CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

**Agenda Item 10**

**CX/ASIA 14/19/11**
**October 2014**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**

**FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA**

***Nineteenth Session***

***Tokyo, Japan, 3 – 7 November 2014***

**CODEX ISSUES RELATED TO THE REGION**

Prepared by the Coordinator

## Introduction

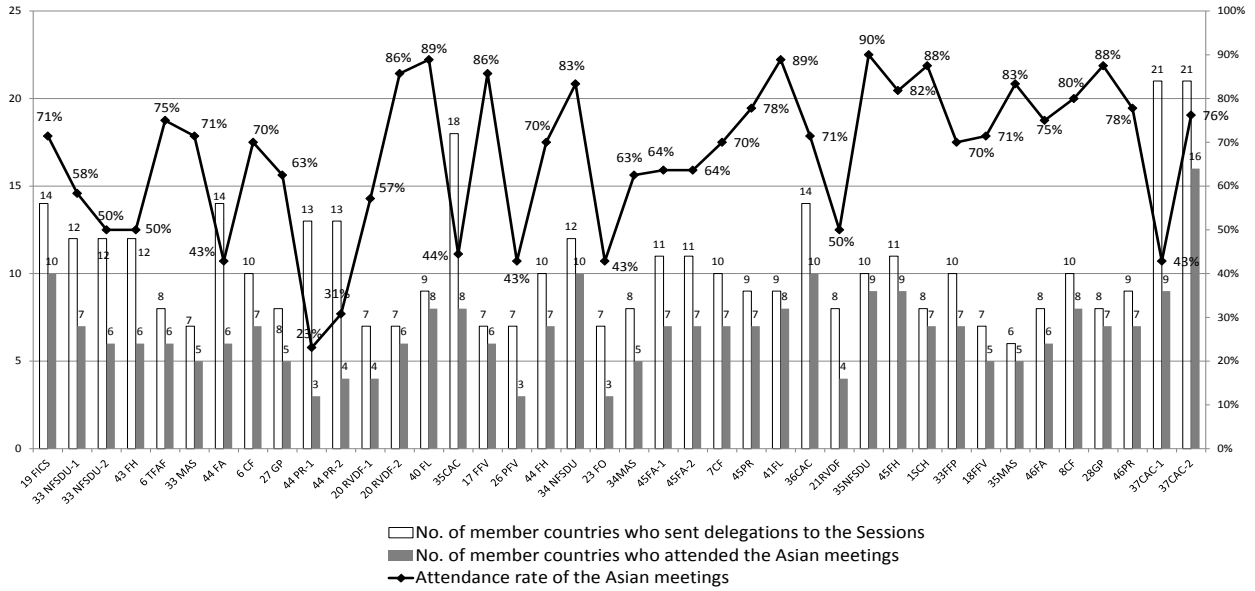
1. The CCASIA16 agreed to add to its agenda, as a standing agenda item, the discussion of "Issues Relevant to the Region" in order to facilitate the development of regional positions, and to request the coordinator for the region to prepare a paper on this subject for consideration at the next session.

2. A Questionnaire was sent from CCASIA Coordinator requested member countries to provide comments and information on activities to increase the participation of the informal meeting of CCASIA and Codex issues relevant to the region to identify common concerns and/or interests in the Asian region. Seven countries; India, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand, sent comments/information in response to the questionnaire.

## Comments on Question 1.1

**Q1.1 Please describe the activities, which the Coordinator and/or the member countries need to do, to increase the participation of the informal meetings of CCASIA members prior to the plenary session of Codex Committees.**

3. Japan as a former CCASIA Regional Coordinator provided a chart presenting the level of participation of Asian countries in all Codex meeting during 2011-2014 (see below). The chart showed the percentage of countries participated in the informal meeting of CCASIA ranging from 23% to 90%.




4. The seven countries suggested activities to increase the participation of the informal meeting of CCASIA members which include:

- Coordinator invites and encourages all members to actively participate in CCASIA informal meeting. The time, date and venue of the meetings should be informed well in advance to the CCASIA Members.
- Coordinator communicates to countries who cannot attend Codex meeting and requests to get their concerns and comments.
- The Coordinator should identify the agenda items that are important and also identify the concerns which may have regional connotations.
- All countries who attend Codex meeting should participate in CCASIA informal meeting and provide their concerns and comments.
- Internal communication in each country between CCP and delegation to Codex meeting is needed.
- The informal meeting should attempt to get common regional positions.
- A record note of discussions should be prepared and circulated to the Members for subsequent sessions.
- All the stakeholders must be involved in developing a mutually agreed upon proposal including development of priority areas so that fair trade is ensured within the region.
- Discussion of relevant issues of common interest e.g. labeling, ethnic food, within the region which are in the agenda of CCASIA
- Discussion on Harmonization of standards e.g. FOP among member countries
- Discussion on the use of Codex standards, food safety and control systems, common requirements for import and export
- More capability building activities on risk analysis, strengthen/establish website linkage and exchange of information on food safety issues, and follow-up workshop on standards development

**Comments on Question 1.2**

**Q.1.2 Please describe interests and/or concerns that you have related to the Codex work currently undertaken or you would like to discuss in the future.**

**Table 1: Summary of issues of interests and/or concerns replied from members.**

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars (ready-to-drink), canned fruits and canned vegetables | CCCF | Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact | Step 2/3 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 2 | Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice | CCCF | Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact | Step 2/3 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 3 | Maximum levels for Cadmium in Chocolate and cocoa products | CCCF | The matter is important for the safety of foods preferred by children | Step 2/3 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 4 | Maximum level of aflatoxin in ready-to-eat peanut | CCCF | High health and trade impact | Step 2/3 | Member to submit occurrence data and actively participate in eWG to support the work |
| 5 | Code of practice for the prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice | CCCF | Appropriate practices for regional producer, health impact | Step 2/3 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 6 | Lack of data on various issues under CCCF | CCCF | There is a lack of data in India specifically with regard to additives and contaminants | Step 3 | Collaboration among the regional members to conduct studies and collect data |

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | Methylmercury in fishery product | CCCF | Anticipate emerging issues in the future regading metilmercury in fishery product | Discussion paper | Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG |
| 8 | Review Mycotoxins In Spices for Prioritization of The Work In Spices | CCCF | Indonesia has high humidity and a tropical country that suitable for mycotoxin producers fungi. | Discussion paper | Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG |
| 9 | Maximum level of migration of metals from food contact material to the food consumed | (CCCF) | Tropical condition, such as in Indonesia, will affect the migration of metals from food contact materials to the food consumed, which will affect the safety of food products | Not yet in Codex process | Members to submit comments/data to support the new work |
| 10 | Discussion paper on use of additives in additives (secondary additives) | CCFA | To make sure that the level of secondary food additives in the final products does not exceed the maximum level permitted in the final products. | Discussion Paper | Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG |
| 11 | Revision the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables | CCFH | Appropriate practices for different levels of producers | Discussion paper | Feasibility and flexibility in the application should be considered |
| 12 | Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites | CCFH | Foodborne parasites are major health burden worldwide and it is important to control foodborne parasites. | Step 2/3 | Japan chairs the eWG (Co-chair: Canada)<br>Member countries are encouraged to provide comments, relevant data and information in order to facilitate the work. |
| 13 | Histamine | CCFFP | Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact | Discussion paper | Feasibility and flexibility in the application should be considered |
| 14 | Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce | CCFFP | Appropriate practices to producers in the region to improve safety and quality of fish sauce | Step 6 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work, aiming for adoption at step 8 next CAC |
| 15 | Revision of Guideline on Organic agriculture: Organic aquaculture | CCFL | Appropriate practices for organic aquaculture producers | Step 2/3 | Member to submit comments/data to support the work, flexibility and practically be considered |
| 16 | Proposed Draft Revision of The General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods: Date Marking | CCFL | Various food products that are imported into India face rejections or delay in clearances due to different ways of date marking | Step 3 | All the Asian members should cooperate in the development of a universal format of Date Marking |
| 17 | Labelling Standard for Non-Retail Containers | CCFL | Requires support from Asian Countries | Discussion paper | India would like to request all Asian |

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
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| | | | | | member to support this agenda item at the 42nd CCFL |
| 18 | Discussion Paper on Principles and Guidelines for the Elaboration and Management of Questionnaires Directed at Exporting Countries | CCFICS | To simplified the multiple questionnaire for effectiveness of exporting/importing activities | Discussion paper | Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG |
| 19 | Discussion Paper on Consideration of Emerging Issues and Future Directions for The Work of The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems | CCFICS | To improve awareness of emerging issues in food world trade, since Indonesia is a country with a large number of population | Discussion Paper | Members to submit comments/data and actively participate in eWG |
| 20 | Review of codex standard of follow up formula | CCNFSDU | Follow up formula is widely distributed in Indonesia, standard for follow up formula is needed as a guidance for member country to regulate the products | Step 4 | Members to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 21 | Standard on Black, white and green peppers | CCSCH | Large trade volume and consumption within region | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 22 | Regional Standard for Laver products | CCASIA | Large trade volume and consumption with in region | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/data to support the work |
| 23 | - Analysis of mycotoxin and metals (contaminants in food)<br>- development of national and international standards for the control of Aflatoxins, mycotoxin and heavy metals.<br>- A study on regional basis to conduct surveys and analysis of rice from major rice growing areas to assess the level of inorganic arsenic in rice.<br>- An elaborated plan may be discussed and developed to determine the levels of selective pesticide residues in rice to address food safety issues.<br>- Work may be initiated to update Code of Practice for prevention and reduction of mycotoxin in rice,<br>- Need new work on code of practice for prevention and reduction of arsenic contamination in rice.<br>- Adoption of maximum | - (CCCF).<br>- CCPPF,<br>- CCPR<br>- CCFF | Due to direct involvement in testing and research on mycotoxins in food at national level and work on developing national standards for mycotoxin and heavy metals.<br>The country is primarily an agricultural country and is facing immense challenges in trade due to detection of mycotoxins, pesticide residues and heavy metals in different agro-based products. Hence, there is need to develop national standards in line with international standards backed by an effective risk assessment and laboratory testing support. | -Recognizing the need to have an effective and integrated SPS management and official control system in the country the Ministry of National Food Security and Research has implemented a project which aims to put in place a Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Body in the country<br>- Increased concern on food safety issues have necessitated need to update the existing standards of agricultural products and animal and plant health standards in line with the Codex standards<br>- Inspite of the | Developing countries like Pakistan need to be supported through Codex Trust Fund for participation in Codex sessions<br>ii). Regional meetings may be held frequently (CCASIA) to better understand the obligation of regional standards and develop proposals at the regional level for projecting regional issues and solutions to address such issues in Codes sessions.<br>iii). Roadmap may be developed by prioritising issues and arranging CCASIA meetings in various countries of the region to sensitize the sector stakeholders and the regulators on food safety issues<br>iv) Technical and financial support to undertake surveys within the country in |

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
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| | limits for methyl mercury in fish and fishery products. | | | fact that the facility for support through Codex Trust Fund has been stopped which has hampered the work of harmonization of standards, efforts have been made to increase participation in Codex sessions which has been helpful in acquiring knowledge and awareness on the effectiveness of harmonized standards both at regional and international levels.<br>- Currently the standards of agricultural products are being reviewed to update them wherever necessary. | order to collect occurrence data which could be shared with the member states of the region.<br>v). Due to meagre funds available, participation in Codex sessions is limited. Member states may be encouraged to participate in eWG to project their viewpoints on regional and international food safety issues. |
| 24 | Harmonization of requirements | CCASIA | Facilitate trade and access to international market | - | Conduct electronic and physical meetings |
| 25 | Assessment of nutrition and health claims | CCFL | Common substantiation and data requirements | - | Include in CCASIA for discussion |
| 26 | Harmonization of labelling e.g. FOP | CCFL | Trade facilitation and movement of single label within the region | - | Conduct electronic and physical meetings |

5. Thailand also provided information extracted from report of the 14th meeting of the ASEAN Task force on Codex (ATFC) on the Codex works currently undertaken which is included in this document as table 2.

**Table 2: Information extracted from report of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Codex (ATFC)**

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Maximum levels for lead in fruit juices and nectars (ready-to-drink), canned fruits and canned vegetables | CCCF | Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/ data to support the work |
| 2 | Maximum level for inorganic arsenic in husked rice | CCCF | Large trade volume and consumption within region/ high health impact | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/ data to support the work |
| 3 | Maximum level for Mycotoxin in Spices | CCCF | Large trade volume and consumption | Discussion paper | Members to submit comments/ data to eWG |

| No | Issue of Interest and/or concern | Subsidiary body | Reason | Status of work | Proposal for actions/collaboration |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | within region/ high health impact | | to prioritise spices |
| 4 | Guidance to facilitate the establishment of MRLs for minor crops and specialty crops | CCPR | Minor crops and specialty crops is important to the region | | Members to submit comments/ data and actively participate in eWG |
| 5 | Performance Criteria for Methods of Analysis for Pesticide Residues | CCPR | Important to health and international trade, especially on the acceptance of result of residue analysis | Discussion paper | Members to submit comments/ data and actively participate in eWG |
| 6 | Proposed Draft Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce | CCFFP | Appropriate practices to producers in the region to improve safety and quality of fish sauce | Step 6 | Members to submit comments/ data to support the work, aiming for adoption at Step 8 next CAC |
| 7 | Method of analysis – Marine biotoxin | CCMAS/ CCFFP | Appropriate practices to Laboratories | Step 8 | Support adoption of method of analysis. Criteria to be determined by CCMAS on the categorize of the Type of the mouse bioassay method |
| 8 | Revision of Guideline on organic agriculture: Organic aquaculture | CCFL | Appropriate practices for organic aquaculture producers | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/ data to eWG |
| 9 | Amendments to List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes | CCFO | Important to trade and import-export transportation | Step 2/3 | Members to actively participate in both eWG and pWG |
| 10 | Standard on Black, white & green peppers | CCSCH | Large trade volume and consumption within region | Step 2/3 | Members to submit comments/ data to support the work |
| 11 | Regional standard on Non-fermented soybean products | CCASIA | Large trade volume and consumption within region | Step 6 | Members to participate actively in the CCASIA19, particularly the product classification, food additive and the use of term “soybean milk” |
| 12 | Standard – Processed cheese | CCMMP | Large trade volume and consumption within region | Step 6 | Members to actively participate in the work under CCMMP |

**Recommendation**

6. Member countries are requested to discuss on:

(1) activity to increase the participation of the informal meeting of Codex members as identified in page 2 of the document

(2) Codex issues of interest and/or concerns from CCASIA members as identified in Table 1 and Table 2 with the aim to facilitate the coordination among the members and, where necessary, formulate regional position on specific issues.