



Agenda Item 6

CX/ASIA 12/18/8 Add.2

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

Eighteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 5 – 9 November 2012

**ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE REGION
(REPLIES TO PART D OF CL2012/14-ASIA)**

(Replies of India and Malaysia)

Question 7: Issues Relevant to the Region

(For Actions 3.2, 4.1, 6.2 of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014)

Please describe up to 10 priority concerns and/or interests that you have related to Codex work currently undertaken or you would like to discuss in the future, and that you wish to share with other members of Asian region. Please include following aspects in your answer:

- a) Name of subsidiary body that is most relevant to your concern and/or interest;
- b) Reason for your concern and/or interest;
- c) Status of work at the subsidiary body; and
- d) Any actions you wish to have in the work of the subsidiary body in the future.

INDIA

No.	Interest Issues	Subsidiary Body	Reason	Status of work	Actions in the future
1	Proposal for New Work on Codex Standard for Fresh Okra	CCFFV	India is among the top 10 producing and exporting country of Okra.	Project Document	Establishment of EWG
2	Proposed Draft Amendment of the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods for Infants & Young Children (CODEX STAN 074-1981) to include a New Part B for Underweight Children	CCNFSD U	Children's undernutrition is a serious global problem, especially in developing countries, and for preventing and addressing the nutritional needs of underweight infants and young children, the Standard should provide specific provisions especially for enhancing the cereal content, minimum protein contents and energy density.	Project Document	Establishment of EWG
3	Establishment of the Codex Committee on Spices, Aromatic Herbs and their formulations	CAC	Trade in spices is increasing internationally and the main producers of spices are in developing Countries.	Discussion Paper	Establishment of a separate Codex Committee on spices & aromatic herbs.

4	Proposed draft maximum level for arsenic in rice	CCCF	Provisional Tolerable Weekly Intake (PTWI) for arsenic was withdrawn by the JECFA. It may lead to CCCF not fixing an ML for arsenic in rice. This will require that absence of lead should be demonstrated in these products by use of available methods of analysis at their prevailing detection levels that continue to go down owing to developments in analytical technology. However, the prevailing levels of arsenic in rice would not decline with same rate.	Held at Step 4 until further data becomes available and to explore through a discussion paper the development of a code of practice for arsenic in rice	Rice-producing member countries are expected to provide occurrence data on arsenic in rice. This data should be considered pragmatically by the CCCF to explore possibility of fixing an ML in addition to elaboration of a code of practice.
5	Proposed draft revision of the ML for lead in milk	CCCF	PTWI for lead was withdrawn by the JECFA. It is likely that the MLs for lead in milk (0.02 mg/kg) is proposed to be withdrawn after re-evaluation by the EWG established by the CCCF. This will require that absence of lead should be demonstrated in these products by use of available methods of analysis that currently have a limit of detection in the range of 0.003 to 0.01 mg/kg and which continues to go down owing to developments in analytical technology. However, the prevailing levels of lead in milk would not reduce with same rate.	Under revision by the CCCF; to be discussed at Step 3 in next session	Based on the occurrence data available with JECFA and that expected to be submitted by member countries, the CCCF should try to establish a revised ML rather than revoking the existing ML.
6	Proposed draft principles and guidelines for national food control systems (Introduction, Sections 1-3)	CCFICS	The draft guidelines need amendments to address certain concerns including that the measures adopted by members countries to ensure public health protection should not be more trade restrictive than necessary and that the term 'consumer confidence' should clearly relate only to food safety to avoid any mis-interpretations and potential for creation of non-tariff barriers through consideration of other aspects of consumer confidence like animal welfare, environmental issues etc.	Adopted at Step 5 by the Commission	The concerns should be appropriately addressed before final adoption of the guidelines.

7	Mechanism for examining economic impact statements	CCGP	Once such a mechanism is put in place, it would require the Codex member governments to submit detailed information on impact on trade due to any standards/texts that are under consideration by the Codex, if any economic impact claim is to be made by the countries in respect of such Codex standards/texts. Such detailed information and analysis is seldom available in developing countries.	Discussions would be continued at the next session on the basis of a discussion paper that would be developed jointly by Malaysia and Australia.	The need for such a mechanism should be debated and also any problems encountered in working of the Codex due to absence of such a system should be discussed for any alternative solutions. Any approach finally taken should be practical and amenable to implementation by the developing countries.
8	Development of Joint Codex/OIE standards	CCGP	Procedure/mechanism for elaboration of Joint standards	Under discussion through a working Group.	It needs to be ensured that the current Codex procedures for establishment of Codex standards that are inclusive, transparent and well defined (Eight Steps) as well as are adequately flexible (Provision for omitting Steps 6 & 7 or use of accelerated procedure as required) are strictly adhered to. Any additional procedural requirements to be followed by the joint subsidiary bodies could be considered and developed appropriately.
9	Proposed draft principles for the use of sampling and testing in international food trade (except for Section on Principles)	CCMAS	The draft document attempts to provide guidance to facilitate acceptance decisions in respect of an imported food that has contaminant levels marginally higher than the established maximum level.	Step 3	It needs to be noted that any maximum level, including the maximum residue level, established by the Codex is the maximum (residue) level that is recommended by the Codex to be legally permitted in the food (Refer definitions in Codex Procedural Manual) and hence any levels higher

			It attempts to provide guidance in respect of the means other than sampling and testing that may be useful to assess conformity in some cases when the sampling and testing by the importing country may not be a feasible means of judging compliance.		<p>than that should not be acceptable. Also, in case of national MRLs, it would not be in any case possible for the authorities to accept a lot if the same is non-complying to a maximum level, irrespective of the margin of non-compliance. The guidance in the document should take due cognizance of these facts.</p> <p>This is outside the assigned scope of the document.</p>
10	Methods of analysis for pesticides residues	CCPR	Revocation of CODEX/STAN 229 – Analysis of Pesticides Residues: Recommended Methods	Standard revoked	<p>The CCPR should take due cognizance of the fact that methods of analysis are an integral component of any risk management measure aimed at implementation of an MRL.</p> <p>The CCPR should continue, rather strengthen, its work pertaining to consideration of methods of analysis and sampling for determination of pesticides residues in food and feed as per its terms of reference in the Procedural Manual and guidance in the <i>Risk Analysis Principles applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues</i>.</p>
11	Draft MRLs for BST	CCRVDF	There are uncertainties associated with the safety of use of BST. Further, injection of BST is used on a regular basis merely to increase the milk yield of dairy animal by minimizing the rate of yield decline after peak lactation (that is, it is not an essential treatment drug).	Re-evaluation of the BST by JECFA was requested by the Commission at its 35 th session, 2012.	The CCRVDF needs to take a policy matter decision whether use of drugs should be allowed merely for increasing food production.

12	Histamine	CCFFP	Concern about trade implication/problem associated with histamine controls including sampling plans and histamine maximum limits.	Discussion Paper	Maximum level setting
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MALAYSIA

i. Codex Draft Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019

Name of subsidiary body: CAC, CCEXEC

Status of work: Ongoing. Drafting stage.

ii. Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements

Name of subsidiary body: CCGP

Reason: Malaysia continues to advocate the need to develop a clear mechanism for examining economic impact statements when they are submitted by countries.

Status of work: Ongoing

iii. Terms of Reference of the CCGP

Name of subsidiary body: CCGP

Reason: Malaysia continues to consider this statement relevant to the Terms of Reference of the CCGP, as it underpins the function of CCGP in developing relevant procedures to address concerns relating to economic impact of proposed standards. Therefore, this statement should be retained in the TOR of the CCGP.

Recognising that the discussion on Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements has relevance to the TOR of CCGP, Malaysia foresees that this issue will also call for an extensive debate at the next CCGP in 2014.