11	
RHM	11	14
JS	11	13
AC	11	13
RB	12	
EV	12	14
LP	12	
JS	12	13
MP	14	

Annex 3. Evaluation on effectiveness of the training workshop

Name_____
Agency _____

1. How do you evaluate the quality of the training workshop in general?
   - Excellent **34**
   - Very good **4**
   - Adequate

2. Was the subject of the training workshop useful and relevant to your needs?
   - Very useful **38**
   - Somewhat useful

   Not useful (Please explain why not)

3. Were the materials and handouts useful and the information relevant?
   - Very useful **36**
   - Somewhat useful
   - Not useful (Please explain why not) **2**

     no hand outs were given

4. Were the technical inputs by experts useful and relevant?
   - Very useful **38**
   - Somewhat useful
   - Not useful (Please explain why not)

     _____
     _____

5. Did you find the Mock Training sessions relevant and useful?
   - Very useful **38**
   - Somewhat useful
   - Not useful (Please explain why not)

6. Any other recommendations/comments/suggestions for improvements
   - Presentation training topics and group work are relevant to training topics and objectives
   - This training is very useful, informative and relevant for us in preparation for the actual committee meetings
   - Mock training activity is very useful especially to new upcoming chairs. The jitters and apprehensions can be experienced in the activity and therefore be a good learning benchmark on what to do, how to react and be effective in the codex session. Although this is why a make believe it was quite scary and fun at the same time. More mocking time scenarios!
   - Case sample for the mock session and the course were well chosen. This is important to the success of the workshop
   - The work session serves as exposure of new participants
   - I appreciate that FAO develop this kind of training for us to have an overview of what is really happening in the plenary
   - Congratulations! Let's do it again in other ASEAN countries!
   - Case of study when country wants to propose the committee to consider a new work and MRL of pesticide in foods

- Case of study when the exporter meets Codex standards on specific product but the importer does not accept and requires more strict to this product of exporter
- Training on interpretative guide for Codex standard
- I wish there were more time to discuss how to write position papers
- Having a mock session on writing country positions
- The guidance of the organizing committee was very useful. Perhaps in the mock session others will play the role of delegates who violate the rules during sessions so we will have other ideas on what to look out for
- I hope that similar training will be conducted for SPS FG
- Trainings like this should also be conducted for other international representations
- Experienced members should be exempted from pre-test
- Suggest to do on a regular basis since there is a new batch of delegates/chairmanship
- To continue having this seminar for the other participants to learn and contribute to its success
- The training workshop is very useful in any future work in our codex SC thus similar trainings in the future is very welcome
- I appreciate BAI and FAO in initiating this kind of training workshop, I suggest more of this kind of training on capability building.
- I wish that this training workshop will be a continuous practice to further enhance our knowledge about codex meeting and equip our delegates with proper knowledge on handling and exerting our positions on the international codex session for the benefit and productivity of our country's interest
- The organizers did a great job in arranging this training. The mock session showed what new chair-co-chair could expect in actual session. We hope for future trainings like this everyone can attend so that chairs & co-chairs can be familiar with each other
- More trainings/workshops/engagements in practice makes perfect
- Training like this is really of help to the participants and should be conducted often
- The general participation to the training workshop is strongly skewed to DA SC chairs. I believe the DOH-FDA SC chairs would gain so much from such training workshop. I strongly recommend that a similar workshop be considered for the FDA-DOH, FDA/NCO members
- Official representatives should also be considered to undergo similar trainings
- It would be better if handouts of presentation have been given at the start of the training for easier taking of notes. Other than this, the training workshop has been a great help for me understanding the operation of codex as staff of MSO
- To provide the participants with hand-outs of the topics being discussed so as to concentrate in what the speaker is saying rather than writing what is being said
- Hand-outs should be given to the participants
- Prepare course outline and make sure expectations are clear to the speakers. Provide government based compensation.
- Suggest that a printer be available in the session hall so we can print important materials

Annex 4. List of participants

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