



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

## **Summary of the workshop to strengthen capacity on understanding and preparing a successful application for FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF)**

21 - 23 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Food and feed have long been traded internationally. Through globalization, food production and supply chains have expanded and lengthened. While international trade brings opportunities for economic growth, it also increases the potential risks to public health from the entry of unsafe food or spread of food borne diseases. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has developed harmonized international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect the health of the consumers and ensure fair trade practices in the food trade. Codex documents have become widely recognized for global trade since the implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) in 1999. Many Codex members have various challenges in establishing effective national Codex structures and limited technical capacity and resources to participate in the global Codex activities. To address the challenges, Codex Trust Fund (CTF) II was established by FAO and WHO in 2016 to support Codex Members, through individual or group applications, to build strong and sustainable national capacity to effectively participate in Codex.

Many eligible countries have applied to benefit from CTF, but only a few applications have been successful in submitting robust applications, indicating that the capacity to identify gaps and solutions to fill them is also limited in many countries. During the side-event of the 21<sup>st</sup> session of Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA21), the representatives from Bhutan, India and Nepal shared their experience in preparing the successful application of CTF. Some ASEAN participants expressed their needs to learn further on the process of this and in order to provide technical assistance to such countries in the region, a workshop to strengthen capacity on understanding and preparing a successful application for FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (CTF) was organized under the FAO Regional project entitled “Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) on 21-23 October 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the workshop were for the participants to:

- Improve the understanding the application process;
- Recognize key factors for the achievement of the CTF application;
- Enhance the understanding the assessment of Status of National Codex Programme; and
- Create an opportunity for face-to-face discussion on the possibility of a group application for CTF.

### **Conclusions**

A total of 6 representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar attended the workshop. A representative from the office of Codex Contact Point (CCP) of Thailand also attended this workshop to provide their experiences and technical insights. The list of participants is available in the Annex section. After the official welcome by Mr Sridhar Dharmapuri, Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer, FAORAP,

Ms Panpilad Saikaew, Project Coordinator, FAORAP opened the workshop. First, a recorded introductory presentation on the Codex Trust Fund II (2016 – 2027) by Ms Catherine Mulholland, Administrator of Codex Trust Fund II, WHO, was projected. In the presentation, Ms Mulholland provided an overview of the CTF, including the objectives and overall structure of the system and also practical advices and tips in preparing successful applications. A guidance presentation on the effectively use of the Codex diagnostic tool to prepare the application was delivered by Ms Masami Takeuchi, Food Safety Officer, FAO. Participants from three countries have already initiated their informal communication with their national partner agencies, but they did not systematically used the diagnostic tool, thus they have gone through all the elements of the tool during the workshop to assess the current status of national Codex programme. The strengths and the weaknesses of these three countries were identified and shared in this workshop and participants from three countries jointly discussed the challenges each country is currently facing, and identified both similarities and differences. The participants recognized more common issues existing among three countries and identified opportunities to work together, thus agreed to develop a group CTF application. It was also agreed that each country would continue their national consultative process. The workshop was concluded with a concrete and immediate follow-up action for the participants to would jointly submit for the Round 4 CTF II group application, which Myanmar would be the lead country.

**Follow-up actions:**

- Codex Contact Point of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to conduct the national consultation meetings in order to complete a full process of the assessment on the current status of National Codex Programme using the Codex diagnostic tool.
- The representatives from Codex Contact Points of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar to jointly draft the group application for the Round 4 CTF II, based on the results obtained from the national consultation meetings.
- FAO RAP to contact relevant FAO country offices, WHO regional and country offices to inform of the development and provide technical assistance to ensure the timely submission of the application by the deadline of 30 November 2019.

## ANNEX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### **CAMBODIA**

**1. Mr Dim Theng**

Deputy Director General  
Food Safety and Consumer Protection  
Ministry of Commerce  
Str 18 Phum Kdey Takoy, Sangkat Vielsbov  
Khan Chbar Ampeu  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**2. Mr Karona Prak**

Deputy-Chief of Bureau  
CAMCONTROL Directorate General  
Ministry of Commerce  
215 Street 163, Toul Tum Pong 2 Commune  
Chamkamorn Ditric  
Department of Drugs and Food  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

### **LAO PDR**

**3 Ms Sivilay Naphayvong**

Acting Director  
Bureau of Food and Drug Inspection  
Simeuang Road, Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

**4 Ms Hougtheva Douangsavanh**

Technical Staff  
Food and Drug Department  
Ministry of Health  
Thatkhao Village, Sisattanak District  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

### **MYANMAR**

**5 Ms Ohnmar Soe Win**

Director, Food Control Division  
Food and Drug Administration  
Ministry of Health and Sports  
Pyigy Zayyar Road, (in front of Sabel  
Housing), Zayyar Thiri Ward, Zabu Thiri  
Township  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

**6 Ms Sabei Htet Htoo**

Deputy Director  
Food Control Division  
Food and Drug Administration  
Ministry of Health and Sports  
Pyigy Zayyar Road, (in front of Sabel  
Housing), Zayyar Thiri Ward, Zabu Thiri  
Township  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

### **THAILAND**

**7. Ms Jirajit Dissana**

Standard Officer,  
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity  
and Food Standards,  
50 Phaholyothrin Road, Chatucak,  
Bangkok, 10900  
Thailand

### **RESOURCE PERSON**

**8. Ms Catherine Mulholland**

Administrator  
WHO/Department of Food Safety and  
Zoonoses  
20, Avenue Appia  
Geneva 27  
Switzerland

### **FAORAP**

**9. Mr Sridhar Dharmapuri**

Senior Food Safety & Nutrition Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road  
Bangkok, Thailand

**10. Ms Masami Takeuchi**

Food Safety Officer  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road,  
Bangkok, Thailand

**11. Ms Panpilad Saikaew**

Project Coordinator  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific  
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road,  
Bangkok, Thailand

**12. Ms Luisa Kosaisaevee**

Project Assistant  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the  
Pacific  
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road,  
Bangkok, Thailand