

## SIDE EVENT ON SCOPE AND USE OF FAO/WHO CODEX TRUST FUND (CTF) IN ASIA

### lessons learned from the successful joint application in the region

Chair: Mr. Sanjay DAVE

Moderator: Gyanendra GONGAL

Panelists: Mr. Sunil BAKSHI (India), Mr. Namgay WANGCHUK (Bhutan) and Dr Matina VAIDYA (Nepal), Catherine MULHOLLAND (FAO/WHO CTF), Mr. Sreedhar DHARAMPURI (FAORAP), Ms. Shashi SAREEN (WHO WPRO)

Time: One hour

Venue: TBD, DoubleTree by Hilton Goa

#### Background

International trade in food commodities has escalated tremendously over the last decade, requiring harmonization of food quality and safety standards that are science-based and uniformly acceptable. Codex has been playing a key role internationally in the area of food standards, with its dual mandates of protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade. Many Codex members have weak national Codex structures and limited technical capacity to participate in Codex activities. Therefore, Codex Trust Fund was established by FAO and WHO in 2016 to support Codex member countries, through individual or group applications, to build strong, solid and sustainable national capacity to engage in Codex.

Group projects supported by the Codex Trust Fund can bring increased benefits to all countries involved through an exchange of experiences, knowledge and expertise. The formulation of proposals for group projects can be challenging. In 2017 WHO SEARO and FAORAP facilitated the submission of a project proposal by Bhutan, India and Nepal for CTF support. The group project was considered robust by the CTF Steering Committee, was accepted for support, and began implementation this year. It is the first multi country project approved by the Codex Trust Fund at the global level, and first CTF project approved for Asia region.

Many countries in the Codex Asian region are interested in benefiting from Codex Trust Fund support. However, a number of countries have not been successful in preparing and submitting robust applications. This side event on CTF is aimed at helping member countries to understand better the application process and expectations of successful applications. Bhutan, India and Nepal will share their experiences in preparing their group application, recommendations for better outcomes in the application process, as well as progress in implementing the group project. Participants in the side event will have an opportunity to learn and interact with successful applicants, CTF Secretariat, FAO, WHO and the regional coordinator for individual and group application in future.

#### Expected outcome

Members in the region will have a better understanding of:

- the scope of CTF support;
- how to prepare and submit robust applications;
- elements of successful implementation in a group project.

#### Programme schedule

WHAT	WHO	WHEN	HOW
Introductory remarks	Mr. Sanjay DAVE	5 minutes	Statement
Scope and tips for successful application for CTF	Ms. Catherine MULHOLLAND	15 minutes	Power point Presentation
Lesson learnt from successful group application from Asia region	Mr. Sunil BAKSHI (India), Mr. Namgay WANGCHUK (Bhutan) and Dr Matina VAIDYA (Nepal)	15 minutes	Statement
Panel discussion	Panelists	20 minutes	Q&A
Closing remarks	Regional Coordinator CCASIA	5 minutes	Statement