

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 13

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

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ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT FAO/IAEA DIVISION OF NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RELEVANT TO CCASIA

(prepared by the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture¹)

Background

1. The Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (the "Joint Division") supports and implements specific activities related to the Codex Committee for Asia (CCASIA) mainly through its Food and Environmental Protection (FEP) Sub-programme, but also the Animal Production and Health, Insect and Pest Control, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Soil Water Management and Crop Nutrition Sub-programmes. The FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories (ABL) supports all these Sub-programmes. The Joint Division operates - in cooperation with sister Divisions at the FAO in Rome - under the two Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (FAO) as well as the Nuclear Sciences and Application (IAEA).

Overview of Relevant Activities

2. Activities of the FEP and the Food and Environmental Protection Laboratory (FEPL) include the analysis and control of various chemical residues and food contaminants; food traceability and authenticity; radiation standards related to food; preparedness and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies affecting food and agriculture; and food irradiation.

3. The Joint Division renders services to CCASIA Member States largely through technical cooperation and coordinated research projects as well as capacity building and tailored/adaptable research at ABL. These activities represent one of the mechanisms for promoting peaceful use of nuclear/isotopic technology for global health and prosperity.

Technical Cooperation Programme

4. Some ongoing activities relevant to CCASIA include a regional project (RAS/5/078): "*Enhancing Food Safety Laboratory Capabilities and Establishing a Network in Asia to Control Veterinary Drug Residues and Related Chemical Contaminants*". This involves 16 Asian countries, 11 of which are CCASIA members. The project promotes capacity building (including group training) through networking and supports centers of excellence that use nuclear/isotopic techniques to ensure food safety in their own countries and the region in general. Under this project, two group training courses are scheduled for the first quarter of 2017 in Singapore and Thailand.

¹See <http://www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/index.html> for additional details

5. Another relevant group project is the interregional food safety project (INT/5/154): “*Improving Food Safety through the Creation of an Interregional Network that Produces Reliable Scientific Data Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques*”. This aims at assisting CCASIA Member States such as Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan and Singapore to cooperate with 28 others in Africa and Latin America (as well as Turkey) to collect and contribute data relevant to national and international standards setting. The project also promotes exchange of knowledge and experience in part through a web platform, group training and twinning activities. The training includes an upcoming interregional course on laboratory quality management due in Bogor, Indonesia 12-16 December 2016. Resource persons to support this event have been identified from CCASIA members. Industry such as Nestle have expressed interest in sending a representative (also from the region) to interact with the course participants. The identification of these regional resource persons underlines the need to establish a roster of local experts who may be called upon to support such activities in future.
6. This interregional project is also supporting some laboratory scientists to participate in upcoming codex meetings relevant to CCASIA such as CCRVDF 23, CCMAS (2017) and CCPR (2017).
7. Additional national and regional projects, either ongoing or upcoming are detailed in the power point presentation appended to this CRD.

Coordinated Research Activities

8. The Joint Division continues to provide support to FAO and IAEA Member States in the implementation of holistic food safety and control systems through international coordinated research activities that encourage networking among developing countries and between these countries and developed country institutions. Some relevant and current coordinated research projects include: 1) “*Development and Strengthening of Radio-analytical and Complementary Techniques to Control Residues of Veterinary Drugs and Related Chemicals in Aquaculture Products*” (2015–2020); 2) “*Accessible Technologies for the Verification of Origin of Dairy Products as an Example Control System to Enhance Global Trade and Food Safety*” (2013–2018) among others. These projects involve a number of food safety research and regulatory institutions in CCASIA Member States.
9. There is an emerging need for food control system to start considering the routine monitoring of potential consumer exposure to mixers of contaminants/residues in foods. Thus the Joint Division is planning a new coordinated research project entitled “*Integrated radiometric and complementary techniques for mixed contaminants and residues in foods*” 2017-2021. CCASIA Members States will be encouraged to participate.

FAO/IAEA Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories (ABL)

10. The ABL continues to undertake demand-driven adaptive research, backstopping of technical cooperation projects, and training of food safety laboratory personnel, all of which are relevant to CCASIA Member States. About 500 trainees from developing countries, including 400 fellows and scientific visitors are trained each year at ABL. Such research and capacity building activities are expected to intensify when the ongoing modernization of the laboratories under a capital investment project entitled ReNuAL (‘Renovation of the IAEA Nuclear Applications Laboratories’) concludes. Some CCASIA Member States have contributed to this grand project.

Analytical Methods for Food Control Laboratories

11. The Joint Division also continues to avail analytical methods to some Member State food safety laboratories in need, through the Food Contaminant and Residue Information System web platform². CCASIA Member States are encouraged to access the database and/or contribute methods for others to benefit from.

² See <http://nucleus.iaea.org/fcris/>