CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twentieth Session

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ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS

1.   FAO and WHO published the FAO/WHO guide for application of risk analysis principles and procedures during food safety emergencies in 2011. This document is available at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502474_eng.pdf.

2.   The "FAO/WHO Guide for developing and improving national food recall systems" was also published in 2012 to support countries in establishing and implementing effectively food recall systems during food safety emergencies. The document is available at http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/i3008e/i3008e.pdf.

3.   The following tools are currently being developed or under finalization:

- Risk based imported food control: FAO is finalizing the manual, in consistence with the CCFICS texts, to assist official authorities in the assessment, review and development, of national imported food control programmes – to help bridge the gap between principles and implementation. The manual includes a practical approach to the use of the risk analysis framework in the specific context of imported food control. The new guidance is being field tested in Gabon, and has been prepared on the basis on fact *finding* missions and training sessions held in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and India.

- Multi-criteria decision making approach: FAO has embarked on a 4-year project (funded by the EC) to develop a systematic methodology to inform improved food safety policy making. The need for more systematic, transparent and evidence based approaches to decision making in relation to investment in public food control and food safety programmes has emerged from FAO's experience in capacity development at *country* level. A key pillar of this 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. To develop the methodology and gain a better understanding of the context for food safety decision-making and available data, FAO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, related line ministries and WHO FERG initiative in Uganda. A multi-stakeholder meeting took place from 26 – 28th November 2012 to review and analyse the findings of two studies "situation analysis" and "burden of disease" and to discuss the national drivers, which determine food safety priorities. The long term goal of this work is to provide food safety decision-makers with the tools which allow them to identify and consider all relevant factors according to their importance for their particular country and population would improve the transparency of the decision making process and facilitate decision making with a positive overarching cost-benefit ratio.

- Risk Analysis Toolkit is under development – The FAO Risk Analysis Toolkit is designed to assist countries with different capacity, resources and challenges to practically use the risk analysis paradigm to strengthen their food control systems. Numerous educational courses, training courses, tools etc. already exist but the challenge is often knowing where to find the most relevant support to use risk analysis in the national context to deal with real-time food safety challenges. Through the toolkit, which will build on the FAO/WHO manual "Food safety risk analysis", FAO will combine in one tool the most up to date information to deepen users practical know-how on risk analysis, and assist them in recognising the relevance of existing "tools", and seeing when and how to apply them in addressing their routine and exceptional problems. The Toolkit will be developed in phases starting with sections on risk profiling, risk ranking, systematic data collection methods, managing microbiological and chemical risks and risk communication.

4.   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.

Regional and national activities

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

Asia

Activities:

- WHO Sub-regional Workshop: Enhancing Food Safety Information Exchange and Emergency Response Capacity to support participation in INFOSAN (Republic of Korea, 27-29 September 2011)
- FAO Regional meeting on Developing National Food Safety Emergency Response Plans: Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learnt (Thailand, 26 -28 June 2012)
- FAO Regional training on Implementing GAP in Fruit and Vegetable Sector, its Certification and Accreditation (Bangkok, 3-7 September 2012)
- Principles & further activities for Codex implementation "Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries" (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 September 2012), supported by FAO
- WHO Sub-regional Workshop: Enhancing INFOSAN in ASIA and Implementation of Regional Food Safety Strategies (Republic of Korea, 27 – 30 November, 2012 http://www.wpro.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2012/20121127/en/index.html)
- FAO Regional Food Safety Policy Consultation for countries in Asia (Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 December 2012)
- WHO National training: Capacity building in food inspection and food safety training for food businesses (China, December 2012)
- WHO National training: Capacity building in risk-based food inspection and provision of food inspection equipment (Lao PDR, December 2012)
- WHO National training: Capacity building in risk-based food inspection, support for defining of core capacity of food safety inspectors and development of postgraduate training programme on food safety (Mongolia)

Publications:

- Status of National Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries (published by FAO under project "Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries" GCP/RAS/280/JPN)
- Guidelines on "Risk Categorization Applicable to ASEAN Countries" (FAO/RAP Publication 2011/22).

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
- FAI- GCP/BGD/047/NET National project; Improving food safety in Bangladesh
- FAO- TCP/THA/3305 National Project; Enhancing food safety laboratory capacity in primary production (Thailand)
- 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; Developing food law in Laos
- 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

- UNJP/VIE/042/UNJ National Project; Vietnam Capacity Building for food inspection systems in Vietnam (recently completed) (One UN Programme)
- FAO- MTF/VIE/046/STF National Project; Strengthening Vietnamese SPS capacity for trade – improving safety & quality of fresh vegetables through value chain approach (recently completed)
- WHO: Assistance in imported food control development (Viet Nam)

Latin America

Activities:

- Executive Leadership in Food safety series with young professionals (WHO, Panama, April 2012)
- The 16th Ministerial Conference on Health Agriculture (RIMSA) (WHO, Chile, July 2012)
- Pan-American commission on Food Safety (WHO, Chile, July 2012)
- Regional Forum on Integrated public health and agriculture surveillance including antimicrobial resistance (WHO, Chile, July 2012)
- WHO Workshop for the CARICOM member in the LAC and Caribbean region to field-test practical risk analysis training materials based on CODEX Working Principles (Trinidad & Tobago, November 2012)
- A joint FAO/PAHO workshop "Risk Management to reduce food safety and quality problems within national food control systems" for Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica, November 2012)
- Regional Electronic Course on "Risk Analysis for Food Safety" for professionals working in public institutions (2010-2011)
- Regional Electronic Course "Food Safety Control Systems" for professionals working in public institutions (2009-2012)
- WHO International Seminar "Applying Risk Analysis to Mycotoxins" (Argentina, November 2011)
- WHO Regional Workshop on "Development of National Food Safety Emergency Response Plans" (Panama, March 2012)

Africa

Activities:

- FAO/WHO 2nd Regional training course on Risk Analysis in Food Safety (Benin, December 2011)
- FAO/WHO pre-CCACFRICA workshop on national food control systems, Yaoundé, Cameroon, 28 January 2013
- FAO/WHO National workshop on 'Policy Options to Improve Microbiological Safety' in the meat (poultry, beef and pork) value chains in Kenya (June 2012- Nairobi, Kenya)

Projects:

- FAO has undertaken pilot work to field test in Gabon, parts of the guidelines from the imported food control manual.
- FAO has also delivered advice and helped Mauritius, to assess the performance of their food control systems, using the "Guidelines to assess capacity building needs"

Europe

- FAO Regional workshop "Raising Understanding and Consistent Application of Risk Analysis Framework at Country Level" (Kiev, Ukraine, March 2010)

Near East

Activities:

- FAO Regional workshop on "Risk-based inspection of imported food" (Jordan, November 2011).
- FAO 2nd regional workshop on "Risk-based inspection of imported food" (follow up to the previous one, Jordan, December 2012)
- FAO/WHO Understanding the Codex Alimentarius structure and the role of National Codex Committee (Djibouti, Somalia, October 2012)

Pacific

<u>Regional:</u>

- Regional FAO/WHO meeting on utilizing risk based approaches in national food control systems in the Pacific (Wellington, New Zealand, 5-9 December 2011)
- 3rd Meeting of the Pacific food safety and quality legislation expert group (6 December 2011, Wellington, New Zealand)
- FAO/WHO/Codex Trust Fund regional workshop on utilising risk-based approaches in National Food Control Systems (Wellington, New Zealand, December 2011)

National:

<u>Federated States of Micronesia:</u>

- Review of inspection process in the country and compile needs assessment (FAO project, April 2012)
- Development and trial of Food import and domestic food Standard Operating Procedures (FAO project, May 2012)
- Capacity Development on risk based food inspection for Food National Inspectors and State Inspectors in the states of Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk (FAO project, November 2012)

<u>Samoa</u>

- WHO/FAO Risk-based food inspection training, 24 to 27 July 2012, Apia, Samoa

Tools

- Development of a practical guide on risk-based food inspection (ongoing)
- Development of tools to facilitate risk-based imported food control (ongoing)
- Risk-based food inspection workshop (Yap, Federated States of Micronesia 6-19 April 2012)
- Technical assistance on developing draft food regulations, risk-based food inspection training and/or provision of food inspection equipment (Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu ongoing)