

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 6

CX/ASIA 19/21/8
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twenty first Session

Goa, India 23 - 27 September 2019

CODEX WORK RELEVANT TO THE REGION

(Prepared by the Coordinator)

INTRODUCTION

1. In the last session of CCASIA, India as the Regional coordinator presented the document CX/ASIA 16/20/7 under Agenda Item 6 (Codex work relevant to the region) which provided an analysis of information in respect of the region on: i) participation in Codex meetings since 2014; ii) new work proposals (2014-2016); iii) issues related to Codex work in the region; and iv) availability of data in Codex committees (2014-2016).
2. The committee had detailed discussions on the following topics, viz, Approaches to improve the effectiveness of informal meetings of the CCASIA member countries on the sidelines of Codex meetings; Identifying suitable ways for engagement of eligible countries of the region with CTF for their capacity building; Prioritizing work in the areas of identified specific concerns of the region and initiating regional collaboration; Encouraging countries to jointly prepare and submit new work proposals of common interest.
3. The members had a number of suggestions on each of the above areas and the committee made several recommendations¹ accordingly.
4. To take this initiative further in the current session of the Committee, a questionnaire (**Annex I**) was circulated to collect information from the Asian member countries on the status of Codex activities in the region, and related general / specific issues for the period September 2016 to March 2019.
5. To guide further discussion on the subject matter in the current session of the Committee, this document has been broadly divided into three parts, as follows:
 - Status of activities identified in last session of CCASIA (CCASIA20)
 - Analysis of information received from member countries in response to the questionnaire
 - Conclusions and recommendations for CCASIA

STATUS OF ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF CCASIA (CCASIA20)

6. Based on the discussions and suggestions made by members, the CCASIA20 had agreed to ask the Coordinator to:
 - develop a draft SOP for sharing members' positions, taking into account the SOP developed by CCLAC, for inputs by CCASIA members (the SOP would be informal and would not require adoption or agreement by CCASIA), while retaining the flexibility for country positions;
 - prepare a list of countries willing to provide support to other countries to generate data and try to match it with the identified and prioritized needs of the region;
 - prepare a list of countries willing to help other CCASIA members to prepare the new work proposals.
7. In accordance with the decisions of CCASIA20, a draft standard operating procedure for CCASIA has been prepared by the coordinator (**Annex II**) taking into account the suggestions provided by members and the Coordinator for CCAFRICA, experience gained by India as CCASIA coordinator, and information provided by the Coordinator for CCLAC.

¹Para 71, REP17/ASIA

8. Additionally, the Coordinator also considered the terms of reference for Regional coordinating Committees given in the procedural manual, so as to cover all the responsibilities assigned to the Coordinating Committees and recommendations of the CCASIA20 with regard to supporting countries to generate data as per the prioritized needs of the region as well as to help other CCASIA members to prepare new work proposals (para 71, REP17/ASIA).

9. The draft SOP, prepared by the regional coordinator and shared with the members for their inputs, includes responsibilities of the coordinator and member countries, and suggestive operating procedure to i) facilitate sharing members' positions in the region, ii) help member countries to generate and submit data in line with the prioritized needs of the region and to prepare new work proposal for various Codex committees and; iii) enhance the effective involvement in the Codex and other food safety related work to facilitate trade.

10. As for the areas requiring regional collaboration, viz, data generation and new work proposals, appropriate elements in the draft SOP have been included in anticipation of active member countries agreeing to provide support to other countries in these areas. These elements include proactive identification of issues, ways in which such collaboration may be carried out and specified responsibilities.

ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

11. The information presented in this section is based on responses received from member countries to the questionnaire (Annex I) circulated to the members. It is encouraging to note that 14 member countries responded to the questionnaire for this session as compared to only 9 member countries responding to the questionnaire circulated for the previous session (para 3, CX/ASIA/16/20/7). A brief summary of information received from member countries in response to the questionnaire, and some related information available in other agenda documents of CCASIA21, is given below:

i) Participation of CCASIA member countries in Codex Meetings, EWGs, PWGs etc

12. Codex secretariat has prepared a paper on "Monitoring and Implementation of the Global Codex Strategic Plan 2014-2019 (CX/ASIA 19/21/9), which summarizes the participation of Asia member countries, as follows:

- As regards sessions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, a decrease in the number of delegations, including delegations from the CCASIA region, can be observed in the period 2017-2019
- No increase in participation of Members from CCASIA in meetings of CAC subsidiary bodies can be noted. Codex meetings between January 2017 and June 2019 had on average nine delegations from the CCASIA region (i.e. 38% of the region). The only Committee meetings that were attended by more than half of the CCASIA region in said period were CCNFSDU39 and CCNFSDU40.

13. An increase in the participation of member countries has been observed in the informal meetings of the CCASIA member countries on the sidelines of Codex Committees' meetings.

ii) New work proposals

14. The number of new work proposals that emerged from the region has increased since the last session of CCASIA (2016). There are a total of 16 new work proposals submitted by the member countries since CCASIA 20, as compared to 12 in the last period.

iii) Cross-cutting topics for the region

15. This section lists out information as identified by the member countries on cross cutting issues relevant to the region and possible ways of cooperation amongst CCASIA Members on these issues.

Table 1: Cross-cutting topics for the region

		Possible ways of cooperation
1.	Food safety scares/fake news in social media	i. Creation of information sharing platform for the region to address food safety scares in social media; ii. Mutual discussions amongst members and formulating common communication material on such issues.
2.	Lack of infrastructure and laboratory capacity for testing/analyzing some contaminants in food e.g. methylmercury in fish	CCASIA members who have capability to analyze contaminants supporting other members to generate data and also share information.

		Possible ways of cooperation
3.	Generation, collection and submission of robust data	i. Organizing trainings and workshops aimed at enhancing the capacity of Asian region to generate, collect and submit data; ii. Regional collaboration/mutual support in terms of technical experts and funds for preparing new work proposal and generating scientific data; iii. Submission of more broad based data from the region so that Codex standards and related texts can be more representative of national and regional situations.
4.	Economically motivated adulteration and food fraud	i. Reporting and sharing of information – coordination through existing network(s), if any, or development of a new network for the region;
5.	E-commerce of food	ii. With reference to the ongoing work on Food Fraud in CCFICS and e-commerce/internet sales in CCFL, developing regional positions, as appropriate, with active participation of countries in the region.

iv) General and specific issues concerning codex work

16. This section lists out the general and specific issues as identified by the member countries in response to the Questionnaire circulated.

17. The table 2 lists general issues identified, as under:

Table 2: General issues related to the Codex work

S.No.	General Issues	Remarks
1.	Understanding codex work including Codex Procedural Manual	Some provisions in Codex Procedural Manual need to be further explained
2.	Easy access to Codex Website; Difficulty in using online web tools i.e. OCS and online platform EWG	Use of OCS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Difficulties in using OCS to provide comments ● No specific provision to provide “Rationale” ● <u>Specifying category for general comments in OCS:</u> difficult to specify category as the general comment does not fit in any of the 4 mentioned categories in the OCS ● <u>Providing comments on the information/data presented in the table of the draft document in OCS:</u> Sometimes, tables are not in editable form to record online comments on the same. EWG platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notification regarding a new post in the online EWG platform is not received in the registered mailing address even after subscribing the particular topic.
3.	Difficulties in formulating comments and preparing new work proposals	Training/guidance needed on how to formulate comments and prepare new work proposals.

S.No.	General Issues	Remarks
4.	Instances of a few important discussions especially on the technical issues discussed in the meeting(s) not recorded in the report.	Important matter for stakeholders who have interest in the issue, but not able to attend the Session.
5.	Codex Contact Points (CCP) not able to assist with the registration of the delegation for the 42 nd CAC session via INDICO.	Registration process needs to be simplified so that CCP could register delegates for CAC as it is being done by CCP for other committees through Online Registration System (ORS) on the Codex website.

18. Several specific issues of concern pertaining to various Codex committees identified by the member countries are listed in the Table 3 below:

Table 3: Issue /concern of importance to the region

S.No.	Codex Committee	Issue /concern of importance to the region
1.	CCCF	MLs for aflatoxins in certain cereals and cereal-based products including foods for infants and young children: The new work is to establish MLs for aflatoxins in cereal and cereal-based products including husked and polished rice. Asian region include major rice producing/consuming countries and it is important for Asian region to jointly work on this.
		Establishment of MLs for AFT in RTE Peanuts: This work is under discussion since last 5 years and no progress has been made yet in spite of relevant scientific advice from JECFA. Work needs to be expedited
		Establishment of MLs for AFT in spices: Expediting establishment of MLs for AFT in spices is important for member countries of the region to address trade concerns.
		Establishment of ML for arsenic in different categories of food and methyl-mercury in fish; Microorganism in foods
2.	CCFA	Note 161 and Review of Food Additives in food
3.	CCFH	Proposed Draft Revision of General Principles of Food Hygiene and its HACCP annex: Proposed Draft Revision of General Principles of Food Hygiene and its HACCP Annex is important specifically with reference to its impact on small food businesses in the region
		Histamine in fish and fishery products
4.	CCFICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidelines to address food fraud; • Development of mutual recognition of certification; • Development of a mechanism for regional food trade
5.	CCFL	Development of guidelines on labelling of Non Retail Containers
		Development of Regional standard for Food Labelling: Some labeling requirement may be specific to Asian countries and hence may be developed in order to facilitate intra-regional trade.
6.	CCNFSDU	Development of standard for follow-up formula for older infants: Cross promotion of foods for infants and follow up formula and references to WHO policies/WHA resolutions for such sensitive products
7.	CCPR	Establishment of MRLs of pesticide residues of crops
		Need for new work on the development of guidelines for determination of pesticides as endocrine disruptors and harmonized risk management approaches in respect of their presence in food

S.No.	Codex Committee	Issue /concern of importance to the region
8.	CCGP	Development of criteria and procedural guidance for committees working by correspondence
9.	CCSCH	Development of Codex standards for large cardamom and dried nutmeg
10.	CCFFV	Development of Standard for Ware Potatoes: The work related to this standard has been under discussion since 2012 and needs to be expedited.
		Development of standard for Shallots and Onion;
11.	CCPFV	Need for conducting Physical meeting of CCPFV: There are 5 proposed draft standards from the CCASIA region alone, out of the 7 currently under consideration in the committee. It is felt necessary to conduct a physical meeting of the Committee to facilitate progression of these proposed draft standards to address unresolved issues effectively.
		New work proposal on development of standard for Cashew: Recalling that CCEXEC77 noted the interest in activating the work on cashew kernels and its advice that this could be further discussed in the upcoming FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees (RCCs), the work on this item could be prioritized by CCPFV.

v) Availability of data in the Codex Committees and barriers in its generation and submission

19. 4 member countries² have informed about submission of data in respect of various work areas under the Codex Committees on contaminants in foods, pesticide residues in foods, methods of analysis and sampling, food additives, residues of veterinary drugs in foods.

20. Some member countries also shared a number of reasons which hinder the generation and submission of data, as below:

- Inadequate resource and limited capabilities of testing laboratory;
- Lack of established mechanism for robust data generation and submission facility;
- Lack of ability to ensure the quality of the data in support of the national position;
- Lack of national level online platform for data sharing;
- Difficulties to integrate all the data from different section of the same relevant subject.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS:

21. The Committee is invited to:

- i) consider the draft SOP for CCASIA as attached at Annex II and, if agreed, encourage the region to use the same for strengthening collaborative efforts in the Codex work and for development of the region as a whole;
- ii) discuss and explore ways for progress in areas of cross cutting nature, specifically with reference to the issues identified by member countries and their suggestions in this context as follows:
 - Capacity development in collection and generation of scientific data;
 - Reporting and sharing of information/ coordination in respect of economically motivated adulteration and food fraud;
 - Development of regional positions in the context of e-commerce;
- iii) discuss the general issues identified by the members and consider requesting Codex Secretariat for further action as appropriate with respect to OCS, online EWG forum and INDICO platform;

²India, Indonesia, Japan and Republic of Korea

- iv) explore possibilities of mutual communications and sharing of relevant data/scientific expert advice with other countries for the purpose of:
- developing regional positions;
 - preparing and/or supporting new work proposals;
 - enhancing effective participation in Codex works;
 - supporting further progression of the specific issues related to ongoing Codex work identified by CCASIA member countries in the respective committees thereby fulfilling the needs of the region as a whole.

Codex Work Relevant to the Region: Questionnaire

Members of the Region are requested to provide information related to agenda item “Codex work relevant to the Region”, using the form for the presentation of the information in Annex I, which must be sent to **CCASIA Secretariat** at **codex-india@nic.in** by **no later than June 20th of 2019**.

Members of the Regional Committee are invited to send clear and precise information in order to facilitate the translation of comments.

Name of the Country: _____

Please fill the information as per the questions below with respect to the year 2016-2019 (i.e. September 2016 to March 2019)

1. **Participation of CCASIA member countries in Codex Meetings during this period**
 - i. Number of CAC Sessions attended.....
 - ii. Number of Codex committees’ sessions attended.....
 - iii. Number of ASIA meetings attended by your country at the margins of CAC and its subsidiary bodies’ sessions.....
2. **Participation of CCASIA member countries in PWG and EWG during this period**
 - 2.1 Number of EWG and PWG attended.....
 - 2.2 Number of EWG and PWG chaired by your country.....
 - 2.3 Identify possible causes for lack of participation in EWGs

2.4 Identify possible actions to improve effective participation in EWGs

3. **New Work Proposals**
 - A. Number of new work proposed by your country in all the Codex Committees/ CAC during this period.....
 - B. Status of the new work proposals

Work Proposal	STATUS		Reason for Non-approval/ Delay; if any
	Approved by CAC (with current status in the Step procedure)	Not approved by CAC	

4. **Number of Circular Letters to which comments were provided by different Committees** (There are a total of 218 CLs issued during this period, excluding those pertaining to other regions, list attached at Annex I)-Please use this list to prepare your response.

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5. **Issues related to Codex work in the region during this period**

(a) **General issues related to the Codex work** (include difficulties in accessing the Codex Website, understanding Codex documents, formulating comments, preparing new work proposals, use of online web tools like EWG forum, OCS etc.)

Issues	Reasons

(b) **Issues relevant to CCASIA (work of general committees)**- issues/concerns that the country has currently raised or would like to discuss in the future under particular General Subject Committee. **E.g.:** **CCPR – pesticides (like development of MRLs for products of interest to the Region, revision of Classification of Food and Feed to allow the inclusion of products of interest to the Region); CCCF – contaminants (like establishment of MLs for mycotoxins in food)**

COMMITTEE	ISSUE	REASONS
CCCF		
CCFA		
CCFH		
CCFICS		
CCFL		
CCGP		
CCMAS		
CCNFSDU		
CCPR		

CCRVDF		
TFAMR		

(c) **Specific issues relevant to CCASIA (work of commodity committees) - issues/concerns that the country has currently raised or would like to discuss in the future under particular commodity Committee e.g. development of quality/identity standards for food commodities of interest to the Region.**

COMMITTEE	ISSUE	REASONS
CCCPL		
CCFFV		
CCFO		
CCPFV		
CCS		
CCSCH		

(d) **Any Other Relevant issues (if any):**

6. **Identify cross-cutting topics for the Region. Mentioning in what way CCASIA Members can cooperate to address these.**

7. **Mention in what ways the CCASIA Members can cooperate with the development of these topics.**

8. **In what ways has your participation in Codex meetings benefited your country?**

9. How can Codex work better support the efforts of your country to strengthen food safety?

10. Availability of Data in the Codex Committees (2016-2019)

A. Under which Codex Committees, scientific data has been furnished by your country:

Codex Committee	Agenda under which scientific data was submitted

B. Please identify barriers in generation and submission of data.

PROPOSED INFORMAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR CCASIA

INTRODUCTION

1. FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) is one of the 6 Regional Coordinating Committees established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). CCASIA was established at the 11th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) held in Rome, Italy in July 1976. At present, the Committee members include 24 countries (including Timor-Leste) from the Asian Region (**Appendix**). The main objective of the CCASIA is to promote mutual communication among the Asian members as well as to develop regional standards for certain food products. Since its beginnings in 1978, CCASIA has been working under the purpose of the Codex of protecting the health of the consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

2. As per Rule XI-Subsidiary bodies, Para 1[b (ii)] of the Procedural manual, 25th Edition, Coordinating Committees for regions or groups of countries shall exercise general coordination in the preparation of standards relating to such regions or groups of countries and such other functions as may be entrusted to them.

3. The terms of reference of the Coordinating Committees as given in procedural manual are listed below:

- (a) defines the problems and needs of the region concerning food standards and food control;
- (b) promotes within the Committee contacts for the mutual exchange of information
- (c) on proposed regulatory initiatives and problems arising from food control and stimulates the strengthening of food control infrastructures;
- (d) recommends to the Commission the development of worldwide standards for products of interest to the region, including products considered by the Committee to have an international market potential in the future;
- (e) develops regional standards for food products moving exclusively or almost exclusively in intra regional trade;
- (f) draws the attention of the Commission to any aspects of the Commission's work of particular significance to the region;
- (g) promotes coordination of all regional food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non-governmental organizations within the region;
- (h) exercises a general coordinating role for the region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission;
- (i) promotes the use of Codex standards and related texts by members.

BACKGROUND

4. At CAC38 (2015) India was appointed as Coordinator for Asia for a term of 02 years i.e. 2015-17 and re-appointed as the Regional coordinator for another term of 02 years i.e. 2017-19 at the 40th Session of the CAC (2017).

5. During the 20th session of CCASIA (2016), while discussing approaches to improve effectiveness of informal meetings of the CCASIA member countries on the sidelines of Codex meetings, one of the suggestions made by the members was to develop an SOP, similar to those used by CCLAC, which includes clear procedures for sharing members' positions (para 63, REP17/ASIA). The Committee agreed to ask the Coordinator to develop a draft SOP for sharing members' positions, taking into account the SOP developed by CCLAC, for inputs by CCASIA members (the SOP would be informal and would not require adoption or agreement by CCASIA), while retaining the flexibility for country positions (para 71, REP17/ASIA).

6. The mandate given by the committee to the Coordinator was to develop a draft SOP for sharing members' positions. While developing the draft SOP, the Coordinator considered it more purposeful if the draft SOP took into account the terms of reference given in the procedural manual so as to cover all the responsibilities assigned to the Coordinating Committees and to address decisions of the committee with regard to supporting countries to generate data as per the prioritized needs of the region as well as to help other CCASIA members to prepare new work proposals (para 71, REP17/ASIA).

7. The Coordinator for Asia is thankful to the Coordinator for CCLAC for having shared relevant points of their SOP that has helped in drafting this document.

8. The detailed draft SoP is as under:

SCOPE

1. The Standard Operating Procedure lays down responsibilities and procedures for Coordinator of CCASIA and member countries so as to promote mutual communication and enhance cooperation among member countries in order to facilitate active participation in Codex.

OBJECTIVE

2. The objectives of the SOP are as follows:-

- To facilitate sharing members' positions in the region
- To help member countries:- to generate data and submit in line with the prioritized needs of the region and prepare new work proposals
- To facilitate effective involvement of Member Countries in the work and other food safety related work in the region

RESPONSIBILITIES OF REGIONAL COORDINATOR.

3. In addition to the functions outlined in Codex Procedural Manual, Regional Coordinator will be responsible for the following: -

- i. To facilitate intra-regional collaborations to serve specific work pertaining to region.
- ii. To facilitate the mutual communication among Asian member countries through informal meetings and other means
- iii. To conduct informal meetings of Asian member countries including physical meetings on the side-lines of each Codex Committee meeting and video conferencing
- iv. To present a member country's written position in the plenary session in the absence of their physical participation in the concerned Codex meeting, if requested by the respective member country
- v. Encourage countries to provide support to other countries to generate and submit data.
- vi. Encourage countries to help other CCASIA members to prepare the new work proposal
- vii. To encourage co-chairing of the Coordinating Committee meetings
- viii. To encourage sub-regional groups to take up capacity building programs in food safety
- ix. To develop CCASIA website; Regular maintenance and updation
- x. Organise co-chairing by an expert from least developed country

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

4. Member countries will be responsible for the following: -

- i. Regular and effective communication with other member countries.
- ii. To share relevant information and specific concerns on the Agenda Items with Regional Coordinator
- iii. Active participation in informal CCASIA meetings so that the regional concerns could be raised in the plenary session of the Codex meetings
- iv. Actively engage in collaborative projects for joint monitoring of contaminants/residue levels in foods, which could augment submission of the data at the regional level in a more inclusive manner
- v. Responding to the regional questionnaires circulated by the Regional Coordinator
- vi. Send a formal request to the Regional coordinator for raising their written position in the plenary session of a Codex Committee in the absence of their physical participation
- vii. Share updated Codex contact point information with the Regional Coordinator
- viii. To share the experiences gained with respect to food safety emergency situations and identified critical and emerging issues in the region
- ix. To assist each other in the preparation of the new work proposals including sharing relevant data and scientific expert advice

- x. Sub-regional groups having wider experience in food safety to proactively organise trainings/workshops in other countries of the region.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

<u>Objective 1:</u> To facilitate sharing members' positions in the region-		
Activities	Procedures	Responsible Party
1.1 To share specific concerns with all Asian members in respect of agenda items	Coordinate with all CCPs of Asian region seeking specific concerns on the various agenda items of the Codex meeting	RC (Regional Coordinator)
	Provide specific concern, if any	MC (Member country)
1.2 Agenda for the Informal meetings	Prepare the agenda for the meeting based on the provisional agenda of the Codex meeting and concerns received from member countries	RC
	Circulate of the agenda to all member countries	RC
	Respond to the agenda- concerns/issues	MC
1.3 Organising informal meetings through VC (Video conferencing)	Decide the date and time for the meeting taking into account the time zones, which should be held one week prior to the Codex meeting	RC
	Send invitation to all member countries	RC
	Respond to the Regional Coordinator's invitation	MC
1.4 Organising informal meeting on the sidelines of the Codex meeting	Arrange informal meetings on the side-lines of Codex Committee meetings (Date and venue)	RC
	Send out invitation to all member countries	RC
	Respond to the Regional coordinator's invitation	MC
	Prepare and circulate minutes of the meeting	RC
Based on the discussions held during these informal meetings, common regional concern/position may be formulated by the RC for deliberation in the plenary session		
<u>Objective 2:</u> To help member countries to generate and submit data in line with the prioritized needs of the region and to prepare new work proposal for various Codex committees-		
Activities	Procedures	Responsible Party
2.1 Identification of specific concerns/issues (on which data needs to be generated) in the region	Coordinate with all CCPs of Asian region seeking specific concerns on which data is required and new work proposals are required	RC
	Respond to the Regional coordinator's Communication	MC
	Prepare a list of identified concerns	RC
2.2 To help member countries to generate/submit data	Seek willingness of member countries to help other member countries to generate data	RC/MC

	data/submit on the identified specific area of concern	
	Willing member countries may initiate help to other member countries	MC/willing countries
2.3 To help member countries to prepare new work proposal	Seek willingness of member countries to help other member countries	RC
	Willing member countries in collaboration may organise workshops, training programs, video conferencing etc. to enhance the capacity of other member countries for preparing new work proposals	MC/willing countries
Objective 3: To enhance the effective involvement in the Codex and other food safety related work to facilitate trade:		
Activities	Procedures	Responsible Party
3.1 Capacity building among the Asian countries to strengthen their National Codex structure	Organize/encourage members to participate in workshops/side events	RC
	Encourage member countries with stronger National codex structures and National Food Control system to conduct workshops either with Codex Secretariat/FAO/WHO or on their own	RC/willing countries
	Participate in workshops organized for the member countries for capacity building	MC
3.2 Sub-regional groups having wider experience in food safety to proactively organise trainings/ workshops in other countries of the region	Member countries may seek support from sub-regional groups for capacity building in areas of concern	MC
	Seek willingness of sub-regional groups to help other member countries that need capacity building in identified areas	Willing sub-regional groups/ MC
	Willing sub-regional groups may initiate help to other member countries	MC
3.3 Harmonization with Codex Standards	Seek information from member countries who need support for harmonization of national standards with Codex	RC
	Seek willingness of member countries to help other member countries that need harmonization of national standards with Codex	RC/MC
	Willing member countries may initiate help to other member countries	MC/willing countries
3.4 Sharing of experiences in Food Safety emergency situations and identified critical and emerging issues	Request members to share information regarding incidents and experiences/ learning gained through food safety emergency situations	RC
	Members will share information/ suggestions/experiences on the identified	Member country

	critical and emerging issues to Regional Coordinator	
	<i>(Template may be prepared in which information can be provided by members)</i>	RC
	Compilation and analysis of the information collected to provide a regional overview of commonalities and differences on critical and emerging issues	RC
	All information will be posted on CCASIA website	RC
3.5 Sharing of information to facilitate trade	Member countries to share information and links on relevant national legislation	MC
	All information will be posted on CCASIA website	RC

CODEX MEMBERS IN THE ASIAN REGION

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. Brunei Darussalam
5. Cambodia
6. China
7. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
8. India
9. Indonesia
10. Japan
11. Lao People's Democratic Republic
12. Malaysia
13. Maldives
14. Mongolia
15. Myanmar
16. Nepal
17. Pakistan
18. Philippines
19. Republic of Korea
20. Singapore
21. Sri Lanka
22. Timor-Leste
23. Thailand
24. Vietnam