



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twenty-first Session,

Goa, India, 23 – 27 September 2019

## CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 – 2025 – ROAD MAP TO IMPLEMENTATION

### REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. An in-session working group was established by CCASIA21 to consider paper CX/ASIA 19/21/10 and relevant CRDs (3, 9 and 15) and any other relevant information (Agenda items 6 and 8) and to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Plenary on the activities to be implemented in the region in the next two years to support implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (Appendix III of document CX/ASIA 19/21/10).

1.2. The working group was chaired by Indonesia. The Chair reminded participants to consider the information available to them in the relevant CRDs and thanked India, Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand for their input, and reminded participants to focus on activities that were practical and implementable within a two-year framework.

1.3. The chair of the Codex Sub-committee of the CCEXEC on strategic planning provided an overview of the work of the sub-committee and the expectations of CCASIA recalling the importance of inclusivity and collaboration and that all Members had a responsibility for implementation of the new strategic plan. He highlighted the importance of identifying priority areas of work for the region and the need for clarity on time scale and ambition.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

2.1. The discussions were facilitated and undertaken in several phases.

##### ***Phase 1: Identification of the priority goals for CCASIA***

2.2. Members were asked to review goals 1- 4 and identify their highest priority goal based on their experience and needs. Using this approach Goals 1, 2 and 3 were considered as the highest priority. Goal 5 was not considered as CCASIA is not identified as one of the responsible parties for this goal.

2.3. The WG agreed to therefore focus their next round of discussions on Goals 1, 2 and 3.

##### ***Phase 2: Identification of activities***

2.4. Members were split into three sub-groups, each dealing with a different Strategic Goal. Using the information available in CRD 3, 9 and 15 (proposals from Republic of Korea, Thailand, Japan and India) as a starting point. Each group considered practical and feasible activities to be implemented over the next two years and made the following proposals:

Priority Goal	Priority objective	Activities for the period 2020-2021	Rationale for proposed activities	Responsible or lead party	Expected output by 2021	Reporting mechanism
<b>1. Address current, emerging and critical issues in a timely manner</b>	<b>1.1 Identify needs and emerging issues.</b>	1.1.1 Collect information on country's issues and needs on CEC	No information available	Regional Co-ordinator	List of issues and needs of Member countries will be generated	Online <sup>1</sup> Platform
		1.1.2 Identify needs and emerging issues of each country <sup>2</sup>	To understand the needs and emerging issues of each member country	Regional co-ordinator	Compiled list of issues and needs	OP
	<b>1.2 Prioritize needs and emerging issues.</b>	1.2.1 Establish practical criteria based on Codex procedural manual taking consideration of CCFH and CCFICS criteria	The criteria for evaluating and prioritizing emerging issues could be used to assess and prioritize the proposal for new work in terms of the need and appropriateness for the region. (CRD 3)	Regional co-ordinator	Practical criteria will be established	OP
		1.2.2 Collect information on identified issues/needs in order to enable their assessment against the established criteria	This will help to prioritize regional issues and needs	Regional co-ordinator	Compiled list of ranked issues and needs developed	OP
		1.2.3 Prioritize the issues and needs at the regional level	To get an official Codex regional document	CCASIA	Needs and emerging issues prioritized	Plenary
<b>2. Develop standards based on science and Codex risk based</b>	<b>2.1. Use scientific advice consistently in line with Codex risk analysis principles</b>	2.1.1 Arrange capacity building programs to enhance understanding of all countries in the region on the use of scientific information and risk analysis principles  (as presented in CRD 3)	The activities will help improve understanding of all countries in the region on the scientific data needed for drafting standard and risk analysis to manage measures accordance with the risk	RCC/member countries/ FAO/WHO	Enhanced awareness and knowledge of member countries on the use of scientific information and risk analysis principles	

<sup>1</sup> Although this was the idea from the group, the online platform does not allow this so it will be for the regional co-ordinator to establish a mechanism which might be a report from them to CCASIAA

<sup>2</sup> The distinction between 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 is very subtle and consideration could be given to combining these.

<b>principles</b>	<b>2.2 Promote the submission and use of globally representative data in developing and reviewing Codex standards</b>	2.2.1 Assessment of total number of member countries responding to call for data (as presented in CRD 15)	assessment outcome. (as presented in CRD 3) Such an assessment will help provide a picture of member countries who have not been able to submit data, thus providing further  (as presented in CRD 9)	FAO/WHO		
		2.2.2. Encourage relevant parties, e.g. FAO, WHO, experienced Member countries to provide support through capacity building activity. (as presented in CRD 9)	Improvement of capacity to generate data should be made.	FAO/WHO/ Member countries	Increase in submission of robust data by the Asian countries	
	<b>2.3 Promote sufficient and sustainable funding for expert bodies that deliver scientific advice.</b>	2.3.1. Bring this issue to the attention of RCCs by referring to the discussion under the relevant item: Matters arising from CAC (as presented in CRD 9)	This issue should be addressed at every opportunity (as presented in CRD 9)	Codex subsidiary bodies <sup>3</sup>	Raise the Member country's awareness about current situation.	
		2.3.2. Member countries encourage FAO/WHO governing bodies to allocate dedicated funding for scientific advice	This will help keeping funding for scientific advice a high priority for FAO/WHO	Member countries, FAO/WHO	Sustained funding for scientific advice ensured	
<b>3: Increase impact through the recognition and use of</b>	<b>3.1 Raise the awareness of Codex standards</b>	3.1.1. Engagement of stakeholders for participation in Codex matters <i>[Subject to government's policy]</i>	Most stakeholders (industry, academia etc) may not be aware of Codex work.	Member countries	Codex members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Activity report to Codex Secretariat

<sup>3</sup> Some clarity on this would be useful as there is already a standing item on each subsidiary body agenda "matters arising from CAC" for example is the intention is to roll forward a reference to the discussion at CAC42 on the basis of the EU paper in every "matters arising..." paper (for every subsidiary body?) until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the membership of CAC?

<b>Codex standards</b>						or CCASIA Coordinator
		3.1.2. Implement activities(e.g. seminar) to increase awareness of stakeholders on Codex matters	This will help to increase awareness on impact of Codex standards on trade and facilitate adoption Codex standards and therefore facilitate trade	Member countries	Codex members are proactively promoting the use of Codex standards	Activity report to Codex Secretariat or CCASIA Coordinator
	<b>3.2 Support initiatives to enable the understanding and implementation/application of Codex standards</b>	3.2.1 Use of Codex standards as the guidance for development of national food standards	Developing food standards based on Codex standards will help to facilitate international trade e.g. facilitate the setting up of MRAs and acceptance of equivalence as and when necessary	Member countries	Increased use of Codex standards in the development of national food standards and regulations.  Increased use of Codex standards by the food trade.	WTO trade dispute and challenges? <sup>4</sup>
<b>3.3 Recognize and promote the impact of Codex Standards</b>	3.3.1. Develop a regulatory impact assessment programme <sup>5</sup>					

<sup>4</sup> Monitoring the number of trade disputes and challenges on the WTO platform is unlikely to be a useful indicator within a two year period and consideration could be given to identifying another measure, or just role this into the need we identified in the SP itself to design an indicator for this overall objective or the Codex survey on the use of Codex standards could be used

<sup>5</sup> As the indicator for this objective relates to the development of an overarching mechanism to measure impact of Codex standards this could be removed from the regional activities

### **3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1. The WG considered that the above represented an important step towards the identification of the regional contribution to the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan. The challenge in identifying the means by which to monitor and/ or report on activities was considered challenging and identified as an area that needed further thought.

3.2. CCASIA21 is invited to

- i) consider and agree with the priority goals and objectives identified by the working group;
- ii) consider the activities identified by the working group and provide feedback on their refinement and revision such as to ensure their implementation within the next two years; and
- iii) further consider the mechanism by which the implementation on activities will be reported as this is critical to the monitoring of the progress made on the implementation of the strategic plan; and
- iv) finalise the table above for inclusion in the report of this session.