



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Twenty-third Session

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CODEX COMMUNICATION WORK PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

(Prepared by the Codex Secretariat)

INTRODUCTION

1. The 22nd Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for ASIA (CCASIA22, 2023) adopted the “Regional communications work plan 2022-2024”¹ with the objectives of establishing clear communication channels and communicating the value of Codex standards and work in the region.
2. 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, with the objectives of establishing clear communication channels, enhancing Codex work and communicating the value of Codex Standards in the region.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Objective 1: Establish clear communication channels

3. During the handover between China and Japan, both countries, in their capacities of Coordinator for Asia, worked together to maintain active communication among Members in the region by means of virtual meetings, emails, WhatsApp and/or WeChat groups, telecommunications, and other formal and informal meetings.
4. While these tools provide a way for countries to establish useful and faster communication channels, it remains important for CCASIA Members to ensure that the official contact detail of their respective Codex Contact Points² are up to date, as this information guarantees that they receive formal communications from the Codex Secretariat. Updates should be provided directly to Codex@fao.org.
5. Under Objective 1, CCASIA22 also set a target that by CCASIA23 80% 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 and Observers are encouraged to complete this survey by clicking [here](#).
6. This survey takes only 2-3 minutes, and the results will be provided during the discussion of this item.

Objective 2: Communicate the value of Codex engagement and use of standards in the region

7. 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 in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO.
8. There has been an 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 page³ on the Codex website. This has been steadily increasing year on year.
9. Over the past two years, World Food Safety Day provided a strong incentive to raise awareness on

¹ REP23/ASIA para 42 and Appendix V

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

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

food safety and share information on national and regional initiatives. At least 21 countries in the region have shared stories since CCASIA22⁴. Stories covered technical areas, trainings and the regional webinars, and initiatives organized by the Coordinator in collaboration with FAO, WHO and the Codex Secretariat⁵.

10. There have been four countries involved in the Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT) project⁶, namely Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan: all have shared at least two stories of initiatives and progress in the respective countries.

11. Three countries in Asia, i.e., Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, and Viet Nam, are participating in the One Health for Food Safety (1H4FS) project, which aims to apply Codex guidance to mitigate food safety risks through the risk analysis framework. As part of this initiative, risk ranking workshops were conducted in June 2024 to help countries identify and prioritize food safety risks, with the participation of relevant stakeholders. A risk communication workshop was held from 4 to 6 July 2025, where participants engaged in hands-on exercises to develop food safety messages tailored to their national contexts. Relevant information was promoted on the Codex and FAO website accordingly.

12. There have been seven Codex Trust Fund (CTF)⁷ recipient countries in the region⁸: they all shared at least one story of an initiative or progress in the region, along with social media posts shared via the relevant channels of Members, FAO, WHO and Codex.

13. While CCASIA met the indicators established in the communications work plan regarding the number of news and countries contributing to Codex news on the regional webpage, set at 30 news items and the 60% of the total number of CCASIA Members respectively, there is still an opportunity for countries in the region to share more news and messages related to Codex work.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

14. There are functioning internal regional communication channels and in general, the region has made good progress since CCASIA22. With regard to Objective 2, World Food Safety Day continued to serve as a strong driver along with the ACT and 1H4FS projects, webinars, and initiatives organized by the Coordinator in collaboration with the Codex Secretariat, FAO and WHO. Moving forward, efforts should be made to continue to build in communications to all initiatives to maintain this situation.

15. In this context, it is recommended that CCASIA23:

- i. renew its commitment to the Communications work plan, as updated in Annex I;
- ii. continue its efforts to enhance the regional communications network; and
- iii. continue to communicate on and promote its food safety and standard setting efforts and successes.

⁴ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam.

⁵ Further information on the use and impact of Codex texts in the Asia region is provided in CX/ASIA 25/23/9.

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/projects/ongoing/project-10/en/>

⁷ <https://www.who.int/initiatives/codex-trust-fund/>

⁸ Bhutan-India-Nepal, Cambodia-Lao PDR, Maldives, Timor-Leste

Appendix I

**PROPOSED COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES TO THE REGIONAL WORK PLAN 2025-2027
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODEX STRATEGIC PLAN**

The table shows the objectives, activities, targets and indicators for the proposed communications activities to the regional work plan for 2025-2027, to support the implementation of the Codex Strategic Plan. These elements derive from Strategic Goals 2 and 4 of the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, “Enhance Codex work management systems and practices that support the effective and efficient development of standards and related texts” and “Maximize the impact of Codex by increasing the visibility and use of standards”.

Objectives	Activities	Targets	Indicators
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)	By CCASIA23 80% of Members/Observers surveyed indicate timeliness, accessibility and quality of Codex regional communications “excellent” or “good”	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 ACT, CTF, and 1H4FS involved countries to communicate on the progress of these projects.	- By CCASIA24, 40 news items from countries in the region - By CCASIA24, 70% of countries in the region contributed to Codex news on the regional webpage	Number of CCASIA news stories published Number of countries who have made a published contribution