



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

**Meeting Proceedings  
FAO National Training Course on  
Strengthening Food Safety Standard Setting and  
enhancing effective participation in Codex activities in Myanmar**

20-21 December 2016  
Yangon, Myanmar



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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Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCASIA	the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia
CCCF	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
CCCPL	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFA	Codex Committee on Food Additives
CCFFP	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products
CCFFV	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
CCFH	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
CCFICS	Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection
CCFL	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
CCFO	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCMAS	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling
CCMMP	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products
CCNFSDU	Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CCPFV	Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables
CCPR	Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues
CCRVDF	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
CCSCH	Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs
CRDs	Conference Room Documents
DOF	Department of Fisheries
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
eWG	Electronic Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FAORAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FBD	Foodborne disease
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FIA	Food Industry Asia
FIQC	Fish Inspection and Quality Control
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GHP	Good Hygiene Practices
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
GSFA	General Standard for Food Additives
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point

IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
INGOs	International Non-governmental Organizations
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
JECFA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JEMRA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Risk Analysis
JEMNU	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition
JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
LBVD	Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
MLs	Maximum Levels
MRLs	Maximum Residue Limits
NCC	National Codex Committee
NCCP	National Codex Contact Point
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NSBs	National Standards Bodies
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
pWG	Physical Working Group
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committees
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TOR	Terms of Reference
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZELS	Zoonoses in Emerging Livestock Systems



## Executive summary

The national Training Course on “Strengthening Food Safety Standard Setting and Effective Participation in Codex activities in Myanmar” as a part of FAO Regional project “Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) was held during 20-21 December 2016 at Yangon, Myanmar. Specific objectives of the training course were to provide participants with:

1. enhanced understanding of the structure and function of Codex Alimentarius Commission(CAC) and National Codex Committee,
2. an enhanced knowledge about effective participation in Codex activities, and
3. draft road map for improving standard development activities and strengthening Codex activities.

Thirty (30) participants from various departments of Government of Myanmar and trade associations who are mainly responsible for food safety control with regard to standard development and implementation as well as the work of the Codex actively participated in the training. The training course methodology consisted of lectures followed by discussions and group work.

Based on the discussion during the group work and round table discussion, recommendations suggested for food control and strengthening Codex work in Myanmar among others are: 1) formulating operating procedures, notify instructions for setting up and running of a National Codex Committee with a structured system to identify stakeholders for contributing to the Codex work on a regular basis, 2) setting up and maintaining the National Codex website, 3) prioritizing which Codex meetings to be attended by Myanmar, 4) having budgetary provisions at national level to effectively participate in Codex discussions, 5) including private sector and consumer organizations in the activities to enhance food safety awareness in Myanmar, 6) organizing food safety and Codex trainings for private sector as well as public groups.

At the end of the three-day training course, three specific objectives were successfully addressed. The quality of the training was evaluated as very good by the majority (65%). Most of the responders (69%) evaluated the subject of the training, materials and handouts as very useful and relevant to their work and contain relevant information; also, all the participants agreed that the group work were relevant and useful. The comments from participants included among others are training the private and public sector on regulatory food standards, promoting Codex activities in the country, compliance of national food standards with codex standards, establishing the website and recording the national Codex activities so that all the stakeholders can be informed.

## 1. Introduction

A National Training Course on “Strengthening Food Safety Standard Setting and Effective Participation in Codex activities in Myanmar” as a part of FAO Regional project “Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) was held during 20-21 December 2016 at Yangon, Myanmar. The main objectives of the training course were to provide participants with:

- 1) An enhanced understanding of the structure and function of Codex Alimentarius Commission(CAC) and National Codex Committee
- 2) An enhanced knowledge about effective participation in Codex activities
- 3) Draft road map for improving standard development activities and strengthening Codex activities

The training course methodology consisted of lectures followed by discussions and group work.

The training course was attended by thirty participants from the Government of Myanmar including officers representing various Departments of the Government of Myanmar and trade associations. They are from the agencies mainly responsible for food safety control with regard to standard development and implementation as well as the work of the Codex. The agenda is given in the Annexure 1 and the list of participants in the Annexure 2.

## 2. Main activities and findings

### 2.1. Opening session

Ms. Shashi Sareen of FAORAP gave the welcome remarks. At the outset, she welcomed the initiative taken by the Government of Japan for providing support to the capacity building for international food safety standards development and implementation in ten ASEAN countries. She thanked Japan for launching the 5-year project in 2016 for enhancing inter-ministerial coordination in this regard and a road map for the future.

The training programme was inaugurated by Dr. Tun Zaw, Director (Food Safety), Food Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Sports, Government of Myanmar. In his inaugural speech, he highlighted the importance of Codex and food safety. He added that there was an urgent need for setting up Codex infrastructure in Myanmar including the National Codex Committee, rules and procedures for the National Codex Committee, an appropriate set-up of the National Codex Contact Point. He expressed the importance of advocacy about this need at a higher level in the Government.

### 2.2. Technical session

#### 2.2.1. Structure and function of Codex Alimentarius Commission

After a brief explanation and overview of the project and the training by Mr. Makoto Sakashita of FAORAP, Ms. Shashi Sareen introduced the Codex Alimentarius and its role, functions of the Codex Secretariat, nature of documentation (Standards, Guidelines and Codes of Practice), the scientific basis of Codex work and what are the current priorities before Codex. She informed the participants that Codex works in line with its Strategic Plan and that the Codex Procedural Manual lays down its legal basis and procedures. She provided information about the Executive Committee and various subsidiary bodies that are engaged in the standards-setting process. Ms. Sareen specifically highlighted the importance of Myanmar's participation in the Regional Codex Meeting (CCASIA). While taking about the current priorities before

Codex, she pointed out the need for work on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR), Contaminants in rice, standards for spices important to Myanmar, Labelling and Certification, General Principles of Food Hygiene.

Mr. Dave Sanjay highlighted the fact that the entire work of Codex is based on the Codex Procedural Manual and that, currently, it was the 25<sup>th</sup> Edition that was in force. He explained that the Manual was divided into seven broad sections and an Appendix. He added that the first four sections of the Manual were of critical importance. He explained that the Section - I having four Parts contained the Statutes of Codex Alimentarius having 10 Articles, the Rules of Procedure, General Principles of Codex, and explanation to the definitions that apply. He informed that Section - II contained information on several procedures and criteria for prioritization and elaboration of Codex standards. With regard to Section - III, he informed that this section contained guidelines for the conduct of Codex meetings and the working groups. He then explained Section - IV, which provides detailed explanation to the principles and policies of Risk Analysis in general and the General Subject Committees in particular. Concerning Section - V, VI and VII, Mr. Dave Sanjay informed that these were mainly for the purposes of information except that Section - VII contained the procedures for developing relations with international inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. He also briefly talked about the Appendix explaining the two Statements of Principle and the Measures to facilitate Consensus.

In the presentation regarding “How Codex elaborates Standards”, Mr. Dave Sanjay talked about the broad principles of the Codex elaboration process, which essentially was inclusiveness, transparency, science- based, collaborative and the global nature. He mentioned that the Codex work was an outcome of the Codex Strategic Plan and priorities established by the Codex membership. He explained that the process starts with development of a New Work Proposal which has to be framed in line with the procedure explained in the Codex Procedural Manual (this procedure was also explained), and after it is supported by the concerned Committee, it is critically reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC) and approved by the Codex Commission. Once the relevant subsidiary body is given the green signal, the standard-setting goes through 8-Step process. In some cases, standards can be adopted at Step 5/8 and in some cases where the work is of an urgent nature and the Commission has agreed to follow that process at the time of approval of new work. A small exercise was also done for a better understanding of the criteria that should be applied for critical review of a new work proposal.

Mr. Dave Sanjay provided an overview of major work undertaken/ being undertaken by the various Codex Sessions between July 2015 (CAC Session) and December 2016. Since it was practical within the time frame to discuss each agenda item of each Codex Session, he highlighted the nature of Codex work being undertaken by the different Codex Committees. The idea was to sensitize the Myanmar officials about the major discussions going on in the Codex sessions as that would help them to better appreciate and prioritize their participation in Codex meetings. With regard to CCASIA, he pointed out that this was an important Codex meeting from the standpoint of Myanmar, being an Asian country and the fact that Codex had embarked upon revitalization of Regional Coordinating Committees.

### 2.2.2. Myanmar's experience in Codex activities

There were four important presentations made by Myanmar officials. These were as follows:

Dr. Tun Zaw of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) highlighted the role played by Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar. He informed that the Myanmar Food and Drug Board of Authority was the highest authority and was chaired by the Minister for Health. He added that the FDA had recently been upgraded to a directorate level department under the Ministry. He said that Food Control was under the FDA. He also informed that the National Food Law was enacted in 1997 and amended in 2013, but was being modernized in 2017 according to which, Myanmar proposes to move towards a risk-based food control system. The food standards work is carried out by the National Standards Committee under the Ministry of Education, which has developed several standards on edible oils. As mentioned in his inaugural address, Myanmar does not have a National Codex Committee (NCC), but the role of Codex Contact Point is handled by the FDA. They now propose to set up the NCC.

Dr. Khin Moe Kyaw of Department of Agriculture highlighted the work done by Myanmar in the edible oil sector to address concerns related to adulteration of oils. They also have a National Edible Oil Laboratory which tests for the presence of contaminants like heavy metals in edible oils and fats as well as pesticides in food as per the Codex parameters. They have also tested aflatoxins in peanuts.

Dr. Moe Moe Thein of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) explained their role in risk assessment associated with AMR and other food borne pathogens, aflatoxins in animal feed as well as residues of veterinary drugs. She added that their current focus was on AMR. They were also engaged in the testing of primary as well as the processed commodities for human consumption. She also informed that Myanmar was in the process of implementing Zoonoses in Emerging Livestock Systems (ZELS) by following an integrated approach under the ZELS Grant from the University of Cambridge and the Oxford University. There is a plan to set up National level health and veterinary laboratories and peripheral laboratories and their main challenges lied in testing of chemical residues, dyes and other adulterants.

Dr. Su Myo Thwe of Department of Fisheries (DOF) made a detailed presentation on the steps taken by Myanmar for enhancing export of fish and fishery products to the EU market by utilizing the Codex knowledge. She gave a detailed outline of the legal and structural framework, directives and legal bases for production of fish for compliance with the ASEAN, Chinese and EU requirements. She informed that HACCP was being implemented in this sector. She also highlighted the fact that they had an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory for fish exports and imports and that a variety of pathogens, additives, drugs and contaminants were being tested by them.

### 2.2.3. CCASIA and priorities related to food safety and quality in the region

Ms. Shashi Sareen, in her presentation, drew the attention of Myanmar officials to the importance of CCASIA in the context of revitalization of the Regional Coordinating Committees and the challenges being faced by Asia with respect to the critical and emerging issues. She related her presentation to the recently held CCASIA Session in India in September 2016. She also recalled the Codex work done by CCASIA over the past several years. In addition, four Codex Committees and *Ad hoc* Task Forces are chaired by Asian countries and that several Codex sessions have also been co-hosted by Asian countries. With regard to revitalization, she provided an explanation to the needs and concerns in the context of globalization and technological advancement. In this regard, she made a reference to the keynote speech during the CCASIA Session in September 2016. She highlighted that there were mainly four areas of challenges faced by the countries, namely, lack of efficient national food

control systems; lack of efficient national Codex structure and processes; ineffective participation in Codex work; and, emerging food control issues (new technologies, on-line retail, social media spreading food scares and adulteration / fraud). She mentioned that these were discussed in the CCASIA session and the issues identified fell under two main heads - Critical Issues and Emerging Issues. The other issues were lack of adequate food safety and food quality testing facilities, food contamination, synergy between the National Standards Body and Regulatory Standards, AMR, Whole Genome Sequencing and Climate Change. She also informed that the CCASIA members agreed that relevant information, experiences and knowledge should be shared with each other so that there was a possibility for members to gain from each other.

#### 2.2.4. Strengthening of National Codex Committee

In the presentation regarding “Institutional Mechanism and Process for Development of Regulatory Food Standards”, Ms. Shashi Sareen gave a detailed explanation to the distinction between regulatory standards, technical regulations and voluntary standards and their relation to the SPS and TBT Agreements. She explained that under the SPS Agreement, countries lay down Measures (inspection / sampling / testing / certification). These measures could be mandatory or voluntary in nature. On the other hand, under the TBT Agreement, countries lay down Technical Regulations (mandatory) and other Standards that are voluntary in nature. She highlighted the issues and challenges related to standards and technical regulations namely multiplicity and overlap, lack of data for standards setting, no clear procedure for regulatory standards development, standards in primary production being a neglected area, and not much alignment with Codex standards. The principles and good practices for standards development were also highlighted. She also provided examples for a better understanding. She also talked about private standards that are also voluntary in nature, but were creating compliance challenges for trade.

In the presentation regarding “Role of Private Sector for Development of Regulatory Food Standards”, Ms. Jiang Yi, Fan of Food Industry Asia (FIA), provided information about the role of FIA in Codex standards setting process, National food standards setting process and regional harmonization of standards. She added that FIA provides support to countries in alignment and implementation of Codex standards. She mentioned that there was a need for countries to converge their standards and practices for facilitating trade in the region and gave the example of variance in standards for sweeteners across Asian countries. She pointed out five main SPS / TBT issues that need to be overcome in the ASEAN region. These are -- nutrition labelling, food product registration, import / export certification, MLs / MRLs for contaminants / pesticide residues; and, analytical methods. In this context, she informed how these challenges are being mitigated by the ASEAN countries.

Mr. Makoto Sakashita gave a presentation on Effective Management of National Codex Committee covering two aspects - Functions and Operating Procedures of Codex Contact Point and Management of Codex work at the national level. He made reference to the CCASIA Guidelines for Codex Contact Points (CCPs) and National Codex structure (National Codex Committee and Mirror/ Sub-Committees) as well as the Codex Procedural Manual. In this regard, he highlighted their key functions and responsibilities. He gave a point - wise explanation for each responsible party in the CCPs and National Codex structure. He also talked about the Technical Advisory Groups that provide relevant inputs and data to the National Codex structure. At the end, he recommended that Myanmar develop its own Codex Working Manual for a structured approach.

Ms. Shashi Sareen talked about the purpose, key elements and functions of a national food control system. She recalled that the WTO members were functioning under a global trading

environment and food trade was essentially governed by the SPS and TBT Agreements. She, therefore, gave a detailed explanation to the key provisions of the two agreements along with examples. She mentioned that Codex had developed guidelines for National Food Control Systems and that there were opportunities for convergence and harmonization through texts developed by the CCFICS. She explained the principles of national food control systems as well as the essential components of an effective National Food Control System covering policy and management framework; food laws and legislation; inspection, enforcement, surveillance and testing, as also Information, Education, Communication (IEC) and training. All these were elaborated in some detail. At the end of her presentation, Ms. Sareen provided information about the role played by FAORAP in Asia in these areas of capacity building.

In the presentation regarding “Imported Food Control Systems for Myanmar”, Ms. Shashi Sareen provided a detailed account of how trade could be facilitated through good import practices. She stated that the responsibility lies with importers and Governments at the import end as well as exporters and Governments at the export end. These included pre-border controls (prevention), border controls (admissibility) as well as the post-border controls (monitoring / response). Therefore, the operations called for taking a risk-based approach and clearly defined roles and responsibilities for monitoring and corrective actions. In this regard, she highlighted the importance and approach to risk categorization (risks associated with food characteristics; risks associated with pre-border and post-border controls; and risks associated with volumes and how to prioritize the risks and manage them with available resources while facilitating trade. Ms. Sareen explained the process through a scoring system which would lead to a decision on frequency of sampling and testing for an effective import control system.

#### 2.2.5. Effective participation in Codex work

In the presentation related to effective participation in Codex work, Mr. Dave Sanjay made four presentations as follows:

- (a) How to prepare and contribute to a Codex meeting - In this presentation, he explained the steps that should be followed for sending a National response to Codex agenda items. He provided information on the sources of obtaining Codex documents, how to organize the documentation, how to identify concerns and prioritize them, how to consult stake-holders and develop comments, the process that should be followed for debating and refining them and finally, how to present the comments in line with the Codex Procedural Manual. The importance of preparing notes for the delegation was also highlighted. An example was also given to explain the procedure. Lastly, an explanation to the Conference Room Documents (CRDs) was also provided and the importance of sending comments in time was also noted. (See Annexure 19 for the presentation)
- (b) How to Select Delegates for Participation in Codex Sessions - In this presentation, he provided guidance about the considerations for identifying the members of a National delegation. He recommended that a National delegation should ideally have at least two members for an effective participation and the selections should be based on the role and competence that person has in the Codex work in the country. He advised that private sector and NGO could also be a member of the national delegation in view of their technical expertise as long as there is a commitment to participate in National interest. He explained the obligations of the members of the delegation and the responsibilities of the head of delegation. He also outlined the preparations that need to be made before leaving for a Codex session. (See Annexure 20 for the presentation)
- (c) How to Participate in Codex Sessions and Actions after a Codex Session - In this presentation, Mr. Dave Sanjay provided explanation on how to express National views, what is expected from the delegations in terms of courtesies, what papers to take back

home from the Codex session and post-participation action points including debriefing and reporting. (See Annexure 21 for the presentation)

- (d) How to Develop New Work Proposals for Setting Codex Standards - In this presentation, he explained the entire process of preparation of a proposal for New Codex Work, what are the considerations (Codex mandate, Strategic Plan, Committee's TORs) and the prerequisites for a general subject or a commodity standard. It was pointed out that the proposal should be prepared in line with the procedure given in the Codex Procedural Manual and should, preferably, be supported with a discussion paper. The process for Critical Review by the CCEXEC was also explained. The exceptions to submission of a new work proposal was also explained. (See Annexure 22 for the presentation)

### 2.3. Group work

All the participants from Myanmar were divided into four groups and the task assigned was to identify actions need for establishing National Codex System and to develop a National Codex Procedural Manual. This group work was to be based on their understanding of the Codex work and the training during this period. The TORs for each group was as follows:

**(i) Group - 1**

- To draft Composition and Terms of Reference of NCC / National Codex Sub-Committees / *Ad hoc* Task Forces
- To suggest frequency of meetings and timings

**(ii) Group - 2**

- To draft Guidelines for the functions of the National Codex Contact Point
- To draft Procedures for the management of Codex documents
- To draft Procedure for funding participation in NCC / Codex meetings

**(iii) Group - 3**

- To draft Procedures for the development of Myanmar positions and National comments and sending written comments
- To draft Procedures for participation in international Codex meetings including approving national representations / delegations to Codex meetings and follow-up to participation and debriefing

**(iv) Group - 4**

- To draft Procedure for collecting data for supporting National / Codex standards
- To identify areas for participation in Codex and prioritization of Codex Committees for participation
- To draft Procedure for preparing new work proposals and presenting them in Codex meetings

All the four groups made their respective presentations. There was an active participation from other groups when a group presented its proposal. A number of suggestions were made by the faculty as well for further work. The suggestions essentially revolved around fulfilling all steps that need to be addressed. Suggestions were also made on how to group the Codex Committees for the work by Sub-Committees and how to prioritize Codex work. It was agreed that FAO would provide Myanmar with a draft structure of the Myanmar Codex Work Manual in the near future for their consideration.

## 2.4. Recommendations

Based on the discussion during the group work and round table discussion, the following recommendations were suggested.

### **Recommendations with regard to Food Control:**

1. In light of the vast fragmentation of responsibilities concerning food safety in Myanmar, there is an urgent need for taking policy decisions for a coordinated approach for strengthening the National food control system for greater market access. It would be helpful to have a single line of food control system;
2. There seems to be a fairly good infrastructure in the food testing laboratories, though less in number. It is desirable to have a proper networking system;
3. There is lack of understanding about harmonization of National standards with those of the Codex and that this needs to be developed;
4. Myanmar should initiate efforts to strengthen data generation for risk assessment activities for meaningful Codex standards;
5. Port health inspections need to be strengthened taking a risk based approach coupled with a rapid alert system;
6. Myanmar may consider exploring Mutual Recognition Agreements on food testing and certification with trading partners for facilitating trade;
7. There is a need for bringing about a coordination between the three different wings of the SPS landscape, viz., animal health (OIE), plant health (IPPC) and human health (Codex);
8. Coupled with this, participation in SPS and TBT Committees of the WTO needs to be strengthened;
9. Myanmar may consider developing proposals for seeking technical and funding support from the Codex Trust Fund to address the capacity building needs;

### **Summary of Recommendations for strengthening Codex work in Myanmar:**

- a) Myanmar should formulate operating procedures, notify instructions for setting up and running of a National Codex Committee (NCC) with a structured system to identify stakeholders for contributing to the Codex work on a regular basis. There is a need to identify experts from different departments / ministries, municipalities, universities, industry and NGOs.
- b) It would be helpful to set-up the National Codex website at the earliest and maintain it.
- c) Since it is neither practical nor desirable to participate in all Codex meetings or Working Groups at this stage, there is a need for clarity on prioritization for participation in Codex meetings. Consideration could be given to selecting those general subject and commodity committees that are of importance in the beginning. Myanmar should consider prioritization of Codex work based on the national regulatory and standard setting needs and food safety objectives, Hence, there should be a 3-year plan with 4 - 5 Codex meetings in Year 1.
- d) In order to strengthen position in food safety, it is important to participate effectively in Codex discussion with an adequate level of budgetary provisions at the national level.
- e) It is equally important for the private sector associations and consumer organizations to play an important role in enhancing food safety awareness in the country.
- f) Trainings on food safety and Codex should be initiated for the private sector and civil society.

As a summary, it is found desirable main-streaming of Codex in Myanmar's food safety work.

## 2.5. Feedback of the training course from Myanmar participants

A feedback of training course was carried out by circulating a questionnaire and obtaining written reply from the participants at the end of the training. Eleven participants responded to the questionnaire.

The quality of the training was evaluated as excellent (27%) or very good (65%). 69% of the responders evaluated the subject of the training, materials and handouts were very useful and relevant to their work and contain relevant information, and 31% felt it was somewhat useful and relevant. 100% of the responders evaluated the inputs from experts were useful and relevant. 100% of the responders evaluated the group work sessions were relevant and useful.

Salient comments / recommendations / suggestions made by the participants are given below:

- (i) There are several challenges for improvements of regulatory food standards. For example, primary production is neglected area in food chain and it is weak in cooperation between different levels. So, there is need for training in every sector.
- (ii) It was useful to understand Codex to prepare functioning of NCC in future and upgrade for future plans for food safety in Myanmar by working together with different ministries. There is a need to promote Codex activities within country.
- (iii) There is hope that this training gives us significant success as it supports food safety, standard setting and effective participation in Codex activity in Myanmar.
- (iv) There is a need to harmonize national standard setting procedures regarding food safety compliance with EU and CAC for export and imports.
- (v) Training on National Food Control System, Imported Food Control Systems, Participation in Codex work are important for strengthening food safety standard setting and effective participation in Codex activities.
- (vi) There was valuable information regarding to the Codex standards and to develop new work proposals for Codex standards. Role, responsibility and functions of Codex Committees, FIA, CCASIA and effective management of National Codex committee was useful. The knowledge can be shared with other Departments.
- (vii) The workshop training is very effective and informative to us. Food safety is key essential to everyone and every country around the world. For Codex, there is a need to update all information on monthly basis. There is a need to record what we do done in our country.
- (viii) The training course has enhanced knowledge on the concept of risk analysis and implementation of food safety as well as the functioning of Codex and it was useful to know about the Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019.
- (ix) Senior Advisor, FAORAP and the trainers have excellent presentation and facilitation skills which ensure a positive learning experience.
- (x) Need further more training and knowledge. Thanks for sharing the sharing knowledge.
- (xi) The time for discussion and sharing experience was limited, too short. The training schedule was very tight. Compact training, very informative, time limitation, training would be better if training days are arranged more than 2 days.

### 3. Conclusions

Concluding remarks were made by Dr. Tun Zaw who appreciated the role played by FAORAP in building capacity in Myanmar. He expressed the hope that this training would help them in having a focused approach to Codex work and would enhance their participation effectively.

Brief remarks were also made by Ms. Shashi Sareen and Mr. Dave Sanjay. FAO thanked the participants from Myanmar for their active interest in the training programme and looked forward to their presence in Codex meetings. At the end, Certificates of Participation were presented to each participant in the training programme.

During the two-day training course, three main objectives were addressed and the outcomes are as follows:

- 1) Participants gained an understanding of the structure and function and National Codex Committee.
- 2) Knowledge about effective participation in Codex activities has been enhanced.
- 3) The recommendations with regard to food control and for strengthening Codex work in Myanmar has been discussed and proposed.

## Annex 1. Agenda

Tuesday, 20 December 2016 (Day 1)	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:50	<p>Opening session (<b>Agenda Item 1</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Remarks <i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></li> <li>Inaugural Remarks <i>Dr. Tun Zaw, Director, Department of Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar</i></li> </ul> <p>Photo session</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>Self-introduction of participants</p>
09:50- 10:00	<p>Overview of the Project and Objectives and Methods of the Training (<b>Agenda Item 2</b>)</p> <p><i>Mr. Makoto Sakashita, Project Coordinator, FAORAP</i></p>
Structure and function of Codex Alimentarius Commission	
10:00-11:00	<p>Importance of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its Structure and Functions (<b>Agenda Item 3</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk analysis and its relation to standards setting <i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></li> </ul>
11:00-12:15	<p>Elaboration of Codex Standards (<b>Agenda Item 4</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Codex Procedural Manual</li> <li>How Codex elaborates Standards <i>Mr. Dave Sanjay, International Consultant, India</i></li> </ul>
12:15-13:00	<p>Codex Meetings Since CAC 2015 (<b>Agenda Item 5</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Codex meetings in last one year <i>Mr. Dave Sanjay, International Consultant, India</i></li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:15	<p>Myanmar's experience in Codex activities (<b>Agenda Item 6</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing country experience with national stakeholders <i>Dr. Tun Zaw, Food Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Sports</i> <i>Dr. Khin Moe Kyaw, Department of Agriculture</i> <i>Dr. Moe Thein, Veterinary Assay Lab, LBVD</i> <i>Dr. Su Myo Thwe, Department of Fishery</i></li> </ul>
15:15-15:40	<p>CCASIA and Priorities Related to Food Safety and Quality in the Region (<b>Agenda Item 7</b>)</p> <p><i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></p>

15:40-16:00	Coffee break
Strengthening of National Codex Committee	
16:00-17:30	<p>Institutional mechanism &amp; process for development of regulatory food standards (<b>Agenda Item 8</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of National Standards Body for standards development and relationship with regulatory standards <i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></li> <li>• Role of Private Sector for Development of Regulatory Food Standards <i>Ms. Jiang Yi Fan, Manager, Food Industry Asia</i></li> </ul>
17:30-17:50	<p>Effective Management of National Codex Committee (<b>Agenda Item 9</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Function and operating procedures Codex Contact Point</li> <li>• Management of Codex work at the national level <i>Mr. Makoto Sakashita, Project Coordinator, FAORAP</i></li> </ul>
18:30-	Dinner Reception
Wednesday, 21 December 2016 (Day 2)	
09:00-09:45	<p>National Food Control System (<b>Agenda Item 10</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key elements and functions <i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></li> </ul>
09:45-10:30	<p>Imported Food Control Systems for Myanmar (<b>Agenda Item 11</b>)</p> <p><i>Ms. Shashi Sareen, Senior Advisor, FAORAP</i></p>
Effective Participation in Codex work	
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:45	<p>Participation in Codex work (<b>Agenda Item 12</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to Prepare and Contribute to a Codex Meeting</li> <li>• How to Select Delegates for Participation in Codex Sessions</li> <li>• How to Participate in Codex Sessions and Actions after a Codex Sessions</li> <li>• How to Develop New Work Proposals for Setting Codex Standards <i>Mr. Dave Sanjay, International Consultant, India</i></li> </ul>
12:45-13:00	<p>Group Work (<b>Agenda Item 13</b>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Actions need for establishing National Codex System</li> <li>• Develop a National Codex Procedural Manual for Myanmar <i>Moderator: FAORAP</i></li> </ul>
13:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:30	Group Work (Continuation)

15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	Presentation by groups and discussions
16:45-17:00	Concluding Session( <b>Agenda Item 14</b> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of certificates and closing remarks <i>FAORAP and Myanmar</i></li></ul>

## Annex 2. List of participants

<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Department</b>
1.	Dr. Tun Zaw	Director	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
2.	Dr. Hnin Nandar Kyaw	Assistant Director	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
3.	Dr. Htet Aung	Assistant Director	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
4.	Dr. Honey Nyo Zaw	Food Control Officer	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
5.	Dr. Tun Lin Aung	Food Control Officer	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
6.	Daw Thandar Soe	Food Inspector	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
7.	U Kaung Myat	Food Inspector	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
8.	Daw Yin Mar Htay	Food Inspector	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
9.	Daw Khine May ZinPhyo	Food Inspector	Food Control Section, Food and Drug Administration
10.	Dr. Zin Zin Nwe	Director	Food and Drug Administration, Mandalay Branch
11.	Dr. Thant Zin Htet	Food Control Officer	Food and Drug Administration, Mandalay Branch
12.	Dr. Khin Saw Hla	Director	Food and Drug Administration, Yangon Branch
13.	Dr. Thant Zin Soe	Food Control Officer	Food and Drug Administration, Yangon Branch
14.	Dr. Ko Ko Htun	Assistant Head Health Department	Yangon Civil Development Committee
15.	Dr. Myo Min	Assistant Director	Nay Pyi Taw Civil Development Committee
16.	Dr. Khin Moe Kyaw	Assistant Director	Department of Agriculture
17.	U Phyo Wai Htike	Deputy Staff Officer	Department of Agriculture
18.	Dr. San San Mya	Research Officer	Department of Livestock
19.	Dr. Moe Moe Thein	Research Officer	Department of Livestock
20.	Daw Teint Teint Moe	Fishery Officer	Department of Fishery

<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Department</b>
21.	Dr. Su MyoThwel	Deputy Director	Department of Fishery
22.	Daw Moe Moe	EC Member	Myanmar Consumer Union
23.	Daw San San Myint	Quality Manager	Myanmar Food Processor and Exporters Association
24.	Daw Kay Thi Own	Deputy Manager	Myanmar Food Processor and Exporters Association
25.	Dr. Khin Hlaing	Chairman	Myanmar Dairy Association
26.	Dr. Maw Maw Thein	Deputy Director	Department of Research and Innovation
27.	U Swe Tin Zaw	C.E.C Member	Myanmar Livestock Federation
28.	Dr. Kyaw Wynn	Chairman	Myanmar Livestock Federation
29.	U Khant Zaw Aung	CEC	Myanmar Fishery Federation
30.	Daw Ohnmar Khin	Manager	Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries
31.	Ms. Jiang Yi Fan	Regional Regulatory Affairs Manager	Food Industry Asia
32.	Ms. Yvonne Lim	Regulatory Affairs Executive	Food Industry Asia
33.	Mr. Dave Sanjay	International Consultant	India
34.	Mr. Alexander Saw	Programme Assistant	FAO Myanmar
35.	Ms. Shashi Sareen	Senior Advisor	FAORAP
36.	Mr. Makoto Sakashita	Project Coordinator	FAORAP

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