

Concept Note

FAO/WHO regional workshop supported by Codex Trust Fund and Government of Russian Federation on Strengthening capacities for effective participation in Codex with emphasis on microbiological food safety for CIS and neighbouring countries

Venue: Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

Dates: 17-18 September 2015. Two-day event

Local host and partner institution: Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being (Rospotrebnadzor), Russian Federation

Rationale: *In the context of globalization and increasing global and regional trade, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and neighbouring countries of European Codex Region are highly interested in increasing their knowledge on Codex standards and procedures, and in enhancing their effective participation in Codex work. The relatively recent membership in World Trade Organization (e.g. Russian Federation-2012, Tajikistan-2013,) or engagement in the WTO accession process (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan), as well the recent membership with Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. Azerbaijan-2011, Tajikistan-2009, Turkmenistan-2012) make capacity development on Codex a priority area. Capacity development is essential for increasing both the level of participation and technical quality of contributions to Codex work, as well as utilizing Codex standards, guidelines, recommendations and codes of practice for strengthening national food safety systems with the ultimate aim to ensure efficient protection of consumers of both domestic food markets and those of regional and global trading partners.*

Participants: *The target audience of the workshop include representatives of Ministries of Agriculture, Ministries of Health, Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiology services of CIS countries, Codex Alimentarius Contact Points, and OIE Focal Points. In total, about 120 participants will be involved in the workshop, including two participants from each of the CIS countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), two participants from neighbouring countries eligible for CTF support (Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine), and more participants from the host country, Russian Federation. Participants from European countries, non-eligible for CTF support, will participate in the workshop on a self-funding basis.*

Training team, including moderators: *Dr. Anna Y. Popova (Rospotrebnadzor, RF), Dr. Viktor Tutelyan (Institute of Nutrition-Codex Contact Point, RF), Ms Awilo Ocheing-Pernet (CAC Chair), Mr Tom Heilandt, Codex Secretary, Ms Catherine Mulholland (CTF Coordinator), Dr. Sarah Cahill (Food Safety Officer/JEMRA, FAO), Dr. Eleonora Dupouy (Food Safety and Consumer Protection Officer, FAO-REU), Dr. Hilde Kruse (Programme Manager Food Safety, WHO-Euro), Dr. Martijn Weijtens (CCEURO Coordinator, The Netherlands), speakers from participating countries.*

Methodology: *The workshop will include presentations on Codex, on FAO/WHO work and publications (including manuals, web-based food safety tools), presentations on countries' ongoing work in applying risk analysis principles, presentations with exchange of Codex experience from participating countries, group work, and discussions..*

Expected outcomes:

- *Facilitated regional networking and collaboration on Codex work, including on microbiological risk analysis;*
- *Strengthened inter-sectoral national and regional collaboration in the implementation of Codex standard;*
- *Strengthened awareness on the application of the risk analysis framework in regard to national and regional microbiological food safety and on FAO/WHO microbiological risk assessments;*
- *Enriched knowledge on the application of a risk-based food safety system;*
- *Awareness raised and understanding increased on antimicrobial resistance from a food chain safety perspective.*

Evaluation: *The results of the workshop will be assessed and recommendations for follow-up will be collected through a standard CTF questionnaire.*