



## Agenda Item 6

**CX/ASIA 10/17/7  
October 2010**

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

Seventeenth Session

Bali, Indonesia, 22 – 26 November 2010

#### **ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE REGION**

*Prepared by CCASIA Regional Coordinator*

#### **Introduction**

1. At the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committee for Asia, the Coordinating Committee recalled that the 24th Session of the CCGP had agreed to invite all coordinating committees to discuss matters on the Terms of Reference for coordinating committees, in particular the inclusion of a sentence regarding promotion of adoption of regional positions on strategic subjects.
2. The Coordinating Committee was of the view that the Terms of Reference were sufficiently broad to allow the development of regional positions and that the problem of developing regional positions could be more effectively addressed by implementing specific activities than by amending the Terms of Reference. Therefore, it agreed that the current Terms of Reference were adequate.
3. In order to facilitate the development of regional positions, the Coordinating Committee agreed to add to its agenda, as a standing agenda item, the discussion of “Issues relevant to the region” and to request the Coordinator for the region to prepare a paper on this subject for consideration at its next session. It also noted that Objectives 3 of the draft Regional Strategic Plan for the CCASIA (*see* Agenda Item 6) included aspects related to the discussion of issues of interest to the region and to holding informal meetings of members of the region prior to Codex meetings (ALINORM 09/32/15 para 16-18).
4. It is also noted that at the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, the Committee discussed terms of reference of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees and concluded the discussion by confirming that the full freedom was given under the current Terms of Reference of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to issue regional opinions on all themes under discussion in Codex of strategic importance to the region concerned and to promote the adoption of regional positions on strategic subjects, and therefore there was no need to modify the Terms of Reference (ALINORM 09/32/33 para 103).
5. According to Action 3.1 of the Strategic Plan for the Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) 2009-2014, Coordinator is the responsible party to organize informal meetings of CCASIA prior to Codex meetings to develop common position, where possible, on issues of interest as well as to update on national and regional activities. Under Action 3.2, Coordinator and Member countries is the responsible party to discuss Codex issues of interest to the region including those issues arising from Commission and other Codex subsidiary bodies during CCASIA sessions.
6. Issues relevant to the region were identified for each Codex session during 2009-2010, in which Asian member countries concerned. Indonesia, in the capacity as Regional Coordinator for Asia, usually organized an Asian informal meeting prior to the Codex session in order to discuss all the issues of interests to Asia.
7. The Committee is invited to review all the issues identified (under column on “Issues relevant to the region” and “Notes”) as included in Annex, with a view to providing views and recommendations, where appropriate.

## Codex Sessions Held During 2009 – 2010

Subsidiary Body	Issues relevant to the region	Notes from the Codex Session	
		2009	2010
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils		21 <sup>st</sup> Session Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, 16-20 February 2009	---
	Proposed Draft Amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils: Inclusion of Palm Kernel Olein and Palm Kernel Stearin	<p>The Committee recalled that the amendment to the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils to include Palm Kernel Stearin and Palm Kernel Olein had been approved as new work by the 30th Session of the Commission and that the Proposed Draft Amendment prepared by Malaysia had subsequently been circulated for comments at Step 3.</p> <p>After discussion, some delegations supported forwarding the Proposed Draft Amendment to the Commission for final adoption at Step 5/8 since there was no unresolved matter in the Proposed Draft Amendment. However, noting the concern of Indonesia on the fatty acid composition, the Committee agreed to forward the Proposed Draft Amendment to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5, with a view to its advancement to Step 8 at the next session.</p> <p>This matter also discussed during Asian informal meeting before the session.</p>	
Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling		30 <sup>th</sup> Session Balatonalmadi, Hungary, 9-13 March 2009	31 <sup>st</sup> Session Budapest, Hungary, 8 - 12 March 2010
	Proposed Draft Guidelines on Criteria for Methods for the Detection and Identification of Foods Derived from Biotechnology	<p>The Committee agreed to return the text to Step 2 and to establish an electronic working group, co chaired by Argentina, Germany and the United Kingdom, working in English, open to all members and observer organizations, to revise the proposed draft guidelines, taking into account comments submitted and raised at the present session. The revised text would be circulated for comments at Step 3 and consideration at its next session.</p> <p>Japan and Republic of Korea submitted written comments.</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft guidelines on performance criteria and validation of methods for detection, identification and quantification of specific DNA sequences and specific proteins in foods to the 33rd Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7.</p> <p>Japan and the Philippines submitted written comments.</p>
Codex Committee on Food Additives		41 <sup>st</sup> Session Shanghai, China, 16-20 March 2009	42 <sup>nd</sup> Session Beijing, China, 15-19 March 2010
	1. Food Category of Sago Flour	The Committee decided to clarify whether sago flour was covered by food category 06.2.1 "Flours" and if the descriptor of the food category should be revised at its next session.	The Committee agreed to clarify the scope of food category 06.2.1 "Flour" to include sago flour and to revise the title of food category 06.0 "Cereals and cereal products, derived from cereal grains, from roots and tubers, pulses, legumes, excluding bakery wares of food category 07.0" and the descriptors of food categories 06.2 "Flours and starches

Subsidiary Body	Issues relevant to the region	Notes from the Codex Session	
		2009	2010
			(including soybean powder)” and 06.2.1 “Flours” for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission.
	2. Proposed draft guidelines and principles for substances used as processing aids	The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Guidelines and Principles to Step 2 for redrafting by an electronic Working Group hosted by Indonesia. India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand submitted written comments.	The Committee agreed to forward the renamed proposed draft guidelines for substances used as processing aids to the 33rd Session of the Commission for adoption at Steps 5/8, with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7. At Asian informal meeting Indonesia asked Asian countries to support the adoption of the proposed draft. India and Thailand submitted written comments.
	3. Revision of names and descriptors of food categories 0.1.2.1.1.	The Committee agreed to the proposals for revising names and descriptors of food categories 01.2.1.1 “Fermented milks (plain). The Committee noted that the nature of the revision was mainly editorial. The Committee agreed to forward the revised food category names and descriptors for adoption by the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission. India, Indonesia, Japan and Philippines submitted written comments.	---
	4. References to the ‘Carry-over Principle of Food Additives’ in Codex standards	---	The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group, led by Brazil to: - Review the discussion and relevant decisions of the Committee regarding the elaboration of Section 4 of the Preamble of the GSFA; - Analyze the inconsistencies between Section 4 of the Preamble of the GSFA and the “Carry-over principle” in Volume 1; and - Consider the need to revise Section 4 of the Preamble of the GSFA including, where appropriate, a proposal for the revision of document. India, Malaysia and Indonesia submitted written comments.
	5. Steviol Glycosides (INS 960)	---	The Committee agreed that the reporting basis for steviol glycosides would be steviol, consistent with the reporting basis of the ADI. The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group to prepare proposed draft provisions for steviol glycosides (INS 960). Japan, Malaysia and Indonesia submitted written comments. As Coordinator Asia, Indonesia conducted an informal meeting before the plenary which attended by Japan, Vietnam, Republic of Korea, Singapore, China and Thailand. Japan asked Asian countries to support the

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			establishment of Steviol glycosides and he informed data on the use of Steviol glycoside in some food categories which followed by Malaysia and Philippines
	6. Discussion Paper on the Identification of Problems and Recommendations Related to the Inconsistent Presentation of Food Additives Provisions in Codex Commodity Standards	---	The Committee further agreed to request the Codex Secretariat to compile and regularly update all food additive provisions of Codex commodity standards in an information document for the CCFA. Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand submitted written comments.
	7. Discussion Paper on Codex <i>Standard For Food Grade Salt</i> (CODEX STAN 150-1985)	---	The Committee agreed to start new work on the revision of the Standard and emphasised the need to focus the revision only in the areas identified in the document, i.e. sections on additives, contaminants, hygiene and methods of analysis and sampling without reopening discussion on other sections. Indonesia and Thailand submitted written comments.
Codex Committee on Contaminants In Foods		3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 23 – 27 March 2009	
	1. Draft code of practice for the reduction of acrylamide in foods	The Committee agreed to forward the draft Code to the 32nd Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 8. Japan, India, Philippines and Indonesia submitted written comments in this matter.	---
	2. Draft code of practice for the reduction of contamination of food with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) from smoking and direct drying processes	The Committee agreed to forward the draft Code to the 32nd Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 8. Japan, Philippines, Thailand, India and Indonesia submitted written comments.	---
	3. Discussion paper on fumonisins	The Committee, while acknowledging that maize was a staple food in many countries and that fumonisins in maize was a public health concern, agreed to initiate work on establishing maximum levels and developing a sampling plan for fumonisins in maize and maize-based products subject to approval by the 32nd Session of the Commission. Philippines and Indonesia submitted written comments.	The Committee agreed to retain the proposed draft ML and sampling plans at Step 4 until further advice was provided by JECFA. At the informal meeting, Indonesia proposed the maximum level of 2mg/kg for fumonisin B1 and B2 in corn/maize grain unprocessed instead of 5mg/kg. Meanwhile Japan and Thailand concerned on the evaluation of fumonisin B3. Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Republic of Korea submitted written comments.
	4. Discussion paper on benzene in soft drinks	The Committee noted that benzene in soft drinks was not a major contributor to overall benzene exposure and in view of the considerable guidance available to industry to limit	

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		formation of benzene in soft drinks, in particular, the guidance by the International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA) which is available in various languages, a code of practice was not necessary at this time. The Committee, however, agreed to encourage member countries, especially those in the tropics to continue data collection on the occurrence of benzene in soft drinks. Philippines and Republic of Korea submitted written comments.	
	5. Discussion paper on cyanogenic glycosides	The Committee agreed to request JECFA to review data available on occurrence of cyanogenic glycosides in foods and feeds, the mechanisms of releasing hydrogen cyanide in the human body, the effects of processing on reducing levels of hydrogen cyanide in the final product, and report back to the Committee in future. Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Philippines and Indonesia submitted written comments.	
	6. Discussion paper on ethyl carbamate in alcoholic beverages	The Committee agreed to start new work on a proposed draft Code of Practice for the Reduction of Ethyl Carbamate in Stone Fruit Distillates which will not include a signal value subject to approval by the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Philippines submitted written comments.	The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Code to Step 3 for further comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee  Japan and Thailand submitted written comments.
	7. Proposed draft maximum levels for melamine in food and feed	---	The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft maximum levels for powdered infant formula and foods (other than infant formula) and animal feed to the 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6 and 7) and the maximum level for liquid infant formula to Step 3 for comments and consideration by the next session.  At the Asian informal meeting which attended by Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia, Japan indicated that he supported the proposed maximum level of 1 mg/kg for infant and 2,5 mg/kg for product instead of infant and proposed that melamine and its analogs should be evaluated again by JECFA. Philippines and Thailand submitted written comments.

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	8. Proposed draft revision of the code of practice for the prevention and reduction of aflatoxin contamination in tree nuts	---	The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft revision to the 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 (with omission of Steps 6 and 7) Japan and Thailand submitted written comments.
Codex Committee on General Principles		25 <sup>th</sup> Session Paris, France, 30 March – 3 April 2009	26 <sup>th</sup> Session Paris, France, 12 – 16 April 2010
	1. Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for International Trade in Foods	The Committee agreed to advance the Proposed Draft Revised Code of Ethics for adoption at Step 5/8 by the 32nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission with the omission of Steps 6 and 7. The Delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay expressed their reservation on this decision., observing there was no consensus on the advancement of the document to step 5 and 8.  This issue was discussed during Asian informal meeting	The Committee recalled that the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission had adopted the Draft Code at Step 5 and had emphasised the need to finalise this work within the next session of the Committee on General Principles. The Committee considered the Draft Code section by section and made amendments and comments.  The Committee recognized that all issues had been considered thoroughly and satisfactorily addressed and therefore the revised Code could be finalized for adoption.  The Committee agreed to advance the Draft Revised Code, as amended at the current session, to Step 8 for adoption by the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission  This issue was discussed during Asian informal meeting
	2. The Concept of Consensus and its Application in Codex	The Delegation of Malaysia proposed to include in the Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces in the section on consensus in front of the paragraph starting with the words “ The chairperson should also consider...” the following new paragraph: “Where there is justified sustained opposition to substantial issues the chairperson should ensure that the views of concerned members be taken into consideration by reconciling conflicting arguments before deciding that a consensus has been reached.”.  Several delegations supported this proposal, as it would give some guidance to chairs in the absence of a definition of consensus.  Other delegations, while not opposed to the principle of giving additional guidance to chairs, were of the opinion that more time was needed to study the proposal. One delegation pointed out that it was not clear from the proposal how to decide when an opposition was judged as “justified”  The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Chairperson	The Committee recalled the discussion on the concept of consensus and its application in Codex at its 25 <sup>th</sup> session where the Delegation of Malaysia had proposed to include in the <i>Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces</i> in the section on consensus in front of the paragraph starting with the words “ The chairperson should also consider...” the following new paragraph: “Where there is justified sustained opposition to substantial issues the chairperson should ensure that the views of concerned members be taken into consideration by reconciling conflicting arguments before deciding that a consensus has been reached”  After some discussion the Committee agreed: to retain the first part of the Malaysian proposal with the deletion of the terms “justified”, “sustained” and replacement of “substantial issue” with “an issue under discussion”; to replace “reconciling” with “striving to reconcile” and to replace the words “that a consensus has been reached” with “whether a consensus has been reached.”

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		that the Committee would ask the Commission whether the Committee should continue work on the proposal from Malaysia China Japan, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand submitted written comments	As conclusion the Committee agreed to propose to the Commission to amend the <i>Guidelines to Chairpersons of Codex Committees and Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces</i> Japan, Indonesia, Philippines submitted written comments
	3. Terms of Reference of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees	The Committee noted the views of the Coordinating Committees reproduced in the working documents. Five of the Coordinating Committees (CCNASWP, CCEURO, CCASIA, CCNEA and CCAFRICA) generally agreed that the current terms of reference should remain unchanged, because the current Terms of Reference were sufficiently broad to allow Coordinating Committees to formulate regional positions among members, where necessary, and that the possibility to carry out this activity was adequately covered by bullet point (g) “exercises a general coordinating role for the Region and such other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Commission”. It was also noted that the Terms of Reference of all Coordinating Committees should be kept harmonized and that the development of regional positions could be more effectively addressed by implementing specific activities within each region than by amending the Terms of Reference of Coordinating Committee.  The Committee concluded the discussion by confirming that the full freedom was given under the current Terms of Reference of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees to issue regional opinions on all themes under discussion in Codex of strategic importance to the region concerned and to promote the adoption of regional positions on strategic subjects, and therefore there was no need to modify the Terms of Reference.	-
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues		41 <sup>st</sup> Session Beijing, China, 20 - 25 April 2009	42 <sup>nd</sup> Session Xian, China, 19 - 24 April 2010
	1. Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds	The Committee agreed to forward to the Commission the Proposed Draft Revision of the Classification for the eight commodity groups for adoption at Step 5.  The Republic of Korea, Thailand and Indonesia submitted written comments	

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	2. Proposed Draft Principles and Guidance for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs to Commodity groups	<p>The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Principles and Guidance to Step 2 for redrafting by the Delegation of the United States of America in order to take account of the comments and decisions made at this session and to present a revised version for circulation, comments and consideration at its next session.</p> <p>Thailand and Japan submitted written comments</p>	
	3. Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Results for the Determination of Pesticide Residues	<p>The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Guidelines to Step 3 for circulation, comments and consideration by an electronic Working Group under the coordination of the IAEA, which would prepare a revised version for consideration by the next session of the Committee.</p> <p>China and Indonesia submitted written comments</p>	
	4. Proposed Draft Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds: Tree Nuts, Herbs and Spices		<p>The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds for the 3 commodity groups, i.e. Tree Nuts, Herbs and Spices, to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption at Step 5</p> <p>Japan, Thailand and Korea submitted written comments.</p>
	5. Discussion Paper on the Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits for Persistent Organic Pollutants (pops) Falling within the Stockholm Convention and the Terms of Reference of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues		<p>The Committee agreed that, for the time being, no revision was necessary on existing EMRLs for POPs. The Committee agreed that there may be a need to set EMRLs for food items traded at the international level for which residue limits had not yet been established. In view of this, the Committee invited Codex members to submit proposals for new EMRLs to the chair of the EWG on priorities and when appropriate submit the available monitoring data to JMPR.</p> <p>India, China and Mongolia submitted written comments.</p>
	6. Discussion Paper on the Guidance to Facilitate the Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides for Minor Use and Specialty Crops		<p>The Committee did not endorse the recommendation for guidance on the number of residue data trials necessary to perform the evaluation noting the FAO JMPR Secretariat's observation that there was not yet an agreed international definition of minor uses nor any agreed upon data requirements for minor uses.</p> <p>The Committee endorsed the recommendation that CCPR should continue to progress the work on inclusion of new commodities in the <i>Classification of Foods and Feeds</i> and</p>



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		2009	2010
			for the suitable implementation of the <i>Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representatives Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs to Commodity Groups</i> in order to facilitate establishment of MRLs for minor uses. China and Thailand submitted written comments.
Codex Committee on Food Labelling		37 <sup>th</sup> Session Calgary, Canada, 4 - 8 May 2009	38 <sup>th</sup> Session Québec, Canada, 3 - 7 May 2010
	1. Proposed draft revision of the guidelines on nutrition labelling (CAC/GL 2-1985) concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis	The Committee agreed to return the Proposed Draft Revision of the Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling concerning the list of nutrients that are always declared on a voluntary or mandatory basis as amended to Step 3 for comments and further consideration by the next session of the Committee. India, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia submitted their comments.	In noting that agreement had been reached on all the nutrients, except the sodium/salt, which had been retained in square brackets, the Committee agreed to forward the revised section 3.2 to Step 5 for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission. Malaysia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Philippines, India and Thailand submitted written comments.
	2. Discussion paper on issues related to mandatory nutrition labelling	The Committee agreed that the report identified a number of practical issues that might be of interest to any governments that are considering mandatory or voluntary nutrition labelling in order to address issues related to the implementation of the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health and agreed that the delegation of Australia would revise and finalize the discussion paper based on comments made at the session and present it to the 38th Session of the Committee for review and possible publication as an appendix to the report so that it could be widely available to serve as a tool for governments. India, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia submitted their comments.	The Committee agreed to include the text in Appendix III to the report to ensure its availability for governments as a tool when considering mandatory nutrition labelling. The Committee also agreed to recommend the use of the text to FAO when developing capacity building tools related to nutrition labelling. Indonesia, Thailand and India submitted written comments.
	3. Proposed draft criteria/principles for legibility and readability of nutrition labels.	The Committee agreed to return the Proposed Draft Criteria/Principles for Legibility of Nutrition Labels as amended to Step 3 for comments and further consideration by the next session of the Committee. India, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia submitted written comments.	The Committee agreed to forward the principles and criteria to Step 5/8 with omission of Steps 6 and 7 for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission and agreed to insert them as a new section 4 in the <i>Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling</i> (CAC/GL 2-1985). Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippine, and Thailand submitted written comments.
	4. Guidelines for the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organically produced foods Annex I: Inclusion of ethylene for other products Annex 2: Deletion of Rotenone	The Committee agreed to return other possible uses of ethylene to Step 6 for comments on the justification of these uses against the criteria in Section 5.1 of the <i>Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods</i> and consideration by the next	The Committee agreed to hold other possible uses of ethylene at Step 7 for consideration at the next Session of the Committee. Philippines, Thailand and India submitted written comments

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		session of the Committee. The Committee agreed to return other possible uses of ethylene to Step 6 for comments on the justification of these uses against the criteria in Section 5.1 of the <i>Guidelines for the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organically Produced Foods</i> and consideration by the next session of the Committee.  Japan, Philippines, Thailand, India and Indonesia submitted written comments.	
	5. Proposed draft recommendations for the labelling of foods and food ingredients obtained through certain techniques of genetic modification/genetic engineering	The Committee agreed to circulate the Proposed Draft Recommendations at Step 3 for comments and consideration at the next session.  Japan, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia submitted written comments.	The Committee agreed to circulate the Proposed Draft Recommendations at Step 3 for comments and consideration at the next session  Malaysia, Japan, India and the Philippines submitted written comments.
	6. Discussion paper on the need to amend the general standard for the labelling of prepackaged foods (Codex Stan 1-1985) in line with OIML recommendations regarding the declaration of the quantity of product in prepackages.	The Committee agreed to invite the representative of OIML to redraft the discussion paper for consideration at its next session while noting that no commitment was being made to undertake new work.  Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand submitted written comments.	---
Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs In Foods Codex		18 <sup>th</sup> session of CCRVDF Natal, Brazil, 11-15 May 2009	19 <sup>th</sup> session of CCRVDF Burlington, Vermont, United States of America, 30 August – 3 September 2010
	MRLs for Ractopamine	The Committee recalled that the 31st Session of the Commission had agreed to hold the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for ractopamine at Step 8 for discussion at its 32nd Session and that it had requested Members to submit relevant information on the availability of scientific data to the 18th Session of the Committee in order to allow the Committee to decide on the inclusion of ractopamine in the priority list for re-evaluation by JECFA. The Commission further agreed that at its 32nd Session, it would decide on the adoption of the MRLs for ractopamine based on the report of the 18th Session of the CCRVDF.  The Committee concluded that there was no significant new data available that would justify the inclusion of ractopamine in the Priority List for complete re-evaluation by JECFA. The European Community, China and Norway expressed their reservation to this conclusion.  China, referring to their written comments, requested the	The FAO JECFA Secretary provided information on the process and conclusions of the evaluation of residues of ractopamine in pig tissues, requested by the 32nd session of the Commission and presented at the 33rd session of the Commission, and which had been published as an addendum to the residue monograph of ractopamine hydrochloride in FAO JECFA Monographs.  The Committee agreed to include in the priority list the request for MRL for ractopamine in pig's lung noting that the information gaps needed to be filled and that such evaluation would significantly benefit from the outcomes of the FAO/WHO expert consultation on dietary exposure assessment

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		<p>inclusion of ractopamine in the priority list for residue evaluation in pigs.</p> <p>After some discussion, the Committee agreed to include ractopamine in the Priority List for review of residue depletion data in pigs. The Committee agreed to forward the Priority List of Veterinary Drugs for Evaluation or Reevaluation by JECFA to the 32nd Session of the Commission</p>	
Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products		<p>30<sup>th</sup> Session Agadir (Morocco), 28 September-2 October 2009</p>	---
	1. Proposed Draft Standard for Fish Sauce	<p>The Committee recalled that the last session of the Committee had returned the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 2/3 for redrafting by the Delegation of Thailand and other interested delegations, further comments and consideration at the current session.</p> <p>The Delegations of Thailand and Vietnam informed the Committee that a revised version of the proposed draft standard had been prepared taking into account all comments submitted to the session (CRD 36) and proposed that this document be considered for its discussions.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to advance the Proposed Draft Standard to Step 5 for adoption by the 33rd Session of the Commission.</p> <p>Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam submitted written comments</p>	
	2. Proposed draft amendment to the standard for quick frozen fish sticks (nitrogen factors)	<p>The Committee recalled that its last session had agreed to postpone consideration of the nitrogen factors taking into account that further research was underway in Thailand to develop new proposals.</p> <p>The Delegation of Malaysia indicated that it had conducted a similar study at the national level on Tilapia, and that it concluded on a nitrogen factor of 2.62.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to return the Proposed Draft Amendment to Step 2/3 for redrafting by the Delegation of Thailand, with the assistance of Malaysia, New Zealand and other interested delegations, for comments and consideration at the next session</p>	

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		2009	2010
Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance		3 <sup>rd</sup> Session Seoul (Republic of Korea), 12-16 October 2009	
	Proposed Draft Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance	The Task Force agreed to forward the proposed draft Guidelines to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5  Indonesia, Philippines, Japan, Republic of Korea and Thailand submitted written comments	
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables		15 <sup>th</sup> Session Mexico City (Mexico), 19-23 October 2009	
	1. Draft Standard for Apples	The Committee noted that the Standard had been adopted at Step 5 and advanced to Step 6 by the 31 <sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission as proposed by the CCFV. The Committee also noted that the Executive Committee had encouraged the Committee to finalize the Standard at this session according to the timeframe set up for completion of the Standard, namely, for final adoption by the Commission in 2010 <del>15</del> . In addition, the Committee recalled that at its last session it had agreed to make every effort and to work in a spirit of compromise to finalize the Standard by this session in order to forward it to the 2010 Commission and that discussion would focus on those unresolved issues in addition to other general proposals as necessary.  The Committee agreed to forward the draft Standard to the Commission for adoption at Step 8.  India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand submitted written comments	
	2. Proposed Draft Standard for Avocado (revision)	The Committee recalled that at its 14 <sup>th</sup> Session it had agreed to initiate new work on the revision of the Standard for Avocado, which had subsequently been approved by the 31 <sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission, and to establish an electronic Working Group on Avocado led by Cuba to prepare a proposed draft Revision for consideration by the Committee. <sup>21</sup> The Committee noted that the scope of the revision as approved by the Commission was to revise the provisions concerning quality and sizing, as well as consequential amendment to other sections of the Standard arising from the inclusion of new varieties, and therefore it was not necessary to review the entire standard.	

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		The Committee agreed to forward the proposed draft Revision to the Commission for adoption at Step 5. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand submitted written comments	
	3. Proposed Draft Standard for Chilli Peppers	The Committee recalled that at its 14th Session it had agreed to initiate new work on a Standard for Chilli Peppers, which had subsequently been approved by the 31st Session of the Commission, and to establish an electronic Working Group on Chilli Peppers led by Mexico to prepare a proposed draft Standard for consideration by the Committee.  The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Standard to Step 3 for further comments, in particular on classification (Section 2.2) and sizing (Section 3). India, Indonesia, Japan Malaysia, Thailand submitted written comments.	
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses		31 <sup>st</sup> Session Duesseldorf Germany 2- 6 November 2009	
	1. Proposed draft additional or revised nutrient reference values for labelling purposes in the codex guidelines on nutrition labelling	The Committee noted that significant progress had been made on the proposed draft General Principles for Establishing Nutrient Reference Values of Vitamins and Minerals for General Population and agreed to forward them to the 33rd Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5.  India, Philippines, Indonesia and Republic of Korea submitted written comments.	
	2. Discussion paper on the proposal for new work to amend the codex general principles for the addition of essential nutrients to foods (CAC/GL 9-1987)	The Committee finally agreed to ask the 33rd Session of the Commission to approve new work to amend the Codex General Principles for the Addition of Essential Nutrients to Foods (CAC/GL 9-1987). Philippines and Indonesia submitted written comments.	
	3. Discussion paper on the proposal for new work to establish a standard for processed cereal-based foods for underweight infant and young children	The Committee noted that the document had been made available late and recognised that it was not possible to reach a conclusion on this proposal at the current session, as further work was required in order to consider a proposal for new work. The Committee therefore agreed that an electronic working group chaired by India would prepare the revised discussion paper on the inclusion of a new Part B in the Standard for Processed Cereal-Based Foods, for consideration by the next session.	

Subsidiary Body	Issues relevant to the region	Notes from the Codex Session	
		2009	2010
	4. Discussion paper on the proposal to revise the codex guidelines on Formulated supplementary foods for older infants and young children (CAC/GL 8-1991)	The Committee agreed to ask the 33rd Session of the Commission to approve new work on the revision of the <i>Codex Guidelines on Formulated Supplementary Foods for Older Infants and Young Children</i> (CAC/GL 8-1991). Philippines and China submitted written comments.	
	5. Discussion paper on the nutrient reference values (NRVs) for nutrients associated with risk of noncommunicable diseases	The Committee agreed to establish an electronic working group chaired by the United States of America and co-chaired by Thailand and Chile working in English and Spanish to prepare the revised document on the Principles and Criteria for the Development of NRVs for Labelling Purposes for Nutrients Associated with Risk of Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases for the General Population Aged Older than 36 Months for circulation at Step 3 and consideration by the next session of the Committee. Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan submitted written comments.	
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene		41 <sup>st</sup> Session Washington (USA), 16-20 November 2009	
	1. Proposed draft guidelines for the control of <i>campylobacter</i> and <i>salmonella</i> spp. In chicken meat	The Committee agreed to return the proposed draft Guidelines at Step 2 for redrafting by the above electronic working group, circulation at Step 3 for comments and consideration by the next session of the Committee. India, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Republic of Korea submitted written comments. At the informal meeting, Thailand asked Asian countries to support testing laboratories for <i>Salmonella</i> but limited only to <i>S.typhimutium</i> and <i>S. pullorum</i> . Meanwhile Indonesia highlighted on the method of slaughtering using the gas stunning and halal slaughter.	
	2. Proposed draft annex on leafy green vegetables including leafy herbs To the code of hygienic practice for fresh fruits and vegetables	The Committee agreed to forward the Proposed Draft Annex on Leafy Green Vegetables Including Leafy Herbs to the Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to the 33rd Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7. Japan, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines submitted written comments.	
	3. Proposed draft code of hygienic practice for pathogenic <i>vibrio</i> species in seafood	The Committee agreed to forward the renamed Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of	

Subsidiary Body	Issues relevant to the region	Notes from the Codex Session	
		2009	2010
		Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> Species in Seafood to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7. India, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia submitted written comments.	
	4. Proposed draft annex on control measures for <i>vibrio paraheamolyticus</i> and <i>vibrio vulnificus</i> in molluscan shellfish	The Committee agreed to forward the renamed proposed draft Annex on Control Measures for <i>Vibrio paraheamolyticus</i> and <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> in Bivalve Molluscs (Annex to the Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Pathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> species in Seafood) to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 5/8 with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7. At the informal meeting, Japan asked Asian countries to support the adoption of the proposed draft. India, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, and China submitted written comments.	
	5. Proposed draft code of hygienic practice for control of viruses in food at step 4	The Committee agreed to return the renamed <i>Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Viruses in Food</i> ) to Step 2 for revision by the above working group. The revised version would be circulated for comments at Step 3 and considered by the next Session of the Committee. Malaysia, Japan, India, Indonesia and Thailand submitted written comments.	
Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products		---	9 <sup>th</sup> Session Auckland, New Zealand, 1-5 February 2010
	1. Draft Amendment to the Codex <i>Standard for Fermented Milks</i> (CODEX STAN 243-1003) pertaining to Drinks based on Fermented Mil		The Committee agreed to the recommendation of the Working Group to remove the square brackets and to adopt a minimum of 40% fermented milk in Section 2.4. Germany, supported by Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Uruguay were of the opinion that a minimum content of 50% dairy ingredients was essential to safeguard the true nature of dairy products (Section 2.3 of the <i>General Standard for the Use of Dairy Terms</i> - GSUDT) and therefore maintained their reservation regarding a minimum of 40% of fermented milk. The Committee agreed to forward the draft Amendment to the 33 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for adoption at Step 8

Subsidiary Body	Issues relevant to the region	Notes from the Codex Session	
		2009	2010
			and inclusion in the <i>Codex Standard for Fermented Milks</i> , pending the endorsement of the Section on Labelling (Section 7.1.4) and the revised Section on Food Additives (Section 4) by the relevant Committees. India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam submitted their written comments.
Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems		---	18 <sup>th</sup> Session Surfers Paradise, Australia, 1-5 March 2010
	1. Proposed draft Principles and guidelines for the conduct of foreign on-site audits and inspections (N07-2008) (Annex to the Guidelines for the design, operation, assessment and accreditation of food import and export inspection and certification systems (CAC/GL 26-1997))	----	The Committee agreed to forward the renamed proposed draft Principles and guidelines for the conduct of assessment of foreign official inspections and certification systems (Annex to <i>Guidelines for the design, operation, assessment and accreditation of food import and export inspection and certification systems</i> (CAC/GL 26-1997)) to the 33rd Session of the Commission for adoption at Steps 5/8, with the recommendation to omit Steps 6 and 7. The Committee recommended to the Commission that the proposed draft Guidelines and Principles replace the current Annex "Guidelines on procedures for conducting an assessment and verification by an importing country of inspection and certification systems of an exporting country" of CAC/GL 26-1997.  This Proposed draft was discussed in the Asian informal meeting prior to the Session which was attended by Indonesia, Japan, Laos and Maldives. India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Thailand submitted written comments.
	2. Proposed draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems	-	The Committee was of the opinion that good progress had been made in improving the understanding of the scope and objective of the document, formulating a high-level statement, defining the structure of the document and agreeing on the high priority principles of a national food control system.  In order to facilitate the further development of the document at its next session, the Committee agreed to establish a physical working group, chaired by Australia, open to all members and observers and working in English, French and Spanish and in accordance with the <i>Guidelines on physical working groups</i> to prepare revised proposed



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			<p>draft principles and guidelines. The working group should expand and elaborate around the guidance provided by the Committee as contained in the paragraphs above. The meeting of the working group was tentatively scheduled for the beginning of 2011.</p> <p>This Proposed draft was discussed in the informal meeting prior to the Session. India, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines and Thailand</p>