Standardization Structure and Activities of Countries in ASEAN Region - A status summary

at

National Training Workshop: “Strengthening Food Standard Setting and participation in Codex activities in Cambodia
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under

Project: “Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/280/JPN)

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Introduction

• With WTO – role of SPS and TBT important for global trade

• Codex standards/ other documents referenced in SPS Agreement while TBT deals with both voluntary standards and technical regulations (other than SPS coverage)

• Standardization structures in countries cover multiple bodies with more than one standards for a product – voluntary/ regulatory

• Challenge across the region – in many countries

• Look into standardization structure and how the same fits with Codex activities including roles and responsibilities/ coordination aspects
Outline

- FAO Capacity development activities in strengthening national standardization structure including Codex activities
- Status of National standardization and Codex activities in ASEAN countries
- Issues and discussion points
Focus: Strengthening NCC, harmonization of standards in countries, setting up/ adopting Codex standards

Regional projects:
- ASEAN - Support to CB & Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries”
- SAARC – Standards for GAP, Implementation Certification

Country Projects
- Improving food safety in Bangladesh - Strengthening standard formulation based on risk assessment
- Policy assistance for bio-secure agro-food supply chain for enhanced market access & food security (Nepal)
- Strengthening of Food Safety and Standards in Bhutan
- Strengthening capacity of Mongolia to implement Codex
- Technical Assistance for the further development of SPS related legal framework in Laos
Other Standards related activities/
Priorities in the Region

- Strengthening food safety **coordination mechanism**
- **Food safety indicators**
- Risk analysis – detailed trainings eg **risk profiling, exposure assessment, risk communication**
- Supporting **data collection** for proposing subject in CCASIA - insects
- Strengthening **food import control systems**
- Harmonization of standards – clear role of regulatory & **voluntary standards**
- **Regional network** for safety in food retail & **Regional guidance documents** on safety in food retail
- Training module on Implementing **GAP** in F&V, its Certification & Accreditation
Bangladesh: Strengthened Capacity for Standards Formulation based on Risk Assessment

• **Activity 2.1** Strengthening NCCP with effective participation by various governments/stakeholders

• **Activity 2.2** Strengthening the capacity of national standards development with single standard for specific product/process & clear access/availability

• **Activity 2.3** Establishment & strengthening of a risk-analysis capacity across Government agencies to be able to support the development of food safety measures & standards
Bhutan: Strengthening of food safety & standards

• Output 1: Standards for prioritised foods in harmony with Codex
  ➢ Standardization structure developed, food commodities/ areas prioritized for standardization, draft standards developed

• Output 2: Food Safety Policy Document & revised Food Rules & Regns

• Output 3: Capacity of BAFRA strengthened in risk-based food inspection
  ➢ protocols/ manual, food handlers training manuals – various food businesses, inspectors training & consumer awareness

• Output 4: Enhanced Capacity of BAFRA to supervise, certify & accredit various certification systems.
  ➢ System of approvals & certification, awareness for officials & FBOs on FSMS implementation
Bhutan proposed process - option 1

• **STEP 1**- National Food Quality and Safety Commission (BAFRA) approves New Work proposal (mandatory standard) for action by BSB in terms of BSB Act 2010

• **STEP 2**- BSB Board refers NWP to Food & Agri TC – led by BAFRA

• **STEP 3**- TC develops draft standard as prescribed in BSB Act 2010

• **STEP 4**- Draft Standard circulated to Stakeholders for comment – widely & adequate time frame

• **STEP 5**- Technical Committee of BSB prepares revised draft based on comments from stakeholders approves it submission to NCC

• **STEP 6**- NCC submits draft standard to NFQSC for approval as a national food standard for *mandatory* application

• **STEP 7**- BAFRA as the national food control agency takes responsibility for implementation of *mandatory* standard
India – Procedure for harmonization of standards with Codex/ others – Option 2

- Identification of subjects/ standards for review
- Receipt of nominations of experts (15 March 2013);
- Consideration /acceptance of nominations by FSSAI, and work assignment to expert groups (April 2013);
- Receipt of draft standards and codes of practice (July 2013);
- Review by FSSAI WG in consultation with the expert groups and invite stakeholder comments/suggestions on the draft texts – place on website 60 days (Oct. 2013);
- Receipt of stakeholder comments/suggestions on the draft texts (Dec. 2013);
India - Procedure for harmonization of standards with Codex/ others - Option 2

- Review by relevant Scientific Panels &/or the Scientific Committee (April 2014);
- Acceptance of the draft standards/texts by FSSAI and notification to WTO (July 2014);
- Receipt of comments from WTO members and from within India (Oct. 2014);
- Where necessary, review by the relevant Scientific Panel and/or by the Scientific Committee (Nov. 2014); and
- Adoption of the final standards/texts and notification (Dec. 2014)
Mongolia: Strengthening capacity of Mongolia to implement Codex

- **Outcome**: Codex standards and codes implemented at national level and Mongolia actively participates in CAC activities

- **Output 1**: National Policy & Strategy for Codex implementation **developed** - Lead to enhancing of National Codex activities

- **Output 2**: Institutional capacity for Codex **improved** - NCC restructured and working procedures established for Subcommittees, Secretariat and Technical advisory groups.

- **Output 3**: Technical capacity of NCC members **improved** – ToTs, Codex manuals, guidelines, recommendations translated, published and distributed leading to awareness of Codex activities

- **Output 4**: Importance of Codex standards for stakeholders **improved** - Translating priority Codex standards/ organizing WS for food producers/ traders.
ASEAN - Support to CB & Implementation of International Food Safety Standards ...

- **Objectives**
  - Strengthening capacities of countries to participate in Codex standards setting & adopt/ implement international standards
  - Protecting consumers & promoting production & trade of safe & quality foods

- **Outcomes & Outputs**
  1. Increased contribution of ASEAN Countries in Codex activities
     - Strengthened capacity for standard setting/ Codex structure
  2. Refined implementation of Codex standards (ASEAN countries)
     - Strengthen Codex implementation at various stages of food chain/ develop guidance documents, case studies, training modules, websites
  3. Improving ability for quality assurance of data
     - Strengthen capacity/ develop GL (data collecting & assurance)
Status of National Codex activities in ASEAN Countries: GCP/RAS/280/JPN field document no 1/2012

• questionnaire to focal points in countries

• Receiving and compiling inputs

• Validation by country representatives
Status of National Codex activities in ASEAN Countries

Compilation of country status to implement standards

• Food control system framework
• Institutional infrastructure for food standards/ Codex activities
• national standards & standards setting
  ➢ List of national standards
  ➢ Process of standards setting
• Level of Codex implementation
  ➢ National Codex Committee
  ➢ National Codex website
  ➢ Codex country manual
• Data collection and analysis system
  ➢ national standard setting?
  ➢ international standard setting?
  ➢ provided data for international standardization/ areas
  ➢ capacity for data analysis
• Prioritized needs for capacity building
National standards system in area of food...1

- **Brunei**: Mainly for halal foods

- **Cambodia**: Voluntary standards, adopt Codex norms for some standards, regulated by sub decree, ASEAN standards that are different from Codex are adopted through Ministerial notification

- **Indonesia**: SNI standards (778): f & b products, fresh fruit & veg., fish/ fishery products, animal husbandry products, food additives & contaminants??

- **Malaysia**: Mandatory standards by MOH, covers hygiene, labelling, food additives and contaminants, commodities standards, Voluntary standards by Dept of Standards, MST&I
National standards system in area of food

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• **Lao PDR:** National Standards Department (16 standards), MOH adopts Codex Standards

• **Philippines:** standards for primary produce by BAFPS of DoA (110), Standards for processed foods by FDA of MOH, Guidelines by various units of DoA

• **Singapore:** food standards by AVA (200) under Ministry of National Development

• **Thailand:** agriculture standards by ACFS; grouped under Commodity standards - 72, Production system standards - 77 General requirement standards – 32; processed food by MoPH, voluntary by NSB

• **Vietnam:** MOH -46 National technical regulations, MoST (NSB) - 752 Vietnamese Standards,
National standards system in area of food ...3

Process of standard setting

• Ranging from 7-12 steps. Typical example
  
  Step 1: Prioritization of standard
  
  Step 2 Establishment of Tech. Comm. with stakeholders including scientists
  
  Step 3 Standard setting
  
  Step 4 Draft standard considered by Tech Comm.
  
  Step 5 Request comments from stakeholders
  
  Step 6 Draft standard approved
  
  Step 7 WTO notification for mandatory standards
  
  Step 8 Standard approval, Gazette notification
National Codex Committee Structure in Countries

• **Cambodia** – Chair: Minister of Commerce (Camcontrol) - 4 Technical WGs (MAFF, MOH, MoC, MoI)

• **Indonesia** - National Standards Agency (SNI) – set up Codex Indonesia Organization - Chair DG SNI - representatives Government 8, Industry 1, Expert 3, Consumer 1 – 6 mirror committees (hosted by different departments)

• **Lao PDR** - Chair Minister of Health, members - MST, MOH, MoA&F

• **Malaysia** - Chair & Sect MOH (Sr Director of Food Safety & Quality), Government, industries, academia, professional body, consumer, Subject Committees are Mirror of ICC
National Codex Committee Structure in Countries

- **Philippines**: National Codex Organization (2008), Joint DoA and DoH, Government, industry, academia, S&T Institutes, professional groups, NGO; 18 Sub Committees + 3 TF
- **Singapore**: No NCC; AVA, receives/disseminating Codex information and coordinates participation in Codex meetings and working groups
- **Thailand**: National Agriculture Standards Committee is NCC (under MoA); representatives (Govt/public sector/academia/consumers);
- **Vietnam**: VNCC (MOH), Board 6 representatives from ministries (health/agric/Industry/S&T); and VNCC 46 members (Govt agencies, industry, associations, Universities & Research Institutions)
Codex website

- Cambodia: Website of Camcontrol; linked to Codex site camcontrol.gov.kh
- Indonesia: codexindonesia.org; linked to Codex website
- Malaysia: http://fsq.moh.gov.my; all codex information included
- Philippines: http://www.fdc.net.ph/index.php?id1=23; not linked to Codex Website
- Singapore: http://www.ava.gov.sg/NewsEvents/HotTopics/
- Thailand: www.acfs.go.th/codex/index.php; in Thai
- Vietnam: www.codexvn.org in Vietnamese; links to Codex, FAO/WHO
- Brunei and Lao PDR: No website
Codex country procedural manuals

- **Indonesia**: manual in Indonesian (covers Organization and Management, Operational procedure, Procedure on development of position of Indonesia in Codex meeting, Delegation of Indonesia in Codex Meeting, Budgeting for Codex Activities)

- **Philippines**: describes processes, policies/procedures which describe functions, duties, responsibilities

- **Thailand**: procedural manual for participation/elaboration of Thai position

- **Vietnam**: Introduction brochure of CAC, translated Codex procedural manual to VN

- **Malaysia**: details in next slide
Malaysia Codex procedural manual

- Guidelines for the National Codex Sub Committees
- Guidelines for the Ad Hoc Task Forces
- Functions of the Malaysia Codex Contact Point
- Procedures for the management of Codex documents
- Procedures for the development of Malaysian positions and national comments
- Procedures for participation in international Codex Meetings
- Other information on Codex management
Data for international standardization

Indonesia

• Contaminants in foods, fishery, dairy, fresh & Processed fruits and vegetable, veterinary drugs, food hygiene, pesticide residue, for the proposed draft regional standard for Tempe

Philippines

• For work of different Codex Committees - CCFA, CCFH, CCMAS, CCPR, CCRVDF, CCCF - *V. parahaemolyticus* and *V. vulnificus*; Cyanogenic Glycosides, data on Panela- a product of cane sugar

Thailand

• MRLs for pesticide residues and MLs for food additives , data on laboratory validation for the endorsement of methods of analysis for fish sauce; and production/trade /technical data for standard for durian and fish sauce.
In Summary….

• **Standards** – voluntary (NSB)/ mandatory (Ministries)

• **National Codex structure**
  - NCCP hosted by different Ministries (Commerce, Agriculture, Health...)
  - Chair – Minister/DG/ Director, single Ministry/ shared
  - Secretariat of NCC – 1 department; Subcommittee secretariats shared
  - Single Committee/ Sub Committees/ Task Forces – based on needs/ mirror image of Codex
  - Representatives from stakeholders – Ministries, Agencies, industry, consumer associations, academia, research bodies

• **Websites** – separate/ within department – linked to Codex

• **Country Procedural manuals** – organisation & management; working procedures; functions/ roles/ responsibilities; participation; budgeting; managing Codex documents

• **Streamlining standardization** a priority
ASEAN efforts on harmonization on food safety standards

• Working groups of the ASEAN Ministerial meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF),
• ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards & Quality-ACCSQ
• ASEAN Meeting on Standards for Horticultural Produce-AMSHP
• Expert Working Group on the Harmonization of MRL of Pesticide among ASEAN Members (EWG-MRL)

➢ ASEAN MRLs
  - where Codex MRLs available & applicable to be adopted as harmonized ASEAN MRLs and
  - where Codex MRLs not acceptable, modification to be supported with residue trial data & toxicological evaluation based on Codex procedures.

➢ ASEAN Standards and conformity assessment framework
  - technical infrastructure
  - activities of the prepared food products working group,
  - food testing reference laboratories
  - the task force on Codex.
Issues and discussion points on standardization aspects

• Standards bodies more than 1 (multiple agencies) with differing standards at times, on same product
• Need for unified standard (problems eg imports)
• Standards often focus on compositional & quality parameters – need to focus on safety
• Role of NSBs in regulatory standards and regulatory bodies needs clarity – issues such as costing standards (need to be freely available)
• Primary production standards/ GAPs – need to be developed
• Harmonization – globally and within country important
Issues and discussion points on Codex aspects

• Participation in Codex meetings – limited, right representation
• Comments on national position in Codex committee at different steps of the process
• System for data collection
• Technical capacity for carrying risk analysis
• Inputs of private sector stakeholders
• Adoption of Codex norms as national regulations methodology of adoption
• Private sector stakeholders – inputs, strengthening expertise in Codex matters
THANK YOU

Any Questions?