



Agenda Item 8a

CX/ASIA 14/19/9
October 2014

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

Nineteenth Session

Tokyo, Japan, 3 – 7 November 2014

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CCASIA 2009 - 2014

(Prepared by the Former Coordinator for Asia (Japan))

Introduction

1. The CCASIA16 agreed to adopt the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014 (see CL2012/14-ASIA Annex 2), to request the Coordinator to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to present a report on the status of implementation at the CCASIA17.
2. At its 17th Session in 2010, the Coordinating Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014. In view of the large amount of information gathered through the exercise, it was suggested to design a format for collecting, analysing and updating such information. The Coordinating Committee agreed to continue this discussion and to request the next Coordinator to provide an update of the implementation of the Strategic Plan at the next session.
3. At the 18th Session in 2012, the Coordinating Committee continuously reviewed the status of implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014. The Coordinator identified the following areas for the development of future activities:
 - Capacity building in national regulatory food systems and the use of electronic communication;
 - Needs for continued assistance (human, financial and technical) for capacity building activity;
 - Clear and workable framework and action plan for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA; and
 - Improved and efficient methodology to monitor the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA and collecting information.
4. Letter of Coordinator (circulated in August 2014) requested member countries to provide comments and information on the Status of Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014. The Coordinator received responses from five countries, India, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand. Major progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan is described in Annex 1 of the document, and more detailed status of implementation within the time frame of the Strategic Plan is presented in Annex 2 (the columns "Status" and "Notes"). Updates that were made from the last session of CCASIA (CX/ASIA 12/18/12) are shown in **bold/underlined**.
5. The Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014 will come to the end this year. The points identified by the monitoring of the Strategic Plan should be taken into the consideration when developing the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020.
6. Therefore, based on the discussions made until the last Session and comments provided from the Member countries, the Coordinator proposes the points that should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 in Annex 3.
7. The Committee is invited to review the status of implementation of the strategic Plan and to consider the Annex 3 when considering the draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 (Agenda Item 8b).

Major Progress on Implementation of the Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2009-2014

Objective 1. To develop and strengthen national food regulatory system and Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee

1. The needs for capacity building were identified in fields of risk analysis in food control systems and sampling plan and analytical method development in food regulatory systems.
2. Training programmes and workshops in the region on various subjects including Codex and its activities and SPS matters were organised, supported and/or participated by member countries with assistance of the FAO/WHO.

Objective 2. To strengthen communication & coordination amongst the CCASIA members, with other regions and Codex Secretariat as well as other relevant organizations

3. The CCASIA website has been developed and maintained since 2010. It provides an up-to-date directory of the National Codex Contact Points to strengthen the communication with other bodies as well as among member countries.
4. Member countries have participated in electronic Working Groups (eWGs) on issues of interest to the region; e-mail communication among Asian countries/districts was proposed and is expected to be joined by member countries.

Objective 3. To achieve maximum and effective participation of member countries in the activities of CCASIA, Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies

5. The Coordinators have organised informal meetings prior to Codex meetings to establish common positions in the region.
6. The member countries have discussed issues arising from the Commission and other Codex subsidiary bodies and summarised the opinions in the region at the CCASIA Sessions.

Objective 4. To strengthen scientific and technical capacities of member countries in the region

7. Regarding food safety and Codex issues which may affect the region, priority concerns and/or interests were identified as described in Agenda Item 6 (CX/ASIA 12/18/8).
8. Members have submitted data to the FAO/WHO expert bodies (JMPR, JECFA and JEMRA) to collate and generate quality data related to interests in the region, while others mentioned limited allocation of national fund and limited or non-availability of qualified data as difficulties.
9. Member countries participated in and took an active role in technical networks in the ASEAN region.
10. Regarding a list of experts and institutions available in the region to provide the scientific/technical expertise to member countries stated in Action 4.2, **CCASIA18 agreed to share the information on CCP among the Asian countries.**

Objective 5. To promote use of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for national legislation

11. Activities at the national level were reported as follows:
 - Member countries organised seminars and workshops on technical capacities and Codex activities for appropriate targets, including technical persons, policy makers, public sector and industry;
 - Some members used the Codex standards and related texts as reference for national regulations/standards and involved relevant stakeholders to develop national positions; and
 - Dissemination of information on Codex and its activities and consultative committees have been carried out by National Codex Committees and through their websites.

Objective 6. To develop and/or review Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional interests

12. The Coordinators have organised physical informal meetings prior to the Codex meetings; eWGs have also been established to address issues of common interest to the region, such as the draft regional standards for non-fermented soybean products and tempe.
13. For specific food products of interest to the region, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand proposed regional standards for tempe, laver and durians, respectively, to be developed by CCASIA. Indonesia further expressed their interests in standards for fish oils and avocado.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA (CCASIA) 2009-2014

Objective 1. To develop and strengthen national food regulatory system and Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
1.1 - To identify capacity-building needs in national food regulatory system and to identify the resources required including funding.	Member countries	2009-2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the 17th session, the needs for capacity building were identified by five countries. - <u>At the 18th session, some member countries referred to the needs for capacity building in food regulatory systems.</u> - <u>In response to letter of the Coordinator in August, 2014, some member countries referred to identification of capacity building needs in national food regulatory system as a priority area in their countries.</u>
1.2 - To organise technical exchange programmes amongst member countries of the region on a mutual basis.	Interested member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The Asian Members have co-hosted the United States' SPS workshops since 2012.</u>
1.3 - To identify the capacity-building needs of the Codex Contact Points to facilitate and strengthen the implementation and participation in Codex work, and to identify the resources required including funding.	Member countries	2009-2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The needs for capacity buildings regarding the Codex Contact Points were identified by Indonesia and the Philippines as follows: understanding Codex and handling Codex document; and training for Technical Committee members of the National Codex Organisation such as on risk analysis. - <u>Thailand has identified capacity building and resource needs to facilitate and strengthen the implementation and participation in Codex work.</u>
1.4 - To assist CCASIA Member Countries in developing and strengthening national food regulatory system and Codex Contact Point and/or National Codex Committee such as mentoring and training programme with the assistance of FAO/WHO and other international organizations.	Member countries with the required capability	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Japan has supported the FAO regional projects regarding capacity building and implementation of international food safety standards in ASEAN countries since 2009.</u> - <u>The Asian Members have co-hosted the United States' SPS workshops since 2012.</u> - <u>Thailand operated collaborative projects during 2013-2014, such as Lao PDR Agricultural Cooperation Framework and Bhutan Cooperation project between ACFS of Thailand and Bhutan Agriculture and food regulatory authority.</u> - <u>Pakistan has taken major steps towards the establishment of a food safety, animal and plant health regulatory authority at federal level. Also, Codex Contact Point has been designated to co-ordinate Codex activities with the national stakeholders.</u>
1.5 - To organise on-the-job training at Codex Contact Points of member countries to observe structural work programme and implementation processes with the	Member countries with the required capability	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Japan has sent some experts to the FAO/WHO regional workshops as resource persons since 2012.</u>

assistance of FAO/WHO and other international organizations.				
1.6 - To conduct national workshops on effective functioning of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee.	Interested member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Japan has sent some experts to the FAO/WHO regional workshops on food safety as resource persons since 2012.</u> - <u>Japan conducted an international symposium in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2013.</u> - <u>Thailand held national seminars on Codex activities for all stakeholders to recognize the importance of Codex.</u> - <u>Thailand co-hosted two Codex Committee meeting, i.e. CCFICS in 2013 and CCFV in 2014.</u>
1.7 - To conduct regional workshops on effective functioning of Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committee with the support of FAO, WHO and other international organizations.	Coordinator	Initiated by 2010	Completed in 2008	- The workshop prior to the 16 th Session had been held in the support of the Codex Trust Fund.
Objective 2. To strengthen communication & coordination amongst the CCASIA members, with other regions and Codex Secretariat as well as other relevant organizations				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
2.1 - To maintain an up-to-date directory of the National Codex Contact Points of the CCASIA member countries.	Coordinator	Initiate by 2009	Ongoing	- An up-to-date directory of the National Codex Contact Points is provided on the CCASIA website.
2.2 - To optimize the use of electronic communication systems in countries of the region by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) conducting e-discussions amongst member countries on issues of mutual interest from time to time ii) sharing of national positions/written comments on issues of interest to the region on a regular basis iii) encouraging the development of a web page for each contact point iv) promoting regional networking among Codex Contact Points to improve communication and share experiences on Codex and related issues. 	Coordinator and member countries	Initiate by 2009	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The electronic communication for conducting e-discussion amongst member countries had been held in the electronic working group established by Codex by the 17th Session. - India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippine and Thailand reported to have established websites containing information on Codex activities at the 17th Session. - As Coordinator for CCASIA, Japan has established webpages for CCASIA on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. - <u>Japan has been sharing the information on veterinary medical products by email among Asian countries/districts, including China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand, since the CCRVDF20 in 2012.</u> - Malaysia and the Philippines participated in the eWGs and prepared and shared national positions on issues of interest to the region. They utilise the websites to disseminate information regarding Codex activities. - <u>At the 18th session, the Coordinator identified the capacity building in the use of electronic communication for the</u>

				<u>development of future activities.</u>
2.3 - To update and maintain a virtual page for CCASIA and to encourage its use.	Interested member countries	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By the 17th Session, the regional website (www.ccasia.org) had been established. It has been developed and maintained by the Coordinators since 2010. - <u>Japan, as the Coordinator for the Asia, has established the website for the 18th and 19th Session (www.maff.go.jp/e/ccasia/index.html). Japan has provided the update information, including a directory of the CCPs of the Asian members.</u> - <u>Japan made a brochure describing the CCASIA activity and history, which has been posted on Codex 50th Anniversary website.</u>
Objective 3. To achieve maximum and effective participation of member countries in the activities of CCASIA, Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
3.1 - To organize informal meetings of CCASIA prior to Codex meetings to develop common position, where possible, on issues of interest as well as to update on national and regional activities.	Coordinator	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia had held informal meetings until the 34th CAC session on July 2011. Since having taken over the responsibility, Japan and Thailand has been organising the meetings prior to each Codex Committee. - <u>Japan, as the Coordinator for the Asia, had co-hosted workshops among Asian Members with the United States to achieve maximum and effective participation of member countries in Codex activities from 2012 to 2014.</u>
3.2 - To discuss Codex issues of interest to the region including those issues arising from Commission and other Codex subsidiary bodies during CCASIA sessions.	Coordinator and Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CCASIA Sessions have discussed issues in the items "Matters arising from the Codex Alimentarius Commission and other Codex Committees and Task Forces" and "Issues Relevant to the Region". - <u>Thailand participated in all CCASIA informal meeting prior to Codex Committee meeting.</u>
3.3 - To seek funding to participate in Codex Meetings and support other Codex activities from "FAO/WHO Project and Fund for Enhancing the Participation of Developing Countries in the Work of Codex", as well as other sources funded by WHO, FAO, UNDP, STDF and other international organizations.	Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Thailand received Codex Trust Fund for participating in some Codex Committee meetings during 2013-2014.</u> - FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund is still available for eligible countries.
Objective 4. To strengthen scientific and technical capacities of member countries in the region				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
4.1 - To identify and prioritize food safety and Codex	Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	- Issues raised by member countries are:

issues that affect the region and where appropriate seek the assistance of FAO/WHO for scientific advice.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of maximum level for contaminants in commodities highly produced in the country (Indonesia); • Science-based approach in accordance with Codex procedures and policies (Japan); • Mechanism for Examining Economic Impact Statements and the Terms of Reference of the CCGP (Malaysia). • See CX/ASIA 12/18/8 and CX/ASIA 14/19/11 for details.
4.2 - To develop a list of experts and institutions available in the region which can provide the required scientific/technical expertise.	Coordinator	Complete by 2009	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia and China had submitted a list of experts by the CCASIA17 . - <u>At the 18th Session, the Committee agreed to share the information on CCP among the Asian countries. The Committee noted that the Coordinator could provide advice to those countries where the CCPs are not active.</u>
4.3 - To establish e-Working Groups to address prioritized regional issues.	Interested member countries	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By the 17th Session, eWGs had been established for developing “Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Non-Fermented Soybean Products” (led by China) and “Proposed Draft Regional Standard for Chili Sauce” (led by Thailand) and “National Food Control Systems and Consumer Participation in Food Standard Setting” (led by Indonesia). - At the 17th Session, the Committee agreed to establish eWGs for proposed draft or discussion paper on regional standards for non-fermented soybean products (led by China), tempe (led by Indonesia), preserved yuza (led by the Republic of Korea) and edible crickets (led by Lao PDR). - <u>At the 18th Session, the Committee agreed to establish eWGs for proposed draft standard for non-fermented soybean products (led by China), proposed draft standard for laver products (led by Republic of Korea), proposed draft code of hygienic practice for street-vended food (led by India), discussion paper on new work on a regional standard for edible crickets and their products (led by Lao PDR), and preparation of the strategic plan for CCASIA 2015-2020 (led by the Coordinator 19th CCASIA).</u> - <u>Thailand led the eWGs for preparing Proposed Draft Standard on Durian (CCFFV), Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce (CCFFP), and Proposed Draft Guidance to facilitate the establishment of MRLs for minor crops and speciality crops (Co-Chair, CCPR).</u>
4.4 - To collate and generate quality data on issues of interest to the region and submit to the Joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultation. FAO and WHO to assist countries in this activity in line with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in	Lead countries	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia and Japan have submitted data to JMPR, JECFA and JEMRA (e.g. beta-cyfluthrin in cabbage, fumonisins occurrence in feed, histamine concentration in fish and fishery products) from 2011 to 2012. - <u>Japan has submitted data to JMPR, JECFA and JEMRA (e.g.</u>

the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.				<p><u>reports of toxicity study on Nisin, technological data for test methods of Annato extracts, technological data for establishment of specifications on Gardenia yellow, technological data for revision of specifications on Polysorbate 60, information of microbial contamination of spices and aromatic herbs, and epidemiological data with foodborne diseases linked to low moisture foods) from 2013 to 2014.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Thailand has submitted data on residues of marcozab in chilli to JMPR in 2014, and contaminant occurrence data of lead in fruit, fruit juice and canned fruits and vegetables, of arsenic in rice, and of aflatoxin in cereals to WHO GEMs/Foods from 2013 to 2014.</u> - Malaysia and the Philippines mentioned limited allocation of national fund and limited or non-availability of qualified data as difficulties.
4.5 - To promote the consistent application of risk analysis principles at the national level.	Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia and Malaysia have held workshops/training courses on risk analysis and Indonesia established Indonesia Integrated Food Safety Network in 2010. - The Philippines recognised the application of risk analysis principles for food safety and taking efforts to strengthen its capability to conduct risk analysis. <p><u>Thailand has harmonized application of risk analysis principles on the national food standard and regulation setting.</u></p>
4.6 - To organize and conduct regional workshops/training courses with assistance of FAO/WHO and other international organizations to facilitate the development of the technical capacity of the members of the region including risk analysis.	Facilitating countries	Initiate by 2009	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Codex Trust Fund, in cooperation with the regional Coordinator, had organised a workshop prior to the 17th Session, November 2010. - Japan has been contributing to FAO and STDF on SPS related technical assistance for developing countries to assist training and soft infrastructure since 2009, and also provided a seminar and training course on mycotoxin inspection from 2011 to 2012. - <u>The Asian Members have co-hosted the United States' SPS workshops since 2012.</u> - The Philippines participated in a training session and workshop provided by FAO/WHO in 2012. - Japan has sent some experts to the FAO/WHO regional workshops on food safety as resource persons since 2012. - <u>Japan co-hosted the FAO regional workshop with FAORAP in 2013.</u>
4.7 - To establish scientific and technical networks amongst the experts and institutions in the countries of the region.	Interested member countries	Initiate by 2010	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia has become an observer in ASEAN Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (ARASFF). - <u>Japan has been sharing the information on veterinary</u>

				<p><u>medical products by email among Asian countries/districts, including China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand, since the CCRVDF20 in 2012.</u></p> <p>- Malaysia was the leading country in the establishment and the coordinator of the ASEAN Expert Group on Food Safety (AEGFS) which is a subsidiary body under Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) providing a network of food safety experts in the ASEAN region.</p>
Objective 5. To promote use of Codex standards and related texts as a basis for national legislation				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
5.1 - To train technical personnel and policy makers responsible for the elaboration of food safety policy (including regulations) on the significance of and need to consider Codex standards and related texts, with technical assistance from FAO/WHO.	Member countries	2009	Ongoing	- Indonesia organised workshops and training courses on risk analysis and Codex by a national agency and the CCP.
5.2 - To increase awareness on the importance of Codex amongst relevant stakeholders i.e. government, industries, consumers, academia and professional bodies.	Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<p>- Indonesia and the Philippines used the Codex standards and related texts as reference for national regulations/standards, and involved relevant stakeholders to develop national positions.</p> <p>- Japan <u>and Thailand</u> have conducted seminars on the importance of Codex standards and activities.</p> <p>- Malaysia has provided forum involving all food safety stakeholders for communication on latest updates in Codex and promotion of Codex, FAO and WHO activities.</p> <p>- As means to disseminate relevant information on Codex, its activities and the consultative committees, the followings were used: the Coordinator of Mirror Committee (Indonesia), websites (Japan and Malaysia), newsletters and pamphlets (Malaysia) and members of National Codex Organisation Sub-committees involving stakeholders for their respective organisations (the Philippines).</p> <p>- <u>Thailand has established 15 national Codex technical committees, which were conducted regularly to consider relevant Codex issues to the national interest.</u></p> <p>- <u>Japan conducted an international symposium in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2013. The guest speakers presented the achievements and prospects of future directions of Codex with a lively discussion among participants, including industry, consumer, academia and students.</u></p>
5.3 - To assist member countries in terms of capacity building to harmonize national legislation	Member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	- <u>Japan has supported the FAO regional projects regarding capacity building and implementation of international food</u>

with that of Codex with assistance of FAO/WHO and other international organizations.				<p><u>safety standards in ASEAN countries since 2009.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Japan has provided some resource persons to the FAORAP's food safety workshops or training course since 2012.</u> - <u>Japan co-hosted the FAO regional workshop with FAORAP in 2013.</u>
Objective 6. To develop and/or review Codex standards and related texts taking into account regional interests				
Actions	Responsible party	Timeline	Status	Notes
6.1 - To convene informal meeting (physical or electronic) to address issues of common interest to the region as and when necessary.	Coordinator on the recommendation of interested member country	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Coordinators have organised physical informal meetings prior to the Codex meetings. Invitation was circulated by email to all Asian member countries. - <u>Japan, as the Coordinator for the Asia, had co-hosted workshops with the United States to achieve maximum and effective participation of member countries in Codex activities from 2012 to 2014.</u>
6.2 - To identify specific food products of interest to the region that requires standard to be developed in order to protect the health of the consumers and ensure fair practices in food trade.	Interested member countries	2009-2014	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia proposed regional standard for tempe to be developed by CCASIA. - The Republic of Korea proposed regional standard for laver to be developed by CCASIA. - Thailand proposed regional standard for durians to be developed by CCASIA. - <u>Thailand has identified canned pineapple at theCCPFV27.</u>

Proposed points that should be incorporated into the next Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020

The following table shows the proposed points that should be incorporated into the next Strategic Plan for the CCAISA 2015-2020.

Proposed Points	Draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015-2020
Priority Areas of the Actions	
Capacity building for national food regulatory systems	Reflected in Action 4.4
Capacity building for electronic communication systems	Reflected in Action 5.1
Scientific and technical capacities	Reflected in Action 6.1
Harmonization of national legislation with Codex	Reflected in Action 6.1
Identification of Codex standards with the interest of the region	Reflected in Action 3.2
Needs for supports to participate in Codex work and the Strategic Plan: Members expressed that they had difficulties and needed supports in the area of human resources, fund, technical capacities, regional workshops, and mentoring programme for Codex related activities and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan.	Reflected in Action 4.4, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2
The list of experts and institutions: At the 18 th Session, the Committee agreed to continue developing the list of experts and institutions available in the region and share the information on CCP among the Asian countries. The Committee noted that the Coordinator could provide advice to those countries where the CCPs are not active.	Reflected in Action 6.3
Importance of a clear and workable implementation framework and action plan	The Draft Strategic Plan for the CCASIA 2015-2020 (CX/ASIA 14/19/9 Add.1) includes the "Reporting Form of Monitoring of Implementation of Strategic Plan for the Coordinating Committee for Asia." It also proposes to divide Timeframe (2015-2020) into three (2-year term) and to include the "Measurable indicators/output" and "Status of implementations" in its reporting form.