

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 7.1

ASIA21/CRD10

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

#### Twenty-first Session

Goa, India 23 - 27 September 2019

### STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANT TO CCASIA

(Prepared by Regional Coordinator)

Information was collected from member countries with respect to activities relevant to CCASIA as recognised<sup>1</sup> in the 20<sup>th</sup> session of CCASIA (2016). Responses were received from 12 countries<sup>2</sup>. The status of implementation of these activities is summarized in the table below:

Activity Number		Status
Activity 2.1.2: Encourage engagement of scientific and technical expertise of Members and their representatives in the development of Codex standards		Majority of the responses show that there is involvement of scientific and technical expertise of member countries and their representatives in the development of Codex standards. One country indicated very less or no participation of their scientific and technical expertise.
Activity 2.1.3 Ensure that all relevant factors are fully considered in exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development-		Most of the countries agreed that codex committees utilize all relevant factors while exploring risk management options in the context of Codex standard development. However, a few members were of the opinion that there have been instances wherein all factors were not taken in to consideration.
Activity 2.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO governing bodies to identify the provision of scientific advice as a high priority and allocate sufficient resources for the FAO/WHO expert advice, in particular from FAO/WHO expert bodies such as JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and JEMNU-		Majority of the responses indicated that no interventions were made by the respective member countries at the FAO/WHO governing bodies regarding funding. Two countries (China and Japan) indicated that they provide funding for scientific advice on their own.

<sup>1</sup>Appendix II, CX/ASIA 16/20/8

<sup>2</sup>Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Republic of Korea, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Activity Number		Status
Activity 2.3.1 Encourage developing countries to submit data in response to calls from FAO/WHO expert bodies, through enhanced food safety and nutrition data generation capabilities		Seven countries (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand) indicated that they provide data, while others indicated that they did not provide data for various reasons including lack of capacity to generate such data.
Activity 2.3.2 Encourage FAO and WHO to support programs aimed at enhancing the capacity of developing countries to generate, collect and submit data.		Five countries (Afghanistan, China, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand) informed that one or two initiatives are on-going in their countries, aimed at enhancing capacity development to generate and submit data.  There was also a mention of such support activities being a part of the joint Bhutan, India and Nepal CTF2 on-going project.
Activity 2.3.3 Encourage sustained and continuous participation of technical and scientific experts from developing countries in the work of Codex. -		In general, the responses indicated that there is some level of participation by the technical and scientific experts from countries in the work of Codex. However, several countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Maldives and Sri Lanka, among others) have also indicated that there has not been any increase as such in the participation by their technical and scientific experts.
Activity 2.3.4 Encourage the establishment of and participation in networks of Members to enhance collaboration in the generation of data that can be submitted for review by expert Committees		Majority of the members neither mentioned about existence of, nor their participation in, any such networks in respect of generation of data. One country (Afghanistan) informed about such network being planned to be launched in CAREC. However, one member (China) mentioned having their own system of data generation.
Activity 3.1.1 Encourage Members to develop sustainable national institutional arrangements to promote effective contribution to the Codex standard setting processes.-		All the members who responded indicated existence of established national codex structures. However, three countries (Afghanistan, Bhutan and Cambodia) stated that their national codex structures are not completely functional and require further capacity building.  There was also a mention that capacity building activities in this respect is a part of the joint Bhutan, India and Nepal CTF2 on-

Activity Number		Status
		going project.
Activity 3.1.2 Encourage the use of partnership initiatives to increase effectiveness of participation of developing countries, such as co-hosting of committees and working groups, including the development of guidance documents, building on lessons learned.-		While there has been co-hosting of Codex committees by some countries (India, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand), some other countries indicated their inability to co-host Codex committee sessions due to lack of capacity.
Activity 3.2.1 Encourage FAO and WHO to implement capacity development programs that support the creation of sustainable national Codex-related structures		Majority of the members indicated that there are number of workshops conducted in their country/region for capacity development by FAO/WHO/Codex Secretariat.
Activity 3.2.2 Encourage developing countries to identify and prioritize Codex committees and task forces of significance to them		Majority of the members indicated that they have prioritized Codex committees and many of these countries are participating regularly in such committees.  Two countries (Bhutan and Cambodia) indicated their lack of participation on account of reasons related to lack of capacity including technical expertise. Bhutan also indicated that they will participate in the prioritized committees through the joint Bhutan, India and Nepal CTF2 on-going project.