



# FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN ASEAN COUNTRIES



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

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## Report of recent events of the project

### Side event of the 19th Session of the CCASIA; “Enhancement of Capacity on Codex Standards in ASEAN Countries”

As a side event of 19th session of the CCASIA, a Lunchtime Presentation on “Enhancement of Capacity on Codex Standards in ASEAN Countries” was organized on 5 November 2014 at 13:15-14:00 in IINO Conference Centre, Tokyo, Japan, which was attended by more than 50 persons represented from more than 20 countries and international organizations.

#### **Presentation**

After brief introduction by Ms. Shashi Sareen, Leading Technical Officer of the project, Mr. Atsuhiko Meno, Project Coordinator presented an overview of around three year activities of the project. These covered five regional workshops/trainings, one national training, one case study, eight newsletters and information of the established project website and expected topics for future action using presentation slide and the latest newsletter as well as website of the project. This was followed by discussions and suggestions by participants



#### **Discussion**

Delegation of Cambodia requested FAO’s support in data collection on trade figures using the model developed through Mahidol University in Cambodia. Ms. Sareen clarified that once the model was satisfactorily developed, the same could be considered based on need especially since CCASIA had

discontinued the subject in view of lack of availability of trade data till such period that further interest was expressed by members supported by data and need for the same.



Delegation of Indonesia asked for possibility of supporting manpower exchange activities under this project. Ms. Sareen clarified that under the current project design, this aspect was not built into the project as it covered regional activities except in the case of the three LDC countries (Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar), for whom this aspect could be considered as there was a provision for national capacity enhancement activity.

The project however indicated that there could be other possibilities for such support through country projects or other regional projects which could be explored. Ms. Sareen also highlighted some instances where such exchanges were being organized under specific regional/country projects and expressed great appreciation for coordination and cooperation by countries in the region to facilitate such exchanges.

Delegation of Philippine expressed interest in having a regional workshop/ consultation on food standard setting specifically with reference to the role of regulatory and mandatory standards as clarified by FAORAP.

The project referred to some outputs of the national training course in Cambodia and the experience from Bhutan for considering standard setting procedure particularly considering harmonization of regulatory agency and standard setting agency.

Ms. Sareen agreed to examine if this aspect could be taken up under this project or other regular programme activities. Delegation of Bhutan suggested to have training on risk analysis such as the one organized for SAARC countries in June 2013 in interested countries so that exposure could be given to a larger number of persons in each country.

Delegation of India stressed on the importance of training on risk communication. Ms. Sareen informed that a training module on the same had been recently developed by FAO and was currently being tested. Once this was finalized, such trainings will be organized for the region.

Another important area identified was that in relation to support to countries in data collection – both trainings on the methods and actual data collection. This was noted by the project.

Another subject was that of risk-based import inspections, wherein FAO explained the current status of development of guidance documents for risk based inspection for imported foods including piloting the same in Indian and possibility of trainings on the subject once the material was finalized.

## Conclusion

The side event was very good opportunity to disseminate information to non-ASEAN countries as well as ASEAN countries on activities as well as the documents produced. It also provided a good opportunity to understand the needs of countries and get suggestion for further work in the area. The suggestions were noted for further addressing the same, as appropriate.



Information on this event is available in the website of the project;

<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/enhancement-of-capacity-on-codex-standards-in-asean-countries/>

## Report of the 2nd regional training course on “Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria”

The report of the 2nd regional training course on "Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria" which was held on 16 Nov. 2013, Hanoi, Vietnam has been published and sent to national focal points in December 2014.

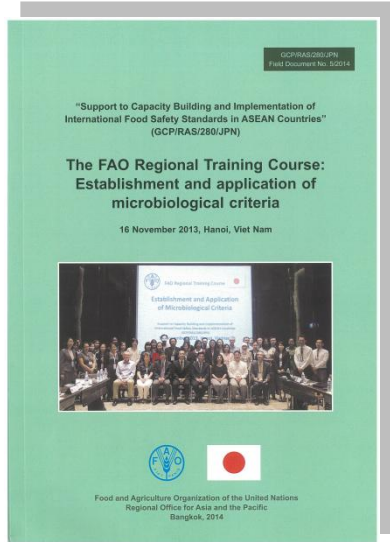
The report covers the following main areas;

- 1) Microbiological criteria - an introduction
- 2) The revised Codex Principles and guidelines for the establishment and application of microbiological criteria related to foods
- 3) Understanding the uses and limitations of an attributes sampling plan
- 4) Example: MC for verifying the performance of a food safety control system
- 5) Example: Operationalizing a performance objective with a microbiological criterion for a risk based approach
- 6) Group exercise

The report is also now available on the project website;

<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/report-of-the-2nd-regional-training-course-establishment-and-application-of-microbiological-criteria/>

## Report of the national training course “Strengthening Food Standard Setting and participation in Codex activities in Cambodia”



The report of the national training course “Strengthening Food Standard Setting and participation in Codex activities in Cambodia”, which was held during 19-21 February 2014, at Phnom Penh, Cambodia was published and sent to the national focal points in January 2015.



The report covers the following main aspects;

- 1) Introduction: SPS/TBT agreement, Codex and risk analysis
- 2) Codex standard setting
- 3) Current situation in Cambodia
- 4) Codex work at national level
- 5) Implementing International standards in Asian countries
- 6) Experiences in ASEAN countries
- 7) Participation in Codex work
- 8) Summary of issues on standard development
- 9) Group exercise
- 10) Recommendations – Blueprint for action

The report is also now available on the project website;

<http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/report-of-the-national-training-course-strengthening-food-standard-setting-and-participation-in-codex-activities-in-cambodia/>

## **Forthcoming events**

### **The report of the third regional training workshop of the project “Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols”**

The report of the third regional training workshop of the project “**Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols**” which was held in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines 11-12 September 2014 will be published and circulated soon.

## **From Project Team**

Mr. Makoto Sakashita has joined FAO RAP as Regional Project Coordinator with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 after separation of Mr. Atsuhiro Meno from FAORAP on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The contribution of Mr Atsuhiro Meno towards this project is highly appreciated. The project activity is expected to be further activated under the new coordinator’s initiative with kind support of the national focal points of the project. The project welcomes readers’ suggestion or advice for future activities of the project.

The project also welcomes all of you visit our webpage <http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/>

Project Team

*Readers are welcome to provide their feedback on the newsletter.  
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