



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

**FAO REGIONAL MEETING
Improving Food Safety Decision-Making in a Complex Environment
Bangkok, Thailand
30 August – 2 September 2016**

Participating countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Background: Food safety decisions such as national policy requirements and resource allocations should be based on clear evidence for a broad range of risks that are created by foodborne hazards. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has defined a widely accepted, science-based framework for analyzing evidence related to health risks. While the burden of foodborne illness is clearly important, other risk factors cannot be neglected. For example, bacterial and chemical hazards in export products can have disastrous impacts on trade, employment and household security. Some sub-groups in a population may be particularly sensitive to foodborne hazards, e.g. high exposure to mycotoxins can cause growth stunting in children. Furthermore, in developing countries, food safety policies must consider impacts on all aspects of food security - nutritional adequacy, utilization and accessibility. Ultimately, the appropriate set of risk factors is determined by an individual country based on its needs and issues. By considering a broad set of factors, the national policy base is better informed and decisions are not driven by a single consideration (e.g. supporting export market for a given commodity).

In short, it may be necessary to consider a range of factors when making food safety decisions. Typically, public health protection will be essential, and then depending on the context other factors may include market access, food security, consumer opinion among others.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss improving food safety, risk management decisions, including policy decisions, by considering multiple factors. There will be time for discussion, and hands-on practical working group sessions.

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Discuss food safety decision making in participating countries, and how it may be improved through consideration of a broad range of factors.
2. Gain an in-depth experience of applying a multi-factor process to decision making
3. Discuss possible use and follow up in the region

Preparation for the meeting: Participants are kindly requested to read the background materials before the meeting – Section 1 and Section 2 of the draft FAO Guidance document sent to you by email.

Furthermore, participants should be prepared to contribute to the meeting, by considering in advance of the meeting:

- important food safety decisions and issues currently being addressed or should be addressed; (see Session 4 on Day 1)
- how are food safety decisions made by the relevant ministries - who is involved in decision-making in your country;
- are factors, other than public health consider, and if yes, how;

- what are important factors that need to be considered when making food safety decisions in your country

Food safety was highlighted as a priority for the region at the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, 7-11 March 2016. We hope this meeting will facilitate important discussions in the Asian region and support your ongoing work to improve the safety of food supplies in your country. Transparency, accountability, effective stakeholder engagement and making best use of available evidence are all central themes.



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DAY 1

30 August 2016

09:00 – 09:45 **SESSION 1** **Opening Session** Pisan Pongsapitch, ACFS
Shashi Sareen, FAO
Opening remarks and welcome
Introduction of participants
Meeting objectives

09:45 – 10:00 Group Photo

10:00 – 10:30 **BREAK**

10:30 – 11:00 **SESSION 2** **Making Food Safety Decisions, Based on Multiple Factors** Mary Kenny
Presentation
Introduction to the scope and focus of the meeting

11:00 – 11:30 **SESSION 3** **Context of Food Safety Decisions Making** Dean Stockwell
Presentation
Your world as a risk manager, policy maker

11:30 – 12:30 **SESSION 4** **Update From Countries on Day to Day Food Safety Decisions** Mary Kenny
Valerie Davidson
Facilitated discussion

12:30 – 13:45 **LUNCH**

13:45 – 14:30 **SESSION 4 (Contd)** **Complete Reflection on Ongoing Decisions at Country Level** Mary / Valerie
Facilitated discussion
Organise into categories

14:30 – 15:15 **SESSION 5** **Practical Insight to Improved Decisions by Considering Multiple Factors** Valerie
Presentation
Overview of the complete process and steps (schema)

15:15 – 15:45 Discussion, Q&A.

15:45 – 16:15 **BREAK**

16:15 – 17:00 **SESSION 6** **Reflection on Some of the Key Elements of Structured Decision-Making** Dean / Valerie
An activity
An exercise on determining relevant factors

DAY 2**31 August 2016**

09:00 – 09:15	SESSION 7	How Multi-Factor Decision Making Works in Practice Introduction to different types of decisions we are going to work through in WGs	Mary Presentation
09:15 – 09:45	SESSION 8	Determining Food Safety Priorities A typical decision, including a worked example	Valerie Presentation, with worked example
09:45 – 10:00	SESSION 9	Activity on Making a Prioritisation Decision (applying the schema)	Valerie Working Groups
10:00 – 10:15 BREAK			
10:15 – 12:30	SESSION 9 (Contd)	Complete the exercise	Working Groups
12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH			
13:30 – 14:15	SESSION 9 (Contd)	Feedback from WGs	Mary / Valerie Facilitate Plenary-all
14:15 – 14:45	SESSION 10	Understanding the Impact of a Food Safety Issue in Different Risk Areas A multi-factor risk profile “problem identification”	Mary Presentation
14:45 – 15:30	SESSION 10 (Contd)	Activity To understand the impacts of a food safety issue on different risk areas	Mary Working Groups
15:30 – 16:00	SESSION 10 (Contd)	Feedback from groups	Plenary - All
16:00 – 16:30 BREAK			
16:30 – 17:15	SESSION 11	Determining Appropriate Risk Management Intervention A typical decision	Dean Presentation, with work example

DAY 3**1 September 2016**

09:00 – 10:30	SESSION 11 (Contd.)	an activity to work through an example	Dean Working Groups
10:30 – 11:00 BREAK			
11:00 – 12:00	SESSION 11	Finalisation of group work on risk management	Working Groups

	(Contd)	decision	
12:00 – 13:00	SESSION 11 (Contd)	Feedback from working groups	Plenary - All
13:00– 14:00	LUNCH		
14:00 – 14:45	SESSION 12	Presenting Information to Higher Level In concise clear way, use of policy briefs and information notes	Dean / Mary
14:45 – 15:30	SESSION 13	Open Discussion, Q&A, any Challenges	Dean / Mary
15:30 – 16:15	SESSION 14	How Feasible is This Approach in Your Context?	Dean / Mary Facilitated Discussion
16:15 – 16:45	BREAK		
16:45 – 17:15	Time for reading, finalization of group tasks		

DAY 4

2 September 2016

09:00 – 10:00	SESSION 15	Some Key Points Again on Completing And Comparing The Evidence Paper and software solutions	Valerie / Dean Presentation/Discussion
10:00 – 10:30	SESSION 16	Country Group Time for reflection on how this approach could be applied to a specific issue, decision (case study)	Shashi / Mary Country Groups
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK		
11:00 – 11:45	SESSION 16 (Contd)	Finalise country group work	Working Groups
11:45 – 12:30	SESSION 16 (Contd)	Feedback from country WGs	Shashi / Mary Plenary ALL
12:30– 13:30	LUNCH		
13:30 – 14:30	SESSION 17	Getting Started What are some initial steps to take at country level Some elements of the “enabling environment”	Dean / Valerie
14:30 – 15:30	SESSION 18	Discussion Q&A	Mary All
15:45 – 16:15	BREAK & CLOSE		