



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEx COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION**  
**AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

21<sup>st</sup> Session

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**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS**

1. Since last CCFICS, the following tools were produced and are at disposal of member countries:

**FAO Mycotoxin Sampling Tool**

2. As part of its technical assistance to developing countries in mycotoxin prevention and control, FAO has developed a Mycotoxin Sampling Tool, providing support in analysing performance of sampling plans, and determining the most appropriate plan to meet user's defined objectives. It allows for inclusion of additional mycotoxin-commodity combinations as well as new functions in future versions of the tool. The Tool includes a User Guide which provides step by step guidance for its use over 24 mycotoxin-commodity combinations.

3. The tool has been finalized and is freely available at: [www.fstools.org/mycotoxins](http://www.fstools.org/mycotoxins).

**FAO/WHO Histamine sampling tool**

4. Following the recommendation by the FAO/WHO joint Expert Meeting on the Public Health Risks of Histamine and other Biogenic Amines from Fish and Fishery Products (Rome on 23-27 July 2012), FAO and WHO have developed a tool to support decision-making related to the establishment and/or use of sampling plans for detection of histamine. The tool provides support in two main areas related to sampling for histamine, i.e. designing a sampling plan, and analysing the performance of a sampling plan.

5. The FAO/WHO histamine sampling plan tool is a free resource tool and is available at: [www.fstools.org/histamine](http://www.fstools.org/histamine)

6. In addition, a number of tools and approaches are currently being developed to enable countries to better implement relevant Codex recommendations, guidelines and standards.

**Food control system assessment tool**

7. As announced during CAC in 2012, FAO has continued its work on a tool to assess national food control systems, on the basis of the recently adopted CAC/GL 82-2013 "Principles and guidelines for national food control systems". In 2013, WHO has developed a gap assessment tool focusing on the public health aspects of the food safety system. Both organizations are now working together to combine these tools so that countries have a means to assess, in structured, transparent and measurable ways, the performance of the food safety system across the whole food chain, to identify priority areas for capacity development as well as to measure and evaluate progress over time. In doing so, account is taken of the complexity of the full system and emphasis is given to a multidisciplinary approach required for such a system to perform appropriately.

8. The tool is conceived to be eventually operated in the context of self assessment or with the support of adequately trained facilitators. While the tool is not conceived for an external entity or trading partner to assess a given country, or make direct comparison between countries, countries themselves may decide to use the tool as a way to demonstrate their performance, and thus facilitate the dialogue with trading partners.

9. FAO is working with food safety officials in the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Morocco, and Zambia to apply and field test the approach. The results of this field testing will be used to revise the first version of the tool, and support the development of indicators. A joint FAO/WHO field testing should take place in Iran in the last quarter of 2014 or first quarter of 2015.

**FAO guidance on risk based imported food controls**

10. This work had been initiated in 2012, based on Codex CCFICS guidance (CAC/GL 47-2003, and other relevant texts) on that matter. A number of developing member countries expressed the need to benefit from practical guidance on how to apply a risk based approach to the specific context of imported food controls. This guidance explores the different tools that can be used and combined (e.g. within the country of origin of the imported food, at the border, and in the country of destination) to achieve risk based controls and optimize the use of the available resources. It explains the different Codex principles in this particular context, provides support to countries to assess their particular situation and needs. This guidance shall be used to develop tailor-made country approaches and programmes, choosing from and combining the different tools, to fit each country or regions' needs. This FAO guidance will be published in the first quarter of 2015.

**Evidence-informed risk management decisions considering multiple criteria**

11. Work by FAO is continuing to develop guidance materials and a methodology to support food safety risk managers in making evidence – informed decisions and policies. This will guide on the collection and analysis of data, to consider a range of nationally relevant factors as a basis for sound, transparent decision-making, ranging from public health to economic and livelihood concerns to food security. A key pillar of this work is to use the multi-criteria decision making approach (MCDA) to ensure that food safety decisions take account of all relevant criteria, a clear overview of the costs, and understand the implications and consequences of food safety decisions.

12. To ensure practical and globally relevant guidance is developed, a number of activities are being implemented in parallel. Two pilot studies in Uganda and Thailand are ongoing to test the use of multi-criteria decision analysis. In Uganda, setting food safety priorities was the focus, while in Thailand the focus is to determine most effective risk management options to address pesticide residues in fresh fruits and vegetables.

13. The results from these pilot studies will be considered alongside the results of an FAO technical meeting "Evidence-informed food safety risk management decisions and policies", held in November 2013. Draft guidance will be ready by the end of 2014, and will be further tested and shared with a broader number of countries through regional workshops in East Africa and a selected group of countries in the Asia region.

14. The work is supported by the EU-funded Programme Global Governance for Hunger Reduction. Further information is available at: <http://www.foodsec.org/web/what-we-do/food-safety/overview/en/>

**Guidance materials on food safety management systems: GHP and HACCP**

15. FAO is completing work on a resource package for trainers to support the application of GHP and HACCP systems in food businesses. As materials are finalized they can be viewed at <http://www.sp-lab.net/fao/GHP2014/>. This work has been undertaken in light of the challenges that certain small and less developed businesses face in developing adequate food safety management systems including HACCP systems.

16. The resource package will include relevant materials and tools developed by government and private sector groups with a focus on providing guidance to small and less developed businesses. At the recently convened Conference HACCP-the Road Ahead (hosted by the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) support was expressed for expanding this work.

**FAO/WHO work on dealing with food safety emergencies**

17. FAO and WHO continue to assist countries in addressing food safety emergencies, including the publication of guidance documents with global application and follow up at country level to strengthen national systems and capacities. Recently, this has included the provision of technical input to discussions and initiatives addressing risks from foods of animal origin including Ebola and bush meat, MERS-CoV, and H7N9. Technical assistance on how to manage food safety during natural disasters such as cyclones and floods has been provided to the Philippines, Tonga and Solomon Islands in line with available WHO guidance material.

18. Achievements in 2013 include the further strengthening of countries' capacity to prepare and respond to food safety emergencies, improvement of and food safety information sharing between countries/areas, also through the strengthening of regional initiatives, e.g. in Asian region. An annual INFOSAN report will be published shortly.

**Early warning – rapid alert systems applicable to food safety**

19. FAO convened a meeting in October 2013 for global experts to gain an up to date understanding of early warning surveillance systems and rapid alert networks. Two technical reports ("Structured review and expert opinion on early warning and rapid alert systems applicable to food safety" and "Horizon scanning and

foresight: an overview of approaches and possible applications in food safety”) prepared for the meeting will be available on line shortly. A key message from the meeting was the need to develop training materials for countries to assist them with evaluation, development and prioritising early warning surveillance activities.

20. FAO and AU-IBAR are organising a regional workshop for East Africa to be held in Kenya in October 2014, on improving food safety early warning surveillance systems and rapid alert networks. WHO and UNIDO are invited to partner at this event. This is an important initiative in the context of the AU initiative on food and feed safety.

### **Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

21. The WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (WHO-AGISAR) has published in 2012 a guidance document to provide WHO Member countries with a framework to implement national programs to monitor antimicrobial resistance along the food chain through an integrated approach, fostering cross sectoral collaboration. The guidance is now available at: [http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/foodborne\\_disease/agisar\\_guidance/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/foodborne_disease/agisar_guidance/en/index.html)

### **Regional and national activities**

22. Besides the production of tools, FAO and WHO supports national authorities setting modern food control systems through a variety of capacity development activities, including on how to develop and implement risk based inspection programmes.

23. A list with latest selected regional and national activities relevant to the work of CCFIS is provided below.

### **Africa**

#### Activities:

- FAO/ILSI Regional training course on Food Safety Risk Assessment ( Johannesburg, South Africa, 17-18, 2014)
- FAO Regional Codex training organized in Addis Ababa - Ethiopia ( May 15-16, 2014 ) and during which the Africa region identified 5 food products to be evaluated if they could be presented by CCAFRICA as new work for the development of regional standards.
- Pilot assessments by FAO of new national food control system assessment tool: in Zambia (October 2013- May 2014); Morocco (November 2013 – March 2014); the Gambia and Sierra Leone: ongoing.
- WHO Global Food Infections Network refresher training course of laboratory-based foodborne disease surveillance for microbiologists and epidemiologists West Africa and selected Central African countries (Cameroon, October 2013)

#### Projects:

- WHO has provided support for the elaboration of national food safety action plans in Mali.
- WHO has also undertaken a series of trainings of food inspectors on risk based food inspection in Togo.

### **Asia**

#### Activities:

- Regional Workshop for Asian Countries on Hygiene and Safety in Food Retail (Singapore 12-14 September 2013) organised by FAO in collaboration with National Environment Agency, Singapore
- Regional Consultation Workshop on Implementation of GMP/HACCP in Asia – a status review (Bangkok 23-25 June 2014) jointly organised by the FAO and Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Switzerland
- Regional Training Workshop on Food Recall and Traceability-Application in National Food Safety Control (15-17 February 2013, Chiang Mai) organised by FAO under (GCP/RAS/280/JPN)
- Regional training workshop on “Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols” (scheduled Manila, Philippines 11-12 September 2014) to be organised by FAO under (GCP/RAS/280/JPN)
- FAO Regional Training Course: Strengthening Capacity in Data Collection and Generation for Food Safety Risk Analysis (10-13 June 2013, Tokyo, Japan) organised by FAO under (GCP/RAS/280/JPN)
- Review of the risk based framework of imports control in India and national workshop- June to September 2013.

- FAO National Training Workshop: “Strengthening Food Standard Setting and participation in Codex activities in Cambodia” (Phnom Penh, Cambodia 19-21 February 2014)
- National “Stakeholders workshop in food standards and food safety control systems: strengthening coordination activities in Indonesia” (Indonesia 29-30 April 2014) organised by FAO
- National “Stakeholders workshop in food standards and food safety control systems: strengthening coordination activities in Laos” (Laos PDR 9-11 June 2014) organised by FAO
- WHO Meeting on Strengthening INFOSAN and National Food Control Systems in Asia (Philippines, December 2013)

#### Publications:

- Training Manual: Implementing ASEANGAP in the fruit and Vegetable Sector: its Certification and Accreditation (FAO/RAP Publication 2014/02)
- Guidance on Hygiene and safety in Food Retail Sector (FAO/RAP Publication 2014/--)
- A Regional Guidance on Criteria for GMP/HACCP for Asian Countries (FAO/RAP Publication 2014/-- - to be published)
- Report of the FAO Training Workshop: Food Recall and Traceability-Application in National Food Safety Control (GCP/RAS/280/JPN Field Document No. 3/2014)
- Report of the FAO Regional Workshop for Asian Countries on Hygiene and Safety in Food Retail (held 12-14 September 2013, Singapore)
- WHO- Enhancing food safety by strengthening food inspection systems in ASEAN countries –Case studies on inspection and certification.

#### Projects:

- FAO- GCP/RAS/280/JPN Regional Project; Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries
- FAO- GCP/RAS/281/FRA Regional Project; Promotion of rural development through development of Geographical Indications at regional level in Asia
- FAO-TCP/RAS/3501 Regional Project; Development of Standards and Scheme for Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Implementation and Certification in countries of SAARC
- FAO- GCP/BGD/047/NET National project; Improving food safety in Bangladesh
- FAO- GCP/BGD/054/USA National project; Institutionalization of Food Safety in Bangladesh for Safer Food
- FAO - TCP/MYA/3401 National project; Capacity building to improve market access for fish and fishery products
- FAO - TCP/NEP/3402 National Project; Policy assistance for bio-secure agro-food supply chain for enhanced market access & food security for small holding rural sector (Nepal)
- FAO - MTF/NEP/068 National Project; Enhancing Sanitary & Phytosanitary capacity of ginger exports through PPP (Nepal)
- FAO- UTF/LAO/018/LAO National Project; Technical Assistance for the Further Development of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) related Legal Framework in the Lao PDR
- FAO- TCP/BHU/3401 National Project; Strengthening of Food Safety and Standards in Bhutan
- FAO- TCP/MON/3401 National Project; Strengthening capacity of Mongolia to implement Codex
- FAO- UNJP/VIE/052/UNJ National project; Strengthening Vietnamese SPS capacity for trade ‘Improvement of safety and quality of fresh vegetables through the value chain approach’
- WHO- Assistance in food inspection (China)
- WHO- Support for defining of core capacity of food safety inspectors and develop postgraduate training programme on food safety and capacity building for INFOSAN in Mongolia
- WHO- Piloting surveillance for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in aquaculture sector in Vietnam.

**Europe****Activities**

- FAO/WHO Training workshop on strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex work for the Balkan countries, supported by the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund (Zagreb, Croatia, 04-06 June 2013)
- FAO/CCEURO Regional Consultation on strengthening capacities for food safety risk analysis and enhancing participation in Codex work (Pulawy, Poland, 18 September 2013)
- FAO Regional Training Workshop for CIS countries “WTO Accession and agricultural policies” (Kiev, Ukraine, 12-14 November 2013);
- FAO training workshop on food safety hazards, pre-requisite programs (GMP and GHP) and food safety systems based on hazard analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 27-29 November 2013);
- FAO/EBRD Public-private dialog on improving food safety and quality in Georgia (Tbilisi, 24 January 2014)
- FAO training workshop on food safety hazards, pre-requisite programs (GMP and GHP) and food safety systems based on hazard analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, 19-21 February 2014);
- Study visit of experts from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to food processing enterprises organized by FAO in collaboration with Ministry of Food, Agriculture and livestock of Turkey (Ankara, 28 April – 02 May 2014)
- Regional FAO/WHO workshop on Enhancing Risk Communication Capacity in Food Safety (Budapest, Hungary, 03-06 June 2014)
- FAO/WHO pre-CCEURO workshop “*Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex with emphasis on chemical food safety*”, 29 September 2014, Hague, Netherlands (in preparation)
- WHO National meeting on AMR from a food safety perspective to close, present and discuss results from an AGISAR project in Kosovo (Kosovo, March 2014).
- WHO National Intersectoral Workshops on Food Safety (Albania, December 2013; Serbia, May 2014)

**Projects**

- GCP/SEC/010/TUR - Capacity development in food safety risk management of food processing enterprises and national authorities in Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of (October 2013-February 2015)
- TCP/TUR/3501 – Capacity development of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey in food safety risk analysis framework (August 2014-March 2015)
- TCP/MOL/3402 – Strengthening food safety system in Moldova (July 2014-December 2015)
- GCP/RER/048/EST – More attention to rye (September 2014-March 2015)
- FAO-EBRD project (in preparation) - Georgia: Improving Food Safety through Capacity Building and Assessment of the Legal and Market framework on Geographical Indications (GIs) in the Dairy Sector
- WHO- assistance in strengthening the food safety infrastructure in Albania

**Latin America****Activities:**

- Technical assistance mission in Georgetown Guyana headquarters, within the context of triangular cooperation, in order to conduct a diagnosis of the status of food safety, animal and plant health, and present recommendations on the next steps in the organization and management of CAHFSA (FAO/AGCI, Guyana, April 2013)
- Regional Workshop on “Methods for detection and enumeration of pathogenic *Vibrio* spp in bivalve molluscs” ( FAO/ILSI/Kyoto University/ISP, Chile, December 2013)
- Workshop: National Strategy of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) in food safety and Quality, Focused in the consumer ( FAO/RLC, Colombia, February 2014)

Projects:

- TCPF/CUB/3401 Assistance for the analysis and implementation of a National Strategy on Food Safety Risk Analysis.
- National Project UTF/CHI/033/CHI “Strengthening the management of Chilean food safety agency (ACHIPIA)” : National e- learning course have been delivered through of "Núcleo de Capacitación" to strengthen systems of Inspection, Monitoring and Control Systems (PIA course 2013). Argentina and Chile, May 27 – August 19, 2013); Training Workshop: The assurance of the analytical results for the food safety and quality. (FAO/RLC, Chile, July 2013) ; National Seminar: "Risk Analysis, a Global Look". (FAO/RLC, Chile, July 2013); Risk Communication Workshop in food safety for journalists and communicators. (FAO/RLC, Chile, December 2013); National Workshop "Methodology for the Internal Validation of Microbiological Test Methods in Food". (FAO/RLC, Chile, March 2014); National Workshop on " Risk Management of campylobacteriosis and salmonellosis in chicken meat". (FAO/RLC, Chile, July 2014)
- National Project UTF/COL/039/COL “technical support to the Ministry of Health (MSPS) in the implementation process of OSAN and Food Safety” National Workshop based in risk inspection. (FAO/RLC, Colombia, December 2013); National e- learning course have been delivered through of "Núcleo de Capacitación" to strengthen systems of Inspection, Monitoring and Control Systems (PIA course 2014). (FAO/RLC, Colombia, March 10 – May 2, 2014)
- Technical support to Latin America Pesticide Data Generation Project (STDF/PG/436) for strengthening regional capacity to meet pesticide export requirements based on international standards (Codex MRLs)
- FAO TCP project support food safety management within the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock

Near East

**2013** UAE May to December, 2013:

- FAO-TCP/UAE/3401. National project. “*Promoting Food Safety in UAE*” (containing recommendations for harmonization of risk-based controls for food import and export procedures of seven emirates). (UAE, May to December, 2013).
  - o Development of a tool *FFSI: Federal Food Safety Index* (inc. import and export controls).
  - o Development of a tool *WAI: Work Assessment Index* to assess the remits and capacity of the Central Competent Authority (including recommendations for its strengthened remit in risk-based controls for food import and export).
- WHO- Regional consultation on development of food law guidelines (Jordan, October 2013)
- WHO- Training workshop on building food safety capacity in Oman (Oman, December 2013)
- WHO- Regional consultation on anti-microbial resistance (Egypt, November 2013)

**2014** UAE May to December, 2014: foreseen activities.

- FAO-SNG. Continuing support for National project; backstopping and advising Ministry of Environment and Water in the process of implementation of the FFSI (including risk-based import and export procedures of seven emirates). (UAE, May to July).
- National workshop. “*Harmonization of Food Safety Controls*” (inc. risk-based import and export controls). (Dubai, September).
- FAO/WHO/MOEW International workshop (with CTF support for qualifying Near East / Arab countries). “*Best Practice in International Food Safety Governance*” (inc. risk-based import and export controls). (Dubai, November).

Pacific

Activities:

- A FAO/WHO review of the safety of kava as a water based beverage
- FAO Assessment en capacity building needs in Solomon Islands and Tonga, formulation of technical cooperation projects to strengthen National Food control capacity.
- Formulation by FAO of projects on food safety and food inspection in the Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati

Projects ( ongoing ):

FAO - TCP/MIC/3302: Strengthening of Food Control System – second phase has been approved for implementation in July 2014.

WHO - Technical assistance on risk-based food inspection training and provision of food inspection equipment in Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands (completed) and Tonga (completed).