



## Agenda Item 9(b)

**CX/ASIA 10/17/11  
November 2010**

### **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA**

Seventeenth session

Bali, Indonesia, 22 – 26 November 2010

### **OUTCOMES OF CODEX TRUST FUND MID-TERM REVIEW**

*(Replies to CL 2010/42-ASIA of Japan)*

#### **JAPAN**

#### **Question 1: Should there be a shift in emphasis from Objective 1 to Objectives 2 and 3?**

- *Members are asked to clarify their expectations and advise on where the emphasis should be placed for their region. Should the amount of support apportioned to each objective be equal? What eligibility criteria should be used to give support to Codex members on activities related to Objectives 2 and 3? Any relevant considerations for FAO and WHO to consider in developing the process to give increased emphasis to Objectives 2 and 3 are invited.*

Objective 1 should be maintained to support for wide participation from developing countries, while Japan considers it appropriate to shift focus gradually to Objectives 2 and 3, to increase active/effective participations.

Given that the CTF's money is quite limited, allotment of fund cannot be in equal among three objectives. In the present time, more money still needs to the objective 1.

To the particular question on eligibility criteria for objectives 2 and 3, we need to select committees and identify high priority areas of countries' interest. For example, an ongoing issue currently discussed in the CCCF, regarding mycotoxin in staple foods was actually discussed a decade ago. Due to lack of data, the discussion was discontinued. To avoid repeating the same history, the CTF can select countries which have great interest in the subject concerned, taking into account impact on food trade, consumption of products and consumer health. In this case, the CTF assistance can specifically focus on data generation, statistics and preparation of country position.

#### **Question 2: If yes, what is the "niche" for the Codex Trust Fund?**

- *Members are requested to advise on their vision and priorities for the scope of CTF funded capacity development activities (e.g. negotiation skills, strengthening Codex structures, developing national positions etc.) and what would be suitable mechanisms for delivery of the capacity-building activities? –networks of excellence, South-South cooperation, research studies etc.*
- *When advising FAO and WHO on the niche/scope, the Committee is requested to clearly suggest possible activities based on past experience and successful approaches in the region. It may include identifying regional or national institutions who could partner with the CTF in future activities.*
- *Members are also requested to consider how CTF supported activities to build capacity in Codex are integrated (rather than separate activities) to overall development of food safety and food control systems at country and regional level. Consideration could be given to other ongoing activities in the region to strengthen effective participation in Codex, such as FAO/WHO activities in the region, or other bilateral activities.*

Generally, in the lack of adequate food safety strategy/capacity at national level, it is quite difficult for countries to develop clear country position for Codex.

In this sense, in addition to training programmes for objectives 2 and 3, comprehensive training programmes should be implemented to look at overall development of food safety and food control system. Such programmes should be mainly undertaken by FAO and WHO with their budgets and funds from other donors

(e.g. World Bank, African Union, IICA, for development), but NOT from CTF. Regional training programmes e.g. south-south cooperation and research studies is welcome.

Multi-funding mechanisms are more reasonable in providing sustainable/comprehensive training programmes. FAO/WHO should preferably develop more close cooperation with other UN agencies and relevant organizations for development.

To enhance scientific/technical participation in Codex (Objective 3), we may need a mechanism to enhance participation of scientists from the beneficiary countries to FAO/WHO Expert Consultations; it may be inevitable to ask the governments of the beneficiary countries for help during the process of roster of experts. The countries should be reminded that enhancing the capacity to generate scientific data and information usable in Codex is the countries' responsibility and its benefit.

In relation to the present issue, FAO/WHO Regional Committees should play more active role under the Terms of Reference points (a), (b) and (e). FAO and WHO should make full use of regional committees as communication channels to deliver their capacity building activities to countries as well as to obtain demands of countries so that they can prepare programmes which would be more effective in each region.

***Question 3: Should there be a mechanism to continue support for physical participation for those who need it most (including graduates who cannot sustain participation)?***

- *What is the opinion of the Committee on the need for a mechanism to address the issue of reduced physical participation of graduate countries (most in need), who have demonstrated effective participation in decision making in Codex, but are unable to identify funds to support continued participation.*

FAO and WHO may wish to explore a possible mechanism (external funding) applied to graduate countries. There is great demand from developing countries to protect the same level of their participation after graduation from CTF. African Union and/or other UN agency (for development) including non-profitable foundations may be of candidate external sources. In case external funding is sought, FAO and WHO should develop guidance to ensure transparency, impartiality and confidence of the use of such external fund.

***Question 4: Should there be re-consideration of the criteria for allocation of support?***

- *What additional criteria might be used to guide the CTF in allocating support across the 3 different objectives?*

In principle, the current criteria on the selection of eligible countries are adequate and there is no need to amend it.

It is still worthwhile supporting travel costs to workshops and/or training programmes to be held in conjunction with codex regional committees or other codex technical committees, even to graduate countries or those to be graduated.

FAO and WHO may wish to consider setting a transition period for facilitating smooth graduation. For example, for a certain short period (1-2 years) after graduation, partial funding can be provided to developing countries, upon their requests, taking into account difficulty in self-funding.

***Question 5: Should the lifespan of the Codex Trust Fund be extended?***

- *What are the views of the Committee on this issue? and what are the issues to be measured in your region to evaluate the impact of the CTF?*

Japan concurs with CCEXEC in its statement that, prior to making any decision on expansion of CTF lifespan, we should consider how to evaluate effectiveness of CTF. More visible and clearer results of evaluation are necessary to raise more funds from donor countries for the remaining five years of the CTF.

Concerning objective 1, FAO and WHO should identify countries that demand continuation of financial assistance for their participation, as well as potential capability of self-funding of these countries.

Concerning objectives 2 and 3, to strengthen overall participation /technical, scientific participation, monitoring of contribution of the beneficiary to the food regulation in its country and some aftercare may be useful.