



**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

Prepared by CCASIA Regional Coordinator

Introduction

1. The 16th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia agreed to add to its agenda, as a standing agenda item, the discussion of “Issues Relevant to the Region” in order to facilitate the development of regional positions, and to request the Coordinator for the region to prepare a paper on this subject for consideration at the next session.
2. CL2012/14-ASIA requested to member countries for comments and information on Issues Relevant to the Region to identify common concerns and/or interests in the Asian region. Two countries, Indonesia and Japan, expressed their concerns and/or interests related to Codex works in response to Part D of CL2012/14-ASIA (CX/ASIA 12/18/8 Add.1). A summary of the information obtained is as follows.

General Aspects (Science-based Approach)

3. Japan noted the importance of following a science-based approach in accordance with the Codex procedures and policies for standards-setting.

Setting of Maximum Levels for Contaminants

4. Indonesia raised the maximum levels of contaminants in commodities highly produced and/or consumed in its country (i.e. arsenic in rice, ochratoxin A (OTA) in cocoa and cocoa products and hydrogen cyanide (HCN) in cassava discussed under CCCF) as its priority concerns and/or interests. Indonesia also expressed a concern about trade implications/problems associated with histamine controls in fish and fish products including sampling plans.

Setting of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides

5. Indonesia referred to the need of guidance to facilitate the establishment of MRLs for Pesticides for Minor Crops and Specialty Crops, especially for developing countries, and stated that the lack of these MRLs might create trade barriers. Indonesia further expressed its interest in establishing database on need for MRLs for developing countries.

Establishment of Commodity Standards

6. Indonesia expressed its interests in some commodity standards under discussion at the relevant Codex Committees, such as tempe, fish oils, durian and avocado.