



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

Eighteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 5 – 9 November 2012

**NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS AND CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD
STANDARD SETTING**

(REPLIES TO PART A OF CL2012/14-ASIA)

(Replies of India and Malaysia)

Question 1: Strengthening National Food Control Systems

Q1.1 Structure and organisation of national food control system

Have your country taken any developments/actions to improve national food regulatory systems? Please write “YES” or “NO”. If your answer is “YES”, please describe the developments/actions you have taken.

Developments/actions may include development or update of structure and organisation of national food control system including actions relating to: National food law and regulations; food control management e.g. food administration structures, initiatives to improve multi-sectoral collaboration; inspection services; laboratory infrastructure; information dissemination; training etc.

INDIA

Yes, India has already in place National Food Regulatory System.

MALAYSIA

Yes. In November 2011, the Ministry of Health Malaysia was recognised as the Competent Authority for Food Safety along the food supply chain. In this regard, the Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia is responsible for administering and regulating food safety along the food supply chain. However, effective co-ordination and collaboration among various agencies related to food safety such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Co-operatives and Consumerism etc. are continuously strengthened to ensure an effective and efficient food safety programme.

Various enhancement in technical and infrastructure have been undertaken to ensure smooth management and implementation of the food supply chain system since 2010 and such as restructuring of the organisation of the Food Safety and Quality in the headquarters, state and district level, enhancement of food safety and quality laboratories capacities, establishment of new laboratory, restructuring of the organisation of Codex national sub committees, establishment of new expert committees under the Food Regulations 1985, new food safety system schemes etc. In addition, various amendments to the Food Regulations 1985 and gazettment of the Food Irradiation Regulations 2011 and Food Analyst Act 2011 were gazetted.

In Malaysia, the National Food Safety and Nutrition Council chaired by the Minister of Health, provides a platform to enhance national coherence; taking into consideration the need for a more integrated approach, reducing duplication of efforts and optimising available resources and expertise from both the public and private sectors. The Council endorses the National Food Safety Policy and the National Food Safety Work Plan 2010-2020 which provides direction to all food safety stakeholders in establishing and implementing food safety measures along the food supply chain to safeguard human health through collaborative efforts.

The National Food Safety Work Plan have been reviewed in 2012 to be aligned with strategies and action plan of the Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011 – 2015.

Q1.2 Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee

Please choose following developments/actions you have taken in your country to strengthen Codex at the national level and promote more effective participation in Codex. If you choose (a), (b) and/or (c), please describe the developments/actions you have taken;

- (a) Strengthening the Codex Contact Point
- (b) Strengthening the National Codex Committee or alternative scheme/framework
- (c) Others
- (d) None

INDIA

(a)

India has made an effort to strengthen the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) of India by hiring competent qualified people with technical and innovative skills. NCCP also closely interacts with other Ministries/Departments/Experts on various subjects. Shadow Committees have also been formed for better coordination.

MALAYSIA

None

Question 2: Promotion of Codex Standards and Related Texts

(For Actions 5.2 of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014)

Please describe any significant actions that your country has taken to increase awareness on the importance of Codex among relevant stakeholders, including consumers, food industries etc.

INDIA

India has developed various Shadow Committees corresponding to each of the Codex Committees with regard to all the Codex Matters. The Shadow Committee members comprise of all the major stakeholders including members of the food industry. Every Codex document is circulated by NCCP to all the stakeholders, who thereafter provide their comments on the matter.

MALAYSIA

The National Codex Committee (NCC), NCSC, Food Regulations 1985 Advisory Committee, Expert Working Groups of the Food Regulations 1985 and the National ASEAN Committees which involve all food safety stakeholders provides forum for communication on latest updates in Codex and promotion of Codex, FAO and WHO activities. The National Food Safety and Nutrition Council acts as a platform to promote and enhance inter-agency participation in Codex activities through collaboration and sharing of expertise and experience.

In addition, the Food Safety and Quality Division as the NCC also produces newsletters and pamphlets on Codex activities as well as posts information in the national codex website for information to the public.

Question 3: Strengthen Communication and Coordination

Q3.1 Use of electronic communication systems

Please choose the following developments/actions you have taken in your country to optimise the use of electronic communication systems. If you chose any option from (a) to (e), please describe the developments/actions you have taken:

- (a) E-discussions amongst member countries on issues of mutual interest
- (b) Sharing of national positions/written comments on issues of interest to the region
- (c) Development of web page for Codex Contact Point
- (d) Action to promote regional networking among Codex Contact Points to improve communication and share experiences on Codex and related issues

- (e) Others
(f) None

INDIA

On the FSSAI Home Page (www.fssai.gov.in), there is exclusive content on the India Codex Activities. It gives the details of all the Codex Work being undertaken in FSSAI. FSSAI coordinates and promotes Codex activities in India in association with the National Codex Committee and facilitates India's input to the work of Codex through an established consultation process.

MALAYSIA

b) Sharing of national positions/written comments on issues of interest to the region

Malaysia shares her views and position on Codex issues of interest with ASEAN member states through emails and discussion during the ASEAN Task Force on Codex meetings. Malaysia also participates in various electronic working groups (eWGs) established under CCASIA whereby comments are given electronically to the lead countries.

c) Development of web page for Codex Contact Point

The Codex Section web page under the Food Safety and Quality Division website provides a platform for dissemination of information on Codex meetings and activities to the public.

Q3.2 Participation in Codex activities

Q3.2.1 Have you submitted relevant and qualified data to FAO/WHO expert bodies? Please write "YES" or "NO". If your answer is "YES," please describe the data you have submitted.

INDIA

YES, Evaluation data on pesticide residues of various food commodities were sent to JMPR e.g residues of Fenprothrin in Tea.

MALAYSIA

NO

Q3.2.2 Please describe any significant barriers or difficulties that you have experienced in participating in Codex work, including electronic working groups (i.e. technical, financial etc)

INDIA

NIL

MALAYSIA

Limited allocation from national fund given to participate in Codex meetings and physical working group meetings. Unavailability of qualified data on certain specific issues to be submitted to FAO/WHO expert bodies.

Q3.2.3 Please write name of the funding you used during this period for activities related to Codex.

INDIA

NIL

MALAYSIA

National funding

Q3.3 Development of network

Please describe any developments/actions you have taken to establish scientific and technical networks amongst the experts and institutions in the countries of the region.

INDIA

Informal links have been established with the experts and institutions in the country when their comments are sought on various agenda items. Formally, also interaction happens through Shadow Committees as indicated in answer to Q.2.

India is an active participant of food safety networks like EU Rapid Alert System and International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN).

MALAYSIA

Malaysia was the leading country in the establishment of the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety (AEGFS). As the Overall Coordinator for AEGFS, Malaysia hosted the first meeting of AEGFS in 2001. The AEGFS is a subsidiary body under Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) which provide a network of food safety experts in the ASEAN region. Under the AEGFS, Malaysia is also the Coordinator for the ASEAN Food Safety Improvement Plan (AFSIP) which covers activities in 7 programme areas whereby two of the areas are led by Malaysia. As the Coordinator, Malaysia developed the AFSIP II (2010-2015) which was endorsed by the 6th Senior Officials Meeting for Health Development (SOMHD).

Question 4: Training and Capacity Building

Q4.1 Training programmes/workshops for member countries in the region

Have you organised or participated in any training programmes/workshops for member countries in the region or provided assistance to member countries in the region related to work of the Codex? Please write "YES" or "NO". If your answer is "YES," please provide name of the training programmes/workshop and the international organisation and/or country that supported the programme/workshops, if any. In addition, please choose from following options that best describe the objective of the each programme and/or assistance.

- (a) To facilitate the development of the scientific and/or technical capacity
- (b) To strengthen food regulatory system
- (c) To strengthen Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee
- (d) To organise on-the-job training for Codex Contact Point to observe the management of Codex Works
- (e) To increase harmonisation of their national legislations with the related Codex standards
- (f) Others (please describe)

INDIA

NO	EVENT	DATE	ORGANIZER	FUNDING
1	Training Program for Maldives	14 th – 18 th February, 2011	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and FSSAI, INDIA	FSSAI, WHO & Maldives Government
2	Training Program for Bangladesh	19 th – 22 nd June, 2012	FSSAI, INDIA	Bangladesh Government, FAO

MALAYSIA

Yes. Malaysia participated as a consultant and presenter during the EAC/FAO/WHO Workshop on Enhancing Participation of East African Countries in Codex which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26 to 27 September 2011.

Q4.2 Training within the country

Have you organised any training programme for technical persons and policy makers responsible for the elaboration of food safety policy in your country on the significance of and needs of considering Codex standards and related texts? Please write "YES" or "NO". If your answer is "YES," please describe the outline of training programme with name of supporting international organisation and/or country, if any.

INDIA

Yes

NO	EVENT	DATE	ORGANIZER	OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME
1	Training Program for Food Safety Officers	June – July, 2010	FSSAI, India	Overview of Codex

MALAYSIA

NO

Q4.3 Need for capacity building and training to strengthen the national food control systems

Q4.3.1 With regard to matters related to national food control systems, please choose from the options below and describe capacity building need.

- (a) Development and/or update of food control systems (e.g. development of HACCP, traceability and recall system, incorporating risk analysis, revision of laws and/or regulations)
- (b) Strengthening implementation of the food regulatory systems, including capacity of inspection and analysis (e.g. enhancing equipment, sampling plan, analytical method and laboratory)
- (c) Enhancing coordination and communication among stakeholders, including consumers, food industries etc.
- (d) Others

INDIA

India needs to develop capacity building in traceability and recall system, incorporating risk analysis, enhancing equipment, sampling plan, analytical method and laboratory.

MALAYSIA

- b) Strengthening implementation of the food regulatory systems, including capacity of inspection and analysis (e.g. enhancing equipment, sampling plan, analytical method and laboratory)

Capacity building in development of analytical methods and sampling plan, data analysis and modeling.

Q4.3.2 With regard to matters related to Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee, please describe capacity building need.

INDIA

Capacity building is required to increase the skills and competencies of the staff and the stakeholders involved in Codex related matters, particularly related to functioning of Codex, procedures to be followed and how to enhance participation in various committees?

MALAYSIA

None