

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.org](http://www.codexalimentarius.org)

Agenda Item 6

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA**  
**Twenty-second Session**  
**Virtual**  
**12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 21 October 2022**

**CODEX COMMUNICATION WORK PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT**

*(Prepared by Codex Secretariat and the Regional coordinator)*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

CCASIA21 acknowledged the importance of prioritizing regional Codex communications and adopted a regional communications work plan 2020-2021<sup>1</sup> with the objectives of establishing clear communication channels and communicating the value of Codex Standards in the region. This work plan was linked to the efforts of the region to support implementation of Strategic Goal 3 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”; in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards”. This paper highlights the progress made on implementation of the regional communications work plan and proposes that the region maintain such a work plan moving forward.

## 2. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

### Objective 1 Establish clear, communication channels

The Regional Coordinator has worked to establish better communication among members in the region by means of organizing more frequent zoom meetings and keeping daily contact through emails.

It is also important that Members ensure that the official contact detail of their CCP<sup>2</sup> are up to date as this ensures that they receive formal communications from the Codex Secretariat. Updates can be provided directly to [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org).

CCASIA21 set a target that by CCASIA22 75% of Members/Observers surveyed would indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”. To facilitate receipt of information on this a very short survey has been developed. Members are encouraged to complete this survey at: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aMQ6Ffir0ESB\\_dnbFeOvli3MZVgAaBFGnrgcWC\\_Bzm5pUQzM1Njc5WIFJRENCQVY2OVlxTIQxMVZEMy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aMQ6Ffir0ESB_dnbFeOvli3MZVgAaBFGnrgcWC_Bzm5pUQzM1Njc5WIFJRENCQVY2OVlxTIQxMVZEMy4u), which will only take 2-3 minutes and the results will be provided during the discussion on Agenda Item 6.

### Objective 2: Communicate the value of Codex standards in the region

The proposed activities under this objective primarily related to sharing information related to success stories in the region, stories on food safety, standards work or capacity development initiatives in the region and activities undertaken under Codex Trust Fund (CTF) projects. There has been a concerted effort in the region to document and communicate activities through the preparation of short web stories that have been subsequently published on the CCASIA news page<sup>3</sup> on the Codex website. This has been steadily increasing year on year and has been achieved through the commendable efforts of Member countries, WHO and FAO.

Over the past three years World Food Safety Day had provided a strong incentive to raise awareness on food safety and share information on national and regional initiatives. At least fifteen countries in the region have shared stories over the past three years, multiple stories coming from some countries<sup>4</sup>. In this context the region has reached its target of 50% of countries contributing to news items World food Safety Day was the major driver. Stories also covered technical areas such as progress in legislation or a specific area such as antimicrobial resistance. This latter area is one where there is the opportunity for further expansion as it also provides valuable information about key achievements in the members on food safety issues, beyond

<sup>1</sup> REP20/ASIA Appendix IV

<sup>2</sup> List of CCASIA CCPs: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/codex-regions/ccasia/members/en/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/codex-regions/ccasia/about/en/>

<sup>4</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Timor Leste

awareness raising and training. There is also the opportunity for more countries in the region to share their experience.

There have been eight CTF recipient countries in the region. Of those (Cambodia, Bhutan India, Maldives, Nepal, and Timor-Leste) have shared at least one story of an initiative or progress in the region.

### **Conclusion and recommendation**

In general, the region has made good progress on communications since CCASIA21 with more than half the region engaged in communications. World Food Safety Day, the Codex Trust Fund and other FAO and WHO have been key to making this progress. Moving forward efforts should be made to continue to build in communications to all initiatives to maintain this situation as well as engage other members in the region to share their experiences.

In this context, it is recommended that CCASIA22:

- renew its commitment to the Communications work plan, as updated in Annex 1;
- continue its efforts to develop a truly regional network; and
- continue to communicate on and promote its food safety and standard setting efforts and successes.

## ANNEX 1

## PROPOSED REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WORK PLAN 2022-2024

The table shows the objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the CCASIA Regional Communications Work plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goal 3 in the Codex Strategic Plan 2020-2025 “Increase impact through the recognition and use of Codex standards”; in particular objective 3.1 “Raise the awareness of Codex standards’.

Objectives	Activities	Responsible party	Targets	Indicators
1. 1. Establish clear, communication channels	1.1. Consolidate and improve information flow and exchange between countries and Codex Secretariat (CS) 1.2. Establish simple and rapid communications methods (e.g. discussion group on Codex EWG forum)	1.1 Member Countries and CS 1.2 Regional Coordinator (RC), Member Countries and CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By CCASIA23, 80% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”</li> </ul>	Number of survey responses rating regional communications “excellent” or “good”
2. Communicate the value of Codex engagement and use of standards in the region	2.1. Provide CS with monthly drafts of web stories capturing food safety, standards work or capacity building initiatives in the region 2.2. Promote regional success stories and initiatives in conjunction with CS and FAO/WHO 2.3 Liaise with Codex Trust Fund beneficiary countries in the region to communicate on every phase of CTF projects	2.1 Member Countries, RC 2.2 CS, RC, FAO/WHO 2.3 CTF Beneficiary Countries, FAO/WHO, CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By CAC45, 10 news items from countries in the region published</li> <li>By CCASIA23, 30 news items from countries in the region</li> <li>By CCASIA23, 60% of countries in the region have continued to make a contribution to Codex news on the regional webpage</li> </ul>	Number of CCSIA news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution