ASEAN’s Approach on Codex

Pisan Pongsapitch
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), Thailand
ASEAN’s Approach for

- Applying Scientific Principle and Risk Analysis for Food Safety Standard Setting
- Implementing Codex Standards
- Contribution to Codex Standard Setting
Article 3

(2) SPS Measures which conform to international standard, shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health

(3) Members may introduce or maintain SPS measures which result in a higher level of SPS protection than measures based on the relevant international standards, if there is a scientific justification...
Article 3

(1) Members shall ensure that their SPS measures are based on an assessment, as appropriate to the circumstances, of the risks to human, animal or plant life of health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by the relevant international organizations.
National/ASEAN standards are in line with SPS Agreement if they:

- conform to international (Codex) standards
- are based on (food safety) risk assessment taking into account RA technique developed by the relevant international organizations (Codex)
Codex Standards relating to Food Safety

1. Food safety limits
   - MRL-Pesticide residue, Vet drug residue
   - ML-Contaminants
   - ML-Food additives
   - Microbiological criteria (MC) - Pathogen

2. Code of Hygienic Practices e.g. GPFH, Specific CoHP, HACCP

3. Others e.g. Labelling, Methods of analysis & sampling
Risk Analysis

Risk assessment policy

Risk Assessment

Scientific data & information

Other legitimate factors
- benefits, economic
- social, cultures
- stakeholders

RM measures e.g. standards
ASEAN Harmonization on Food Safety Standards

• AMAF (THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY)
  – ASEAN Sectoral WG on
    - Crops: AMSHP, EWG-MRL, ASEAN F&V GAP
    - Fisheries: ASEAN Shrimp GAP
    - Livestocks: Animal Vaccines
      Halal Foods

• ACCSQ (ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality – ACCSQ)
  – WG 1 - Standards and MRAs
  – WG 2 - Accreditation and Conformity Assessment
  – WG 3 - Legal Metrology
  – 8 Product WG: Prepared Foodstuff, Electronics, Cosmetic, Pharmaceutical, Automotive, Rubber - Based, Medical Device, Traditional Medicine & Health Supplement
WG / EWG under AMAF

- AMAF
  - SOM-AMAF
    - ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on
      - Fisheries (ASWGFi)
      - Crops (ASWGC)
      - Livestocks (ASWGL)
        - EWG-MRL
        - MASHP
        - EWG-ASEAN GAP
        - AWGPS
AMSHP (ASEAN Meeting on Standards for Horticultural Produce)

- Establish ASEAN standards on horticultural produce, and from 2012, TOR revised to include other food crops

- Standards mainly on essential quality issues

- 18 fruits & 10 vegetables e.g. durian, pineapples, mango, papaya, banana, cucumber, garlic standards have been established

- Primary objective is for produce traded among ASEAN but can also be used as a reference for produce traded outside ASEAN

- Agreed to consider ASEAN Organic standard based on AROS at its next meeting in Brunei
EWG-MRL : Expert WG on the Harmonization of MRL of Pesticide among ASEAN Members

– 16 meetings since 1996
– > 800 pesticide MRLs established
– MRLs based on Codex MRLs and residue data generated by ASEAN members
– ASEAN Members should establish/revise their national MRLs to comply with ASEAN MRLs
ASEAN Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)

• Determine by the EWG-MRLs

• Propose to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) through ASWGC for the adoption of ASEAN MRLs
Principles for Harmonisation of ASEAN MRLs

i. Where Codex MRLs are available and applicable these should be adopted as harmonized ASEAN MRLs.

ii. Where Codex MRLs are not acceptable, modification of MRLs should be supported with residue trial data and toxicological evaluation based on Codex procedures. The compiled data including supervised residue trial, recommendation for the use according to GAP, and risk assessment of the consumers, are presented by the proposed member countries.

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Updated by the Ninth Meeting of EWG MRL (December 2004)
Principles for Harmonisation of ASEAN MRLs

iii. Where Codex MRLs are not available, individual Member Countries could propose MRLs to be considered by the EWG-MRLs for harmonization. Where differences arise during the harmonization process, supporting data including residue trial data, GAP, food consumption pattern and toxicology evaluation need to be examined in greater detail by the EWG-MRLs. Submission of residue trial data should follow the standard format as adopted by the EWG-MRLs, which appears as Attachment.
## Standard format for submission of proposal for ASEAN MRLs

Name of Pesticide ADI = mg/kg bw/day = × 1,000 × 55 kg = µg/person/day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>MRL (Proposing Country)</th>
<th>Codex MRLs mg/kg</th>
<th>Proposed ASEAN MRLs (mg/kg)</th>
<th>Consumption (g/person/day)</th>
<th>TMDI (µg/person/day)</th>
<th>%TMDI/ADI</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### RESIDUES DATA SUMMARY FROM SUPERVISED TRIALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trial No./Year</th>
<th>Trial dose rate (kg. a.i./ha)</th>
<th>GAP dose rate (kg. a.i./ha)</th>
<th>Commodity, Portion analysed (a)</th>
<th>Residues (mg/kg)</th>
<th>PHI (days) (b)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explanatory notes:


(b) Days after last application (Label pre-harvest interval, PHI, underline)

(c) Reference to method of residues analysis (shall be provided; see below guideline)

(d) Other countries' National MRL may also be provided (optional)
Principles for Harmonisation of ASEAN MRLs

iv. In generating regional data for harmonization process, minimum of three residue trials are required for establishing harmonized ASEAN MRLs. The EWG-MRLs, however, may accept two trials as a minimum data provided that a) the data from two trials are consistent and b) pesticide to be considered is not highly toxic (i.e. ADI ≥ 0.01) and is highly degradable (i.e. residue found at low level at Pre-harvest Interval; PHI)

v. Relevant data should be provided for setting EMRL (Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit) of persistent pesticides
Supervised Residue Trial

• Needed when there is no Codex MRLs

• Cost for 1 MRL (3 trials) of one crop >30,000 USD (excluding researchers’ salaries)

• Over a period of 2 years to finish the studies
# EWG-MRLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1996</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>April 2000</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>December 2001</td>
<td>ChaingMai, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 2002</td>
<td>Hanoi, Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 2004</td>
<td>Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam</td>
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</table>
## EWG-MRLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>December 2004</td>
<td>Phnom Penh, Cambodia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Yogyakarta, Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>January 2007</td>
<td>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>January 2008</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>January 2009</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Daw, Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>January 2010</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>ChaingMai, Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
<td>Vientiane, Laos PDR</td>
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</table>
ASEAN MRLs

- In 1996, first session of EWG-MRLs

- In 2012, total of 841 MRLs established by EWG-MRLs
  - 803 MRLs referred to Codex MRLs
  - 38 MRLs from data submitted by AMCs (started in 2008) – Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia & Singapore
### ASEAN MRLs by agricultural commodity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural commodity</th>
<th>Number of MRLs established by EWG-MRLs</th>
<th>Referred to Codex</th>
<th>Data submitted by AMCs</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
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<td>472</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
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<td>198</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetables and Fruits</td>
<td></td>
<td>670</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other agricultural commodities</td>
<td></td>
<td>133</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>803</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


### MRL established by EWG-MRLs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EWG-MRL (Session-year)</th>
<th>MRL refer to Codex MRL</th>
<th>MRL based on AMCs residue data</th>
<th>Total MRLs</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-11 (1996-2007)</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>775</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-2008</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>15-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-2012</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MRLs</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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ACCSQ – PFPWG (Established in 2003)

Scope of Activities:

– Exchange of information on standards, regulations, procedures and mandatory requirements in Member Countries related to prepared foodstuff;

– Review and analyze the comparative study of regulatory regimes among Member Countries

– Identify areas for possible harmonization and MRAs;

– Develop, implement and monitor the sectoral MRAs

– Identify the technical infrastructure needs and build-up mutual confidence in testing and conformity assessment
ASEAN Standards & Conformance Framework

1. Ensure Quality, Safety, Health and Environment
2. Facilitate Trade and Market Access

MRAs

Harmonised Regulatory Regime

Technical Regulations
Conformity Assessment Systems
National Metrology System

Recognition amongst ASEAN Member States
ASEAN Conformity Assessment technical Infrastructure

Government recognition

International recognition

competence

Sectoral Regulation compliance

Organization/Products/
Object of conformity assessment
(ISO/IEC 17050 -1,2)

confiance

Government

Stakeholders
ACCSQ – PFPWG

• Harmonisation of technical requirements i.e.
  • ASEAN Common Food Control Requirements
    – ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements for Food Hygiene
    – ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food
    – ASEAN Common Requirements for Food Control System (on-process)
  • Import – Export Certification and Registration Procedure
  • HACCP and GMP requirements and Inspection and Certification systems
    – Guidelines for ASEAN Audit and Certification of Food Hygiene and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).
ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements for Food Hygiene

- Based on Codex General Principle of Food Hygiene with some modification for flexibility

- The alignment of the principles of the ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements for Food Hygiene could be considered as alignment with these requirements.

- The Meeting also agreed to upload the status of alignment of Member States applicable requirements with the ASEAN Common Principles and Requirements for Food Hygiene

- Guidelines for ASEAN Audit and Certification of Food Hygiene and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) has been prepared
PFPWG-MRA

• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Draft of the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Arrangement For Prepared Foodstuff Product

• Parties to the sectoral MRA shall mutually recognize the results of inspection and certification of PFP which have been issued by the listed Conformity Assessment Bodies of other Parties in accordance with the provisions of this Sectoral MRA.

• Apply to the prepared foodstuff products produced and traded in ASEAN, specified in the HS numbers 16-[24] which have been selected and agreed upon

• Expected to be finalised by 2013
ASEAN Food Testing Reference Laboratory (AFRL)

- Initiated by ASEAN-EU project
- 6 AFRLs have been agreed
  - Vet drugs & heavy metal: Thailand
  - Pesticide residues & Mycotoxin: Singapore
  - Food microbiology: Vietnam
  - GMO: Malaysia
- ASEAN Food Testing Laboratories Committee (AFTLC) established & Guideline accepted
- 2 applications on food additives & food contact materials are on consideration
ASEAN Taskforce on Codex (ATFC)

Scope

The ASEAN Task Force on Codex was established to serve as a forum to discuss Codex issues of interest to ASEAN Countries, and to formulate common ASEAN positions in Codex Meting. It is also a forum to possibly harmonize standards and regulations in ASEAN by using Codex standards as references.
# ATFC Session

<table>
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<th>Session</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>the Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2012</td>
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REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN TASK FORCE ON CODEX (ATFC)

JOINT ASEAN POSITION ON CODEX ISSUES RELATED TO TRADE IN COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

• The meeting reviewed and updated the development of 47 issues carried over from the 11th Meeting of the ATFC.

• The meeting agreed to continue to corporately work on 23 issues on codex discussion, meanwhile the remaining issues were dropped from the agenda as they had been approved or discontinued by codex.

NEW PROPOSALS FOR JOINT ASEAN POSITION ON CODEX ISSUES RELATED TO TRADE IN COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

• The meeting discussed 13 New Proposals for Joint ASEAN Positions on relevant Codex Issues and agree on consensus.
REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN TASK FORCE ON CODEX (ATFC)

PARTICIPATION OF CODEX COORDINATOR FOR ASIA, IN THE ATFC MEETING

The Meeting acknowledged the importance to strengthen communication mechanism with the Codex Coordinator for Asia to solicit its support on Codex issues of importance to ASEAN region and agreed to the following approaches:

i. to provide Codex Coordinator for Asia, through the Chairperson of ATFC, a summary of ASEAN common position on Codex issues.  

ii. to invite Codex Coordinator for Asia based on case-by-case basis, in a session of the ATFC meetings to discuss and coordinate specific issue that need cooperation and/or support.
For this approach, the Meeting agreed to the following mechanism:

• The AMS who will wish to have Codex Coordinator for Asia sit on that specific agenda item that need cooperation and/or support, will send a communication to the ASEAN Secretariat.

• The ASEAN Secretariat to circulate this request to other AMS and gather comments.

• Once consensus is reached from AMS, the Chairperson of ATFC will invite the Coordinator for Asia to sit as observer for specific agenda item.
REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE ASEAN TASK FORCE ON CODEX (ATFC)

FAO PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

- The Meeting took note the presentation made by FAO on the new project supported by the Government of Japan on “Capacity Building Initiatives in Relation to Codex Activities” to support AMS on strengthening capacities to participate in Codex standards setting as well as to adopt and implement international food safety standards; and promoting the production and trade of safe and quality foods and protecting consumers.

- The Meeting agreed on the request from FAO to provide response on nomination of the project focal points from AMS.
PROMOTE THE USE OF ATFC WEBSITE ON WWW.ASEANFOODSAFETYNETWORK.NET

- The Meeting noted the proposal from Thailand to promote the use of ATFC on the website of ASEAN Food Safety Network. The Meeting requested Thailand to communicate with ASEAN Member States to continue updating the basic information of the website, including the focal points. The Meeting encouraged the AMS to use the ATFC website on the ASEAN Food Safety Network in order to reach ASEAN common positions for Codex forum.
Thank you

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