

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 5

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

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COMMENTS AND INFORMATION ON NATIONAL FOOD CONTROL SYSTEMS, CONSUMER PARTICIPATION IN FOOD STANDARDS SETTING AND THE USE OF CODEX STANDARDS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(REPLIES TO CL 2014/21-ASIA)

(Comments from Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines and Viet Nam)

Question 1: Strengthening National Food Control Systems

Please describe any significant developments/actions taken in your country to improve national food control systems. These may include 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 and activities; information dissemination; training. Please also describe priority food safety issues to be addressed nationally and regionally.

INDONESIA

Based on our regulation, Government Regulation Number 28/2004 on Safety, Quality and Nutrition of food, the authority of food controlling in Indonesia involves several institutions such as Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, National Agency of Drug and Food Control (NADFC), Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Trade, National Standardization Agency, and Local Government.

- National Standardization Agency of Indonesia has responsibility for setting national standard, in coordination with relevant ministries.
- Ministry of Agriculture has responsibility in controlling the safety and quality of fresh food from farms and animal husbandry.
- Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries has responsibility in controlling the safety and quality of fish and marine products.
- NADFC has responsibility in controlling the safety and quality of processed food.
- Ministry of Industry has responsibility to impose mandatory standard for processed food and supervise them in factory.
- Ministry of Trade has responsibility in market surveillance for food products that already impose with mandatory standard, such as mineral water, refined sugar, cacao powdered, flour, etc.
- Local Government has responsibility in controlling the safety of ready to eat and street foods, and household foods produced locally.

Indonesia takes continuous improvement for national food regulatory system. The actions of Indonesia include:

- keep update the development of International Standard
- conducts registration (premarket) to register processed food that distributed in Indonesia
- established Integrated Food Safety System
- works on the improvement of modern laboratory
- improves the capacity of IT services
- improves human resources capacity through training and education

MONGOLIA

National food control system used to be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health of Mongolia.

In 2003, the General Agency for Specialized Inspection, GASI, with 34 independent departments, including food control system, was established under the direct supervision of the Deputy Prime Minister; and the responsibilities related to food safety issues were shifted to the agency.

In 2012, the Food Law (approved in 1999) was amended and a new Law on Food safety was approved by the Parliament.

According to the Food safety law the GASI is responsible for controls on food supply chain, including primary production, processing, storage, transportation, and food import and export. The GASI has started to implement the risk based control system since 2011.

According to the Food safety law, the laboratory of GASI functions as the Reference laboratory at the national level.

GASI is implementing recall system if any information conveyed in regard with the danger/warnings on imported food products through the INFOSAN. The GASI introduced a food traceability system and the food producers have responsibilities to implement the Good practices, according to the Food law and Food Safety law.

The GoM is working to revise the National Control Law in order to enhance the national food control system, and a draft will be submitted soon for the approval by the Government.

The priority food safety issues to be addressed nationally:

- Improve the food safety at schools, and public places including street vendor and preschools;
- Awareness building on IPM usage;
- Strengthen capacity in determining pesticide and heavy metal residues;
- Improve the national control systems on Food additives and GMO;
- Strengthen capacity of national laboratories;
- Enhance the implementation of the HACCP system; and
- Strengthen control system on imported food products safety;

PHILIPPINES

Food Control Management

The Philippines Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is mandated by laws Republic Act (RA) 3720, RA 7394 to ensure the safety and quality of processed food in the country and the Department of Health Sanitation Code of the Philippines for health protection. This mandate was further strengthened by virtue of Republic Act 9711 known as FDA Act of 2009 where FDA created a sole authority on processed food regulation named as Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR) which handles the development of standard, rules and regulations, audit, as well as enforce and monitor compliance of all processed food in the country. To further strengthen the food safety and control systems in the country, another law was passed last year known as the Food Safety Act of 2013 or Republic Act 10611 which links the food safety systems from farm to fork of food supply chain from different government agencies, with the Department of Agriculture handling the primary and post harvest stages, the Department of Health through the FDA handling the food processing stage, and the Local Government Units handling food for immediate consumption including street vended and ambulant vending foods. RA 10611 has a provision for the creation of a Food Safety Coordination Board chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Health and co-Chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture with members coming DOH and FDA and DA regulatory agencies, members include the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Local Government Units, League of provinces, municipalities, cities and baranggays.

In the coming months, CFRR-FDA will be having its on-line registration of product registration to ease and facilitate efficient issuance of product authorization both for local and imported products. All food evaluators are being trained for paperless handling of food product registration applications.

Inspection Services

RA 9711 and RA 10611 likewise strengthen FDA inspectorate all over the country thus created the field regulatory offices including regional offices and regional enforcement units. The country has adopted a risk-based approach of inspection focusing on high risk products with history of non-compliance hence

intensifying post market surveillance/monitoring of food products to verify sustained compliance in the markets/outlets. Each regional food regulatory officers are continuously trained and regional offices strategically intensified with the creation of cluster Directors for the three major islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Food inspectors in the borders and port of entries are also part of RA 10611 implementation.

Laboratory Services

Apart from the food laboratory in the CFRR, FDA has three major satellite laboratories in three major islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, likewise it accredits private and public food laboratories to assist in testing and analysis for physical, chemical and microbiological parameters including those of monitored and complaint products. FDA laboratory is ISO certified and its analysts continuously undergo trainings for latest science based testing methods and machines.

Information Dissemination

The FDA website www.fda.gov.ph regularly posts latest developments in the agency and serves as clients first hand information tool. There is also an interactive exchange of information with food industry and clients where they can easily contact FDA for queries and updates on the status of their products applications. FDA also conducts public consultations before enforcing policies affecting the stakeholders. There is a regular training for Qualified Person in Regulatory Affairs (QPIRA) to orient them on how to comply with the requirements and regulations. Consumers or anyone can also file on product complaint in FDA through its established on-line interactive communications systems.

Question 2: Strengthening Codex at the national level

Please describe:

- i) Any significant actions that your country has taken to strengthen Codex at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex;
- ii) Any specific actions aimed at strengthening the Codex Contact Point, i.e. consultative structures and processes on Codex matters, including promoting increased involvement and participation of consumers and other stakeholders.

INDONESIA

Indonesia has established "Guideline for handling Codex activities in Indonesia" in order to ensure the effectiveness of our participation in Codex works.

CCP manage webpages on Codex Indonesia in order to disseminate relevant information on activities of the Codex Alimentarius and Codex Indonesia.

In order to increase awareness on the importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders, Indonesia has conducted some activities as follow :

- Capacity building on codex matters for technical persons on Mirror Committee Codex Secretariat in Indonesia
- Elaboration of national position before attending Codex meetings, involving relevant stakeholders, including industries
- Dissemination on the report of Codex meetings to relevant stakeholders, including governments, industries and consumers.
- Training programme or workshop for technical persons and policy makers responsible for the elaboration of food safety policy, such as Workshop in Food Standards and Food Safety Control Systems: Strengthening Coordination Activities,

MONGOLIA

- i) Background:

National Codex Contact Point was primarily appointed at Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiological Research National Institute in 1992, by the initiation of Ministry of Health of Mongolia. Furthermore, the National Codex Committee, consists of 10 member organizations, was established, in 2003.

Actions that taken to strengthen Codex at the national level and to promote more effective participation in Codex in recent years;

In order to strengthen the national participation on Codex, the government of Mongolia has re-established the National Codex Committee in December 2012, under the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture, with the

establishment of the Secretariats office. The secretariats office consists of 4 unofficial secretariats at the General Agency Specialized Inspection, Mongolian Agency for Standardization Metrology, Ministry of Industry and the Agriculture and Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiological Research National Institute.

At the request of the Government, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is implementing a Technical Cooperation Program to Strengthen the national capacity to implement Codex, TCP/MON/3401, in 2012 to 2014.

- ii) The National Codex Committee had organized several activities in 2013 and 2014, with the support of TCP/MON/3401. Here in:
- a) Three workshops had been done for stakeholders and decision makers to draft and finalize the National Policy & Strategy 2015-2019 for Codex Implementation.
 - b) Circulated the draft working procedures of NCC, among national member organizations.
 - c) Several NCC capacity building workshops on identified subjects had organized among the producers and stakeholders.
 - d) Organized training for 21 provinces food officers to prepare as a trainers on Codex functions and activities.
 - e) In 2013, NCC had identified the priority needed 50 Codex standards which were required in the framework of Mongolian national food safety and food standardization policy and translated 47 standards of them,
 - f) Compared the Codex standards with existing national standards and made a list of standards that requires an update at national level.
 - g) Organized several workshops on Codex standards implementation for various stakeholders including the 15 provinces, especially on the implementation of Code of Good practices such as CAC RCP 57: 2004 Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products, CAC RCP 58: 2005 Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat, as well as trainings to give understanding of Codex works.
 - h) Participated at the US-CCASIA meeting, held in June 2014 as well as the 21st CCFICS, and will send a national delegate to the 46th CCFH meeting.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines has created the National Codex Organization (NCO) a structure similar to Codex Alimentarius Commission where NCO Sub-Committees parallel to Codex Committees where established to handle specific areas of concern. NCO is a joint undertaking of the DOH and DA with the food industry as members. All Codex Committees has NCO counterpart in the Philippines. To date, the country is self-sufficient and was able to incorporate in the government systems the sustained participation of all NCO Sub-Committees to the Codex Committees and the NCO was incorporated in the Food Safety Act or RA 10611 hence regularly sending delegates to all Codex Subsidiary bodies where the Philippines is an active member.

The stakeholders i.e. food industry actively take part in developing Philippine Position papers as they are permanent members of NCO Sub-Committees, they likewise attend codex sessions through the established protocol of the NCO as contained in its Manual of Operations on effective participation of codex members. NCO Sub-Committee members include the food associations, food organizations, academe, research institutions, consumer groups, and other relevant organizations.

VIET NAM

i) Vietnam National Codex Committee (VNCC) joined CAC since 1989 and now is an inter-ministerial organization with more than 40 members from related ministries such as Ministry of Health (MOH), Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Industry and Trade (MOIT), Science and Technology (MOST), universities, associations and food manufacturers.

VNCC has 15 technical committees corresponding to Subsidiary committees of CAC and focal point from ministries.

Currently Vietnam adopts Codex standards as National Standards 62% of them harmonized with Codex; develops technical regulations on food safety based on Codex Standards with the harmonization of 90% (in terms of food additives, contaminants, pesticide residues, veterinary drugs, food and nutrition for special dietary uses...).

Vietnam sent delegations to participate in Codex meetings focusing on fishery products, food hygiene, food additives to present its position at these meetings; participates in EWGs and provides comments in oral or written;

ii) To strengthen the CCP, VNCC organized workshops and training courses on improving the awareness of Codex activities, and role of Codex in protection of consumers health and ensuring fair practices in food trade among policy makers, consumers, stakeholders, manufacturers, other ...

To organize meetings of technical committees to gather comments and share the information on food safety issues in the region and the world and formulate the position of Vietnam at Codex meetings.

Question 3: Codex Standards national priorities and interests

Please describe:

- i) Which specific Codex standards and related texts (currently under development or already in existence) are of most importance and interest to your country;
- ii) What are the current priority areas for setting national standards; and
- iii) Use and relevance of Codex standards at national level.

INDONESIA

The Indonesian priority concerns and/or interests which related to Codex work as follows:

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
1.	Maximum levels for cadmium in chocolate and cocoa-derived products	CCCF	Indonesia is the 3rd largest producer of cocoa	Step 123	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
2.	Methylmercury in fishery product	CCCF	Anticipate emerging issues in the future regarding methylmercury in fishery product	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
3.	Review Mycotoxins In Spices for Prioritization of The Work In Spices	CCCF	Indonesia has high humidity and a tropical country that suitable for mycotoxin producers fungi.	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
4.	Discussion paper on use of additives in additives (secondary additives)	CCFA	To make sure that the level of secondary food additives in the final products does not exceed the maximum level permitted in the final products.	Discussion Paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
5.	Histamine	CCFFP	Indonesia concern about trade implication/problem associated with histamine controls including sampling plans	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
6.	Discussion Paper on Principles and Guidelines for the Elaboration and Management of Questionnaires Directed at Exporting Countries	CCFICS	To simplified the multiple questionnaire for effectiveness of exporting/importing activities	Discussion paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG
7.	Discussion Paper on Consideration of Emerging Issues and Future Directions for The Work of The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems	CCFICS	To improve awareness of emerging issues in food world trade, since Indonesia is a country with a large number of population	Discussion Paper	Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG

No	Issue of Interest and/or concern	Subsidiary body	Reason	Status of work	Proposal for actions/collaboration
8.	Review of codex standard of follow up formula	CCNFSDU	Follow up formula is widely distributed in Indonesia, standard for follow up formula is needed as a guidance for member country to regulate the products	Step 4	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
9.	Proposed Draft Standard for Black, White and Green Peppers	CCSCH	Indonesia as one of producers and exporters country	Step 3	Members to submit comments/data to support the work
10.	Maksimum level of migration of metals from food contact material to the food consumed	CCCF	Tropical condition, such as in Indonesia, will affect the migration of metals from food contact materials to the food consumed, which will affect the safety of food products	-	Members to submit comments/data to support the new work

For setting new national standards, Indonesia concerns and/or interests on: fresh food and vegetables, spices, processed food and vegetables, fish and fisheries products, milk and milk products.

Currently, Indonesia has stipulated standards and regulations which based on Codex Standards and related texts, as follows:

Subject of Indonesia Standards and Regulations	Codex References
Standards for Infant formula	Standards for infant formula and formulas for special medical purposes intended for infant
Standards for Supplement foods for breast milk	Standard for Processed Cereal-based Foods for Infants and Young Children
Food category	General standards for food additives
Irradiated food	General standards for irradiated food
Organic food	Guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods
Flavouring	Guidelines for the use of flavouring
Food Additives	General standards for food additives Class names and the international numbering system
The maximum limit of heavy metal contamination, chemistry and microbiology, in food products	General standards for contaminant and toxins in food
The Maximum limit of Pesticide Residue in Agricultural Products	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for Pesticides
The Control of Claim on Processed Food Labelling and Advertising.	Guidelines on Claims Guidelines on Nutrition labelling
Guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practices	General Principles of Food Hygiene
Guidelines of Good Manufacturing Practice for Powdered Infant Formula and Powdered Follow-on Formula	Code of Hygienic practice for powdered formulae for infant and young children General principle of food hygiene

MONGOLIA

For i)

1. CAC/GL 25-1997 Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods
2. Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods
CAC/GL 32-1999 Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods
3. CAC/GL 40-1993 Guidelines on Good Laboratory Practice in Pesticide Residue Analysis
4. CODEX STAN 192-1995 General Standard for Food Additives

5. CODEX STAN 193-1995 General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed
6. CAC/RCP 1-1969 General Principles of Food Hygiene
7. CAC/RCP 15-1976 Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products
8. CAC/RCP 44-1995 Code of Practice for the Packaging and Transport of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables
9. CAC/RCP 53-2003 Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
10. Proposed Draft Code of Hygienic Practices for the Street-Vended Foods
11. Discussion paper on the revision of the Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995)
12. Draft amendments to Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food (CAC/GL 25-1997)
13. Discussion paper on principles and guidelines for monitoring regulatory performance of national food control systems
14. Discussion paper on principles and guidelines for the elaboration and management of questionnaires directed at exporting countries
15. Draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella* spp.
16. Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* spp. in Beef and Pork Meat
17. Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Food borne Parasites
18. Discussion paper on the need to revise the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CAC/RCP 53-2003)
19. Draft provisions on establishment of MRLs for honey (for inclusion on the Risk Analysis Principles applied by the CCRVDF)

For ii)

According to the amended Food Law and new Food Safety Law of Mongolia, the current priority areas for setting national standards are the Code of Practices, food additives as well as the pesticide residues. In upcoming years Mongolia will be more focusing on setting and updating these standards as well as methods of analysis and sampling and the food hygiene standards of Codex.

For iii)

As Mongolia aims to improve food safety both on domestically produced and imported food products through adopting and harmonizing internationally approved standards and guidelines, the Codex standards and related texts are becoming more relevant to the country.

The awareness of the Codex standards as well as the understanding of the impotencies of Codex work at national level are weak and need to be strengthened, and, there are no researches and data on the use of the Codex standards at national level.

Special comment:

- Need to strengthen National Codex Committee's members' capacity to draft and propose national comment on Codex standards and related texts, which are currently under development.
- We are in lack of experience on building consumer awareness and partnership on drafting and/or commenting on Codex texts and need to improve the consumer application of Codex standards and related texts.
- Lack of study on Food Security as well as on the usage of nationally introduced Codex standards and related texts, in recent years.
- Lack of resources and has weak analysis accuracy to make a national comment especially on JECMR, JECFA documents.
- Need to do more awareness building activities with increase the number of supporting document on Food Security and Codex work, in order to increase the awareness of the impotencies of Codex.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Priorities and interests include food additives, food contaminants, pesticide residues, food labeling, nutrition and foods for special dietary uses. The country is developing its Philippine National Standards (PNS) and all codex subsidiary bodies are important reference in formulating standards. The Philippines is using codex standard as reference point in the absence of a particular PNS.

Philippines may give comments on Agenda 7b and other Agenda items during the 19th CCASIA Session.