

GCP/RAS/280/JPN

Field Document No. 8/2016

**“Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of
International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries”**

(GCP/RAS/280/JPN)

**The FAO Regional Training Workshop:
Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities
in ASEAN Countries**

8-11 September 2015, Tokyo, Japan



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok, 2016

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ALOP	Appropriate level of protection
AMR	Antimicrobial resistance
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATFC	ASEAN Task Force on Codex
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCCF	Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods
CCCPL	Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes
CCEURO	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe
CCEXEC	Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCFA	Codex Committee on Food Additives
CCFFP	Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products
CCFFV	Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
CCFH	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
CCFL	Codex Committee on Food Labelling
CCFO	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCMMP	Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products
CCRVDF	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
CLs	Circular Letters
COP	Code of Practice
CRDs	Conference room documents
CTF II	Codex Trust Fund II
CXs	Committee Working Papers
EC	European Commission
EPA	Eicosapentaenoic acid
EU	European Union
EUCCP	EU Codex Contact Point
eWG	Electronic working group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations
FAORAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GIFSA	Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice
GM	Genetically modified
GSFA	General Standard for Food Additives
iAs	Inorganic arsenic
INS	International Numbering System for Food Additives
JECFA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives
JEMRA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Risk Analysis
JMPR	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
ML	Maximum level
MRLs	Maximum residue limits
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health

PWG	Physical Working Group
rBST	Recombinant bovine somatotropin
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committees
RMRs	Risk management recommendations
SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary
TBT	Technical barriers to trade
TOR	Terms of reference
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

**FAO Regional Training Workshop:
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1. Introduction

The regional training workshop titled “Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries” – part of the FAO regional project “Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries (GCP/RAS/280/JPN)” – was held on 8-11 September 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. The five-year regional project was launched in December 2011 with financial assistance from the Government of Japan. The project’s goal is to strengthen the capacities of ASEAN countries to contribute to Codex standards-setting and implementing the adopted Codex standards.

The project has already carried out a number of significant activities, including the organizing of six regional/national training workshops/courses:

- an inception workshop titled “Principles and further Activities for Codex Implementation” held in September 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand;
- a training workshop titled “Food Recall and Traceability -Application in National Food Safety Control” that took place in February 2013, in Chiang Mai, Thailand;
- a regional training course titled “Strengthening Capacity of Data Collection and Generation for Food Safety Risk Analysis” held in June 2013, in Tokyo, Japan;
- a regional training course titled “Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria” that took place in November 2013, in Hanoi, Viet Nam;
- a national training workshop titled “Strengthening Food Standard Setting and Participation in Codex Activities in Cambodia” that was held in February 2014, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia; and
- a regional workshop titled “Design and Evaluation of Mycotoxin Sampling Protocols” that took place in September 2014, in Metropolitan Manila, Philippines.

The 36th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 to guide its activities for that period. One of the goals of the plan is to facilitate the effective participation of all Codex members in the CAC. It is therefore very critical for ASEAN countries to enhance their capacity to contribute effectively to the Codex standard setting process. To support ASEAN countries in this matter and to increase their participation in Codex meetings, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) organized this regional training workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan and the European Commission (EC). Japan has promoted the effective contribution to the Codex standard setting process as Coordinator for Asia from 2011 to 2014 and the EC has been

conducting several training courses for non-European countries within the framework of “Better Training for Safer Food Initiatives¹.”

The main objectives of the regional training workshop were to provide participants with:

- 1) an enhanced knowledge of the structure and functioning of CAC including its history and objectives, procedures for elaboration of Codex standards, Codex documentations and how to use the online tools;
- 2) an enhanced understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade;
- 3) training on development of regional/national positions;
- 4) up-to-date information on the result of the 38th session of the CAC; and
- 5) simulated training through mock sessions to enhance the capacity of participants to contribute effectively to Codex work.

Forty participants consisting of seventeen from eight ASEAN countries, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the training workshop. There were also eight participants from Japan. Many resource persons from the European Union (EU), Japan and FAO contributed to the workshop as key presenters and as trainers during the mock training session.

The training workshop methodology consisted of lectures, case study, group work (mock training session) and a field trip to a milk processing plant.

The agenda and the list of participants are provided in Annexure 1 and Annexure 2, respectively.

2. Main activities and findings

2.1 Opening session

Ms Shashi Sareen of FAORAP provided the welcome and introductory remarks. She explained the project’s activities, including the results of previous workshops and training courses, as well as the importance of food safety and Codex and the role of FAO with respect to the same. She also expressed her appreciation for the generous contribution of the Government of Japan who funded the project and co-hosted this training workshop in Tokyo. She also expressed her appreciation to the European Commission for its support and to faculty from the Codex Secretariat for organizing the workshop.

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama, Director for International Affairs, Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division of MAFF Japan and Vice Chair of Codex Alimentarius Commission, delivered the welcome address mentioning that this was the first workshop in which the Government of Japan has collaborated with the EU and expressed her pleasure to have four EU officials present. She looked forward to continuing friendship among EU, Japan and ASEAN countries and cooperation in the implementation of better measures for food safety as well as the adoption of Codex standards across Asia in the future. She also mentioned her expectations with respect to the outcomes of the training workshop.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/index_en.htm

Mr Jonathan Hatwell, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Japan, gave the opening remarks and thanked both MAFF and FAORAP for their foresight in hosting this workshop. By bringing people together from Japan, the wider ASEAN region and places further afield such as the European Union, he thought that this was an excellent opportunity to share experiences, understandings and viewpoints. He stressed the importance of the really unique four-way collaboration between the European Union, Japan, our multilateral partners (FAO and Codex), and the countries of ASEAN. He also stated two key messages: the first one relating to the importance of Codex and the work that the participants would undertake during the workshop to strengthen their capacity to participate in Codex, and the second relating to the importance of establishing ever closer ties between Codex member nations.

Full texts of the aforementioned messages are in Annexures 3, 4 and 5.

After brief self-introductions of all the participants, Mr Makoto Sakashita of FAORAP presented an overview of the project and clarified the objectives and background of the present training workshop.

2.2 Technical session

2.2.1 Structure and functioning of Codex Alimentarius Commission

Ms Shashi Sareen presented the history of Codex and its objectives, Codex Alimentarius Commission statutes, mandate, membership, structure, functions of Codex, Codex structure, committees and subsidiary bodies, principles of Codex elaboration procedure, the scientific basis for Codex, and the Codex strategic plan 2014-2019.

Ms Shashi Sareen also explained the importance of Codex and how participation in the Codex standards setting process would lead to better public health outcomes, improved access to international markets, and increased confidence in national food safety laws and regulations. She highlighted that Codex standards are international benchmarks and address the food safety needs of all countries and that Codex standards are based on the best available science assisted by independent international risk assessment bodies or ad hoc consultations organized by FAO and WHO.

Ms Annamaria Bruno, Codex Secretariat, informed participants of general principles and procedures, the basis for the establishment of Codex standards, Codex documentation including ALINORMs (most Codex documents are numbered and have the prefix ALINORM), Committee working papers (CXs), Circular Letters (CLs) and Conference room documents (CRDs), and numbering system, development of Codex texts and the process for elaboration of standards.

Ms Bruno also reviewed the successes and challenges of Codex as follows:

Successes

- i) The Commission's work is member driven with decisions being taken on the consensus principle.
- ii) There is transparency in the Commission's working which involves the continuous updating of its Web site and constant communication with its observers.
- iii) The time taken for elaboration of Codex texts at present is about 4.2 years.
- iv) The procedure for submission of comments on draft texts is now flexible, and there are no restrictions on submitting comments from any source.

- v) The Codex texts on food safety are science/risk-based.

Challenges

- i) There is need for further increase in participation of developing countries as increasingly such countries are getting involved in the international food trade.
- ii) The Commission through its members and international organizations participating in the FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, is required to find ways to deal with emerging issues such as the evolution of new diseases, food frauds etc.
- iii) There is need for the timely distribution of documentation to members and organizations in their respective official languages.
- iv) There is need to increase the use of IT in the Codex text elaboration process and to introduce on-line procedures.

Ms Bruno demonstrated how to obtain information from the Codex Web site.

2.2.2. Impact of Codex standard and international trade

Ms Ella Strickland of the European Commission explained the impact of Codex standards on international trade, the differences between the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, key principles of the SPS Agreement (proportionate, based on science, non-discriminatory between domestic and third country goods), harmonization, appropriate level of protection (ALOP) and dispute settlement process. She stated that the aim of WTO is to facilitate trade through harmonization of sanitary measures, and stressed that members should follow international standards whereas governments can set requirements that are different from international standards if they can justify their higher standards based on sound and scientific evidence. In conclusion, she stated that international standards should be followed and that national standards do not violate the SPS Agreement simply by differing from international norms. Although governments can set requirements that are different from international standards, they could be required to justify their higher standards if challenged. The justification must be based on sound, scientific evidence.

2.2.3 Development of regional/ national positions

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama, the Vice Chair of CAC, on behalf of former Regional Coordinator of Asia, explained: 1) the functions of the Regional Coordinator; 2) the functions of the Regional Coordinating Committee; 3) the purpose of the Coordinating Meetings (meetings among delegates from member countries of the respective regions organized just before and during each Committee and Commission meeting to share their views); and 4) participation and role of CCEXEC including critical review. She introduced the new approach that was agreed at the 38th CAC that:

- established the generic agenda as a basis for the agendas for the next round of Regional Coordination Committees (RCCs); and
- requested Regional Coordinators to make recommendations on topics for the keynote address on regional issues of priority.

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama stressed that the tasks of the Regional Coordinator are to hold RCCs and Coordination meetings, and to attend CCEXEC in the interests of their respective regions, and that RCCs are expected to be the forum on food safety issues in the region.

Ms Eva Zamora Escribano of the European Commission explained how the Codex positions of the European Union (EU) are developed including their internal coordination and preparation. The Directorate-General Health and Food Safety of EU is the EU Codex Contact Point (EUCCP). The activities with respect to Codex work in the EU are coordinated by the EUCCP. The major participating organizations are the European Medicine Agency, the EU's Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, the European Food Safety Authority and the Joint Research Centre. The communications are received from the Codex Secretariat by EUCCP. EUCCP coordinates with 28 member states and the European Council. Working party meetings are arranged by the EU Council and are attended by CAC experts. The meetings are chaired by the EU Presidency. The Council provides the secretarial function for the EU Presidency.

Ms Eva Zamora Escribano also informed the participants of the work of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) in practice. All information with respect to Codex is shared with members of the region through the CCEURO Web site. Communications are also sent through e-mails to each member state. Physical meetings within the framework of CAC and the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) are held on a regular basis. CCEURO sessions are organized following the CAC Rules of Procedure. CCEURO does not operate as a "block". It does not develop regional positions but common regulations are available as well as common values on some sensitive issues, such as MRLs of pesticides. Also, she stated the challenges facing CCEURO, which are as follows:

- need to strengthen capacity building activities focusing on new members of CCEURO;
- language barriers – as a large number of countries make up the EU, there are a number of languages in use making communication difficult; efforts are underway to find solution to the issue;
- actions are in progress for raising awareness within the region about Codex work; and
- strengthening of communication and cooperation with other regions is also in progress.

Mr Hidetaka Kobayashi of MAFF first spoke on how to establish a country position. He stated that studying official documents and other relevant reading material would enable the delegate to prepare the national/regional position. He also stated that the Codex Contact Point in the country or the National Codex Committee could play an important role in the process of establishing a country position. He also mentioned that when it is impossible or difficult to make the country position understood in the meeting by means of an oral presentation, written comments backed up by science-based data/information could be effective. In fact the committee could take into account any such written comments during the discussion.

Mr Hidetaka Kobayashi explained two major risk management activities of CCCF, namely establishing Codes of Practice (COP), which contain guidance for manufacturers to produce safer foods by preventing and reducing contamination, and standards setting, including establishing maximum levels (MLs) for contaminants. He cautioned that the establishment of MLs will not in itself increase the safety of food. He stated that occurrence data of inorganic arsenic (iAs) in rice

from main producers/consumers of rice are most welcome from the Asian region including ASEAN countries.

Mr Jerome Lepeintre, Minister Counsellor, EU Delegation to China and Mongolia, stated that the success of Codex means that the health of consumers is protected and fair trade in safe food is facilitated. In addition, he mentioned that Codex's success also means that Codex members can find solutions by understanding the fundamental needs of other parties in a dispute and then find creative ways to address those needs through negotiation and being willing to show constructive leadership. He stated that the views of all concerned were considered and decisions were finalized through negotiations guided by science-based reasoning and a consensus approach. He went on to illustrate this using two cases studies of Codex discussions that involved considerable controversy: one related to sardines and one related to the labelling of GM products.

Ms Viengxay Vansilalom, Lao PDR, explained the scope of the ASEAN Task Force on Codex (ATFC), the joint ASEAN position and examples of the development of a regional position. The ATFC was established to serve as a forum to discuss Codex issues of interest to ASEAN countries and to formulate common ASEAN positions in Codex meetings. It is also a forum for possibly harmonizing standards and regulations in ASEAN by using Codex standards as references. The ATFC meeting is held once a year for briefing the members about Codex related matters including de-briefing about CAC and other Committee meetings.

Ms Vansilalom also stated the composition of the National Codex Committee of Lao PDR, explained the process of developing a national position, and outlined future work related to Codex in Lao PDR. In order to expedite the process of developing a national position, Codex documents are distributed to members representing related agencies for comments and the WHO food safety adviser is consulted on specific issues. She requested FAO's support to strengthen Codex work in Lao PDR by having a national training course on Codex and a review designed to improve the working of the national codex committee.

Ms Thu To LIEN, Viet Nam, explained the basic science for building a Codex standard fish sauce, which is the main sauce used in Vietnamese cuisine. She also presented the contents of the research undertaken by the Research Institute for Marine Fisheries that could be utilized for the elaboration of a Code of Practice. She explained that a survey of fish sauce processing facilities in 15 provinces of the country was carried out. This involved the collection of 900 samples of the product that were subsequently analyzed to determine the chemical characteristics and level of microbiological contamination. The methodologies of chemical analysis were either according to Vietnamese Standards or internationally accepted techniques.

2.2.4 Current work in Codex committees: the result of the 38th CAC and key issues most relevant to the region

2.2.4.1 CAC

Ms Ella Strickland presented the outcomes of the 38th CAC, which was held from 6 to 11 July 2015 in Geneva and attended by 400 participants from 140 member states, 1 member organization and 33 observer organizations. Thirty-six Codex Standards were adopted and five standards were

adopted at Step 5.² She highlighted key topics: i) Codex work management; ii) recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST); iii) processed cheese, iv) Codex Trust Fund II(CTF II); v) funding for continuation of the Joint Expert Committee to provide science advice; and vi) eighteen accepted proposals for new work. Information on each of these is provided below.

i) Codex work management

A working document was prepared by Japan on the basis of Codex Evaluation in 2002 and its follow-up in 2005. Six priority areas were identified, namely strategic governance, emerging issues, consensus, committee collaboration, effectiveness of CCEXEC and efficiency of CCEXEC and CAC. Thereafter, a road map was agreed with the aim being that Codex work would be completed in three phases. The Secretariat with FAO and WHO would create a new document taking into account the working document and all comments and discussions in the process. The new document would be circulated for comments by the end of October 2015 with a deadline of 15 February 2016. The document would be discussed at CCGP30 in May 2016 and a new consolidated version of the document would be created. The document would be considered at CCEXEC71 and a final decision on the scope of phase 1 would be taken at CAC39.

ii) Recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST)

rBST, a synthesized hormone produced through the application of biotechnology, is used in some areas in cows to increase milk production. CAC examined the agenda, recognized the validity of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) risk assessments as a sound scientific basis for its deliberations on rBST. It also recognized that there were diverging views being raised by members, namely those members who supported adoption of the hormone as the standard and those members who supported discontinuation of the hormone. JECFA had examined the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and found no link to the use of rBST. Nevertheless, the Commission, as the international risk management body, recognized that a consensus had not been reached on the adoption of the draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) at its 38th session. The Commission agreed to hold the draft MRLs for rBST at step 8 to provide further time to facilitate a possible consensus. The draft MRLs would continue to be on the agenda of the Commission and open to discussion.

iii) Processed cheese

The Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) had been reactivated for the development of a standard on processed cheese. The delegation of New Zealand introduced the work on the proposed draft General Standard for Processed Cheese for adoption at Step 5. The delegation noted the substantive progress made on the scope and product definition, on the use of gelatin and starches, on stabilizers and emulsifiers, as well as on food labelling provisions and consumer information. They noted, however, that there were unsolved issues such as the minimum cheese content. The delegation proposed to adopt the proposed draft standard at Step 5. The views of the New Zealand delegation were supported by the African, Latin American and Near East regions. However, there were reservations by Egypt and the European Union on issues such as the scope and minimum cheese content without which the standard would not be

² For information on the Codex step procedure see the Procedural manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Page 33) (available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Publications/ProcManuals/Manual_24e.pdf).

meaningful. In addition, further work was needed on issues such as the development of a list of appropriate food additives. CAC decided to adopt the draft standard at step 5 allowing further discussion.

iv) Codex Trust Fund II (CTF II)

The Codex Trust Fund I was established 15 years ago to support developing countries to participate more actively in Codex work. EU has been a major supporter of this initiative on the part of Codex, contributing about 70 percent of the fund. The novelties of CTF II are multi-year funding and tailor made activities. It is still to be finalized by parent organizations and to come into force in 2016.

v) Funding for continuation of Joint Expert Committee to provide science advice

Sustainable funding of the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission and related activities of FAO and WHO in support of Codex has often been a serious concern of Codex members. In particular, the funding for the provision of scientific advice by FAO/WHO expert committees and other expert bodies in the area of food safety risk assessment and nutrition has been extensively discussed at the CCEXEC and at CAC on a regular basis.

Three options have been highlighted:

- 1 Codex through FAO and WHO must develop a communications strategy that will increase awareness of the importance of a scientific advice programme in the Codex standard setting process and the negative impact of inadequate funds on the process.
- 2 As it is important that the donor base to support scientific advice is expanded with more members committing to provide funds on a regular basis, a special golden jubilee fund, targeting all member countries, observers and other entities is proposed and intended to serve as a catalyst to get other member countries to support scientific advice activities.
- 3 As the donation received so far through the Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA) is small, FAO/WHO in the short-term must review the operations of GIFSA and within the framework of GIFSA pursues an active fund raising strategy.

There were discussions when members, representatives of FAO and WHO made observations on the options. Several observations were made in favour of option 1. The EU delegation favoured funding via regular FAO and WHO budgets. Finally, CAC supported option 1 as the most feasible, long-term solution and encouraged Codex members to make every effort to take action immediately after CAC38, which would lead to a favourable decision by the FAO and WHO governing bodies.

vi) Eighteen accepted proposals for new work

CAC approved the elaboration of 18 new standards and related texts taking into account the critical review of CCEXEC. The proposal by Botswana for a Regional Standard for Dried Meat was rejected. The observation was that the product is traded all over the world. Therefore, an international standard should be prepared after following due procedure for collection of data, analysis etc. A Physical Working Group (PWG) under the reactivated CCMMP was constituted with Denmark in the Chair for the creation of a standard on dairy whey permeate powder. There should be back-to-back meetings of the PWG to finalize the standard. An electronic Working Group (eWG) under the reactivated Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes

(CCCPL) was constituted with USA in the Chair for the creation of a standard on quinoa, a cereal, as proposed by Bolivia.

2.2.4.2 Commodity committees

As the commodity committees most relevant to the region are the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO) and the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) these were the focus of a number of presentations.

Ms Eva Zamora Escribano gave general information related to CCFO, and reported on the Codex Code of Practice for the Storage and Transport of Edible Fats and Oils in Bulk and its mention of the causes of their deterioration, namely oxidation, hydrolysis and contamination from different sources (e.g. dirt, residues of previous materials). She also introduced the list of Acceptable Previous Cargoes based on four criteria, and the list of banned Immediate Previous Cargoes. The list of Acceptable Previous Cargoes contained 93 substances, one substance was removed, and 23 (including one new substance) are to be assessed by an ad hoc FAO/WHO expert meeting against the four criteria. This proposal was endorsed by the 38th CAC.

Ms Eva Zamora Escribano introduced the current activities of the Committee, e.g. development of a draft standard for fish oils (adopted at step 5 at the 38th CAC, and noted that some issues are still being debated, e.g. inclusion of several named oils within the scope of the standard and labelling provisions (e.g. declaration of the percentage of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), vitamins) and approved new work (Revision of the Standard for Named Vegetable Oils, and Revision of the Standard for Olive Oil and Olive Pomace Oil.

Ms Naoko Takahata of MAFF explained: i) the terms of reference (TOR) of CCFFV; ii) results of the 18th session of CCFFV; iii) the agenda of the 19th session of CCFFV; iv) the proposed draft standard for kiwifruit – she stated that some controversial issues discussed were the definition of the product, maturity requirement, classification, and provisions concerning the size and size tolerance; and v) the proposed layout for Codex standards for FFV – some issues discussed, she stated, related to the proposed layout for Codex standards for FFV, namely how to approach food additives for fresh fruit and vegetables, and the need for a glossary.

2.2.4.3 General subject committees

As the general subject committees most relevant to the region, the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF) and Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) were the focus of a number of presentations.

Ms Annamaria Bruno explained the TOR of CCRVDF, its main achievements, the development of Codex Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs), and the 22nd session of CCRVDF – main outcomes and ongoing work and future work. CCRVDF developed MRLs for 74 veterinary drugs or combinations of veterinary drugs in different tissues of different species of food-producing animals. It also developed Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) – a major recommendation is not to use those veterinary drugs in food-producing animals for which a safe level of residues has not been established.

Ms Annamaria Bruno also highlighted the main achievements of the Committee, including Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (CAC/GL 71-2009), the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005) and Risk Analysis Principles applied by CCRVDF and Risk Assessment Policy for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (which is included in the Codex Procedural Manual). Furthermore, she introduced the main outcomes of the 22nd session of the Committee and the ongoing and future work of the Committee.

Mr Hajime Toyofuku, Yamaguchi University, Japan, explained the TOR of CCFH, its main achievements, the relationship between CCFH and JEMRA, outcomes of the 46th session, and main agenda items of the 47th session. A large number of Codex texts have been brought out by the committee since its inception, he stated. The texts are on recommended international codes of practice on general principles of hygiene, principles and guidelines of microbiological risk assessment in foods, codes of hygienic practices for commodities, such as milk and milk products, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, guidelines on the general applications of general principles for food hygiene for control of specific bacterial pathogens, viruses in food and others. He referred to two very widely used Codex texts pertaining to the committee, namely CAC/RCP 1-1969 Recommended International Code of Practice – General Principles of Food Hygiene and CAC/GL 69 – 2008 Guidelines for the Validation of Food Safety Control Measures. During the discussion, the collaboration between OIE and CCFH was also highlighted.

Mr Hidetaka Kobayashi explained the TOR of CCCF, the risk analysis applied in CCCF, and the interaction between CCCF and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). CCCF carries out the risk management function, whereas JECFA carries out the risk assessment function. JECFA, he noted, is independent from Codex. He talked about three basic functions of risk management: i) preliminary risk management activities; ii) evaluation of risk management options; and iii) monitoring and review of the decision taken. Mr Kobayashi also presented on the principles to establish MLs for contaminants in Codex, and MLs under development in CCCF.

Mr Kazuhiro Sakamoto, MAFF Japan, presented on the following: i) an overview of CCFA; ii) General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA); and iii) the relationship between the GSFA and commodity standards. In 1989 CCFA established Class Names and the International Numbering System for Food Additives (INS) (CAC/GL 36-1989). In the INS list, food additives are listed with their identification number, functional class and technological purpose. This INS list is continuously revised on the basis of comments provided to the committee. In 1995, CCFA elaborated a General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA), which covers all foods (CODEX STAN 192-1995). This general standard is also revised continuously. It means GSFA covers not only standardized food but also non-standardized foods. On the other hand, commodity standards cover specific foods defined in each commodity standard. For example, the regional standard for tempe covers tempe but not other fermented soybean products. In the case of tempe, this is categorized in food category 06.8.6 “Fermented soybeans” in the GSFA. Food category 06.8.6 also covers other fermented soybean products, for example dou chi and natto.

Mr Kazuhiro Sakamoto also explained that GSFA should be the single authoritative reference point for food additives. When food additive provisions of a commodity standard are discussed, the Commodity Committee shall examine if the general reference to the GSFA serves its purpose. If food additive provisions in the corresponding food category of the GSFA already cover the

usage of food additives, the commodity committee incorporate a general reference to the corresponding food category of the GSFA.

2.3 Mock session

Following some lectures on the current work of Codex committees, a mock session was held simulating a real session of a Commodity Codex Committee meeting. Before starting the mock training session, Ms Eva Zamora Escribano and Ms Bernadette Klink Khachan of the European Commission highlighted the objectives of a mock session, which are to improve effective participation in Codex activities and to reinforce links and cooperation through: a) better knowledge and understanding of Codex documentation and working procedures; b) enhanced knowledge of how to prepare, present and promote national positions in Codex Committees; and c) enhanced negotiation skills. All the participants were divided into five hypothetical member countries and two NGOs representing manufacturers and consumers, as in a real Commodity Committee.

Each group discussed and prepared their delegation's position for a hypothetical proposed draft Codex standard for a daily food item and a proposal for new work based on the guidance and necessary documents provided by the European Commission. They developed their positions and written comments where appropriate for participation in the plenary meeting. Before initiating the plenary session, each delegation also exchanged their views with other delegations face-to-face.

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama, Ms Annamaria Bruno and Mr Atish Kumar Sen, FAO international consultant, played the roles of chairperson, secretariat and assistant chairperson for the plenary session, respectively. The agenda was conducted actively and constructively as it would be in a real Codex meetings with appropriate interventions by participants.

After the plenary session, a debriefing session was held to summarize lessons learned from the mock session. Some key lessons were as follows:

- Preparation is essential but there is also a need to be prepared for the unexpected.
- An intervention needs to be clear in terms of content and justification for the intervention.
- The timing of an intervention is important.
- Delegations need to look for a win-win situation.
- Roles of chairperson and secretariat are important and delegations can interact with them to explain their views, seek solutions and find consensus.
- The most knowledgeable person on the topic under discussion should be able to intervene, not only the head of the delegation.
- The report needs to reflect the decision correctly and delegations should intervene if it is not.

2.4 Field trip

On the final day, a field trip to Megmilk Snow Brand Co., Ltd. Ebina plant located in a suburb of Tokyo was organized to see the milk processing plant. At the factory, milk, yogurts and creams are produced. The plant manager gave a brief introduction to the factory and explained details of the products manufactured there, after which participants visited the plant and inspected the facility environment, processing lines, pre-production control such as sterilization and quality

control sensory tests. Participants also learned how hygienic control is handled throughout the manufacturing process. Finally, they sought clarifications in relation to domestic food safety standards and their implementation.

2.5 Closing session

Mr Atish Kumar Sen presented the participants' evaluation of the training course, including the faculty. Participants generally rated each specific topic of the programme either as "excellent" or "very good". Some participants pointed out that more time should be given to the mock session and that a follow-up training programme can be prepared for further enhancement of skills of the participants in developing national positions on Codex works. Participants from ASEAN countries were given certificates of participation in the training workshop. Thereafter there were closing addresses by Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama and Ms Shashi Sareen from the host country and FAO, respectively. Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama from the host country in her concluding remarks thanked FAO for organizing the programme and mentioned that the highlights of the training workshop were the lectures as well as the mock training session with technical support by resource persons of the European Commission. She hoped that the participants would practice what they learned during the training programme as this would help to enhance their effective participation in the Codex activities in the region. Ms Shashi Sareen from FAO briefly described the outcomes of the training workshop and hoped that countries would be able to utilize the lessons learned for strengthening their participation in Codex. She thanked the Government of Japan for the support provided in organizing the training course, the resource persons for delivering lectures and the participants for their enthusiastic participation in the programme.

A summary of the evaluation of the training workshop by the participants is given in Annexure 6.

3. Conclusions

At the end of the training workshop, the general and specific objectives were achieved and the overall outcomes were the following:

- 1) Participants were able to enhance knowledge on the structure and functions of CAC, the latest meeting of CAC and key issues of Codex meetings most relevant to them, and the impact of Codex standards on international trade.
- 2) Participants were trained on developing national positions and capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work.
- 3) Participants recommended that simulated training through a mock session be improved by extending the length of time devoted to it.
- 4) It was agreed that a separate training manual would be developed based on the training programme.

Agenda of the training workshop

Tuesday, 8 September (Day 1)	
08.30–09.00	Registration
09.00–09.30	<p><i>Overall facilitator</i> <i>Ms Shashi Sareen</i> <i>Senior Food Safety & Nutrition Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP)</i></p> <p>Opening session (Agenda item 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductory remarks <i>Ms Shashi Sareen (FAORAP)</i> • Welcome remarks <i>Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama</i> <i>Director for International Affairs, Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan and Vice Chair, Codex Alimentarius Commission</i> • Opening remarks <i>Mr Jonathan Hatwell</i> <i>Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Japan, European Union (EU)</i> <p>Photo session</p>
09.30–09.55	<p>Introduction (Agenda item 2) Self-introduction of participants</p> <p>Overview of the project and objectives and methods of the training course <i>Mr Makoto Sakashita (Project Coordinator, FAORAP)</i></p>
Structure and functioning of Codex Alimentarius Commission	
9.55–10.35	<p>Importance of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its structure and functions (Agenda item 3) History of Codex and its objectives Codex Alimentarius Commission statutes – mandate, membership, structure Codex committees and subsidiary bodies <i>Ms Shashi Sareen (FAORAP)</i></p>
10.35–10.50	Coffee break

10.50–11.30	<p>Elaboration of Codex standards (Agenda item 4)</p> <p>General principles and procedures Codex documentation (ALINORMS, Circular Letters) Practical exercise: Testing Codex online information tools <i>Ms Annamaria Bruno (Codex Secretariat)</i></p>
Impact of Codex standards on international trade	
11.30–12.30	<p>International agreements governing food trade – WTO/SPS and TBT and dispute settlement process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The impact of Codex standard on international trade. inter alia, dispute settlement (Agenda item 5) <i>Ms Ella Strickland (European Commission, EU)</i>
12.30–14.00	Lunch
Development of regional/ national positions	
14.00–15.00	<p>Role of regional coordinator (Agenda item 6)</p> <p>Role of regional coordinator <i>Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (MAFF, Japan)</i></p> <p>Development of regional positions (EU / CCEURO) <i>Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i></p>
15.00–15.30	<p>Developing national or regional positions/ written comments [case studies] (Agenda item 7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inorganic arsenic in rice (CCCF): national position based on science <i>Mr Hidetaka Kobayashi (MAFF, Japan)</i>
15.30–15.45	Coffee break
15.45–16.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sardine (CCFFP) : Successful Compromise - GM Labelling (CCFL) : Face Saving Conclusion <i>Mr Jerome Rene Robert Lepeintre (EEAS – EU)</i>
16.30–16.55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of regional and national position for Codex <i>Ms Viengxay Vansilalom (Lao PDR)</i>
16.55–17.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Vietnamese standards for fish sauce: national position based on science <i>Ms Thu To LIEN (Viet Nam)</i>
17.20–17.50	<p>Preparation of the mock session (Agenda item 8)</p> <p><i>Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i> <i>Ms Bernadette Klink Khachan (European Commission, EU)</i></p>

18.00	Reception dinner
Wednesday, 9 September (Day 2)	
Current work in Codex committees: mandate, the result of the 38 th CAC, and key issues most relevant to the region (Agenda Item 9)	
09.00–10.10	The results of the 38 th CAC (30 minutes) <i>Ms Ella Strickland (European Commission, EU)</i> Codex commodity committees (20 minutes each): CCFO <i>Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i> CCFFV <i>Ms Naoko Takahata (MAFF, Japan)</i>
10.10–10.25	Coffee break
10.25–12.25	Horizontal Codex committees (30 minutes each): CCRVDF <i>Ms Annamaria Bruno (Codex Secretariat)</i> CCFH <i>Mr Hajime Toyofuku (Yamaguchi University, Japan)</i> CCCF <i>Mr Hidetaka Kobayashi (MAFF, Japan)</i> CCFA <i>Mr Kazuhiro Sakamoto (MAFF, Japan)</i>
12.25–13.30	Lunch
Mock session (Agenda item 10) Trainers: <i>Ms Ella Strickland (European Commission, EU)</i> <i>Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i> <i>Ms Bernadette Klink Khachan (European Commission, EU)</i> <i>Mr Jerome Rene Robert Lepeintre (EEAS, EU)</i> <i>Ms Annamaria Bruno (Codex Secretariat)</i> <i>Mr Hajime Toyofuku (Yamaguchi University)</i> <i>Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (MAFF, Japan)</i>	
13.30–15.30	Mock session: Preparing national/ regional positions [Group exercise]
15:30-15:45	Coffee break
15:45–17.00	Mock session: Preparing national/ regional position [Group exercise]
17.00–17:30	Mock session: Proposing new work in Codex <i>Ms Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i>
Thursday, 10 September (Day 3)	
Mock session (Agenda item 10) [Continuation]	
09.00–9.30	Mock session: Meeting between delegations

	+ exchange of views with other delegations [Group exercise]
09.30–10.30	Mock session: Plenary of CCMMP Chair: <i>Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (MAFF, Japan)</i> Codex Secretariat: <i>Ms Annamaria Bruno (Codex Secretariat)</i>
10.30–10.45	Coffee break
10.45–12.30	Mock session: continuation of the plenary session of CCMMP
12.30–14.00	Lunch
14.00–15.30	Discussion/ Debriefing: lessons learned from the mock session <i>Ms. Eva Zamora Escribano (European Commission, EU)</i>
15.30–15.45	Coffee break
15.45–16.30	Explanation of field trip <i>Ms Aya Orito-Nozawa (MAFF, Japan)</i>
Friday, 11 September (Day 4)	
Field trip	
09.00–15.00	Milk processing plant, Megmilk Snow Brand Co., Ltd.
Evaluation and closing session	
15.00–15.30	Feedback & evaluation (Agenda item 11)
15.30–16.00	<i>Closing session at MAFF (Agenda item 12)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of the training workshop <i>Mr Atish Kumar Sen (FAORAP)</i> • Closing remarks <i>Ms Shashi Sareen (FAORAP)</i> <i>Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama (MAFF, Japan)</i> • Granting of Certificates of Attendance

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Introductory remarks

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Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama, Director for International Affairs, Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan and Vice Chair, Codex Alimentarius Commission

Mr Jonathan Hatwell, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Japan, European Union

Distinguished Participants, Resource Persons, Colleagues from FAO, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the FAO, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this four-day “Regional training workshop on enhancing effective participation in Codex activities in ASEAN”, organized under the Japanese funded FAO project “Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries (GCP/RAS/280/RAS)”. I take this opportunity to offer our gratitude for the generous contribution of the Government of Japan for funding the project as well as co-hosting this training workshop in Tokyo. I would like to thank Dr Yayoi Tsujiyama for giving the opening remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the support of the European Commission and faculty from Codex Secretariat, FAO Headquarters and the internationally recognized food safety specialists, the resource persons. I would like to thank our resource persons for making available their valuable time to come for this important training.

I am extremely pleased to see around 30 participants from 9 countries in the ASEAN region and Japan participating today, many representing senior managerial and technical staff from various ministries and departments, responsible for food safety standards setting.

With the globalization of the world’s food supply, contaminated food can rapidly spread across national borders. Recent food safety incidents clearly demonstrate the urgent need for strengthening national food safety systems and international collaboration in a complex global food system. The role of Codex in the area of food safety, as you may be aware, is very important. Codex plays a key role in establishing a common framework for food safety and quality standards setting and harmonization of food standards across countries. Codex has established over 200 food standards and more than 100 guidelines and codes of practices of which many are being used as reference for national food laws, regulations and standards

development and implementation. This implies that countries need not only to develop national standards in line with Codex but also to participate actively in the international standards setting process.

In 2014, the 36th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted the Strategic Plan 2014–2019 which advances the mandate of the Codex Alimentarius Commission during this period. One of the goals of the plan is to facilitate the effective participation of Codex members. Effective participation is important for countries to understand the process of developing Codex standards, guidelines and codes of practice as well as to adopt Codex texts into national legislation and policies. Using Codex as the basis for national food legislation and policies contributes to protecting the health of consumers and ensuring fair practices in trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

FAO has been focusing on food safety at the international and regional levels almost since its inception. FAO, in addition to setting international standards, also responds to the needs of individual countries and supports them in strengthening capacities to develop and implement food control activities, including standards and their implementation.

In spite of various efforts and initiatives in the region by FAO as well as other development partners, it has been observed that there are still challenges faced by governments in strengthening food safety and among the most important ones are the need to deal with the development of regional/ national positions and capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work. This timely regional training workshop brings together food safety professionals from the region and provides a valuable opportunity to Codex members. This regional training workshop is being organized to support ASEAN countries to enhance their capacity for contributing to Codex standards setting and participating in Codex meetings. With this background, the training workshop has been designed with specific objectives in mind, namely to:

- 1) enhance knowledge of the structure and functions of the Codex Alimentarius Commission including its history and objectives, procedures for elaboration of Codex standards, Codex documentations and how to use the online tools;
- 2) enhance understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade;
- 3) provide training on the development of regional/ national positions;
- 4) provide up-to-date information on the results of the 38th session of the CAC; and
- 5) provide simulated training through mock sessions to enhance participants capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I would once again like to thank the Government of Japan for their continuing support and for co-hosting this training workshop, the resource persons for their very important inputs, and the ASEAN countries for their active cooperation in carrying out the project activities. I wish you a successful training workshop and look forward to fruitful outcomes.

Thank you.

Welcome remarks

Ms Yayoi Tsujiyama
Director for International Affairs, Food Safety and Consumer Policy Division,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan,
Vice Chair, Codex Alimentarius Commission

Good morning, everyone!

It is a great honor for me to deliver a short speech on behalf of the Japanese government at this FAO regional training course.

This is the second workshop that the Japanese government has co-hosted with FAORAP. It is my pleasure to extend our warmest appreciation to Ms Shashi Sareen and Mr Makoto Sakashita from FAORAP for their effort to make this training course possible.

In addition, this is the first workshop involving our collaboration with the European Union. It is more than a pleasure to have four able EU officials among us for the duration of the training course: Ms Ella Strickland, Ms Eva Zamora Escribano, Ms Bernadette Klink Khachan and Mr Jerome Rene Robert Lepeintre.

We also have with us Ms Annamaria Bruno from the Codex Secretariat, who has worked for Codex for a number of years. We are very fortunate to have with us such a skilled and experienced senior food standards officer like her.

In October 2013 at the WTO/SPS Committee session in Geneva, I had the opportunity to exchange a few words with Ms Awilo Ochieng, the current Chair of the CAC, who was the Vice-Chair at that time. She enthusiastically informed me about the mock session training in the “Seminar on Effective Participation in Codex that was organized by the European Commission in Beijing in mid-October 2013. She kindly requested Eva to provide me with the programme of the event. Eva sent me an e-mail containing the programme and it caught my attention to such an extent that I wished to conduct a similar programme in Japan for ASEAN colleagues.

In December 2014, I got another e-mail from Eva which explored possible sources of funding for an event targeting ASEAN countries in 2015.

That mail was the starting point of this event. I requested her to help us to hold a mock session workshop in Tokyo with the cooperation of FAORAP. She responded positively to my request. We talked with Eva further about this training programme on the margins of a CCFO session in Malacca, Malaysia in February and confirmed that this training would be very useful for our ASEAN colleagues.

I also appreciate many pieces of advice from FAORAP. Shashi gave us good suggestions that helped to make the programme more suitable for ASEAN colleagues. EU colleagues have prepared the materials for the mock session. Finally we have perfect materials in front of us! I again would like to express my sincere appreciation to both the aforementioned parties.

With regards to the ASEAN-Japan relationship, our partnership started in 1973 with the establishment of the ASEAN-Japan forum on synthetic rubber. Through the years, mutual trust has been built to achieve peace, stability, development and prosperity of us all. I hope ASEAN and Japan continue to pursue further cooperative relationships for mutual prosperity.

I'd like to say again it is my great pleasure to welcome everyone here, and we look forward to our continuing friendship and cooperation in the implementation of better measures for food safety as well as the adoption of Codex standards across Asia, for the future.

Finally, I hope all of you will actively participate in this workshop and also enjoy staying in Tokyo.

Thank you

Opening remarks

**Mr Jonathan Hatwell,
Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Japan,
European Union**

Dear Organizers and Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both a pleasure and an honor for me to be here at this opening session to say a few words on behalf of the European Union and the EU Delegation to Japan where I currently serve as the Deputy Head.

I should like to start off by thanking both the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for your foresight in hosting this workshop. By bringing people together from Japan, the wider ASEAN region and places further afield such as the European Union, we have an excellent opportunity to share experiences, understandings and viewpoints.

This event strikes me as a really unique four-way collaboration, namely between the European Union, Japan, our multilateral partners (FAO and Codex), and the countries of ASEAN.

As regards the multilateral angle, this event demonstrates the EU's and Japan's strong commitment to multilateral cooperation in general, and to the Codex in particular.

As regards Japan, it is one of our closest strategic partners, sharing common values, and we cooperate in many different fields. Of course, EU-Japan cooperation is about delivering benefits for our respective citizens. But it should also be about working together on global issues and delivering global public goods. This event is an excellent practical example of this.

And finally, regarding the countries of ASEAN: the EU's bilateral relations with ASEAN member countries are also excellent, and have been developing very positively. But I also want to highlight the EU's relations with ASEAN itself. The EU has just adopted a new strategy for relations with ASEAN. As a very successful and highly developed regional integration initiative, the EU probably more than any other ASEAN dialogue partner knows the importance of developing regional solutions to problems and has a lot of relevant experience to share. We believe that ASEAN-wide regional approaches are good for your countries and good for your region as a whole.

I have two key messages that I should like to deliver this morning: the first relating to the importance of Codex and the work you will undertake over the next few days to strengthen your capacity to participate in Codex and the second, relating to the importance of drawing ever closer ties between Codex member nations.

We know that Codex standards are not used in the same way everywhere in the world. Therefore, by having a structured and interactive workshop exploring all kinds of aspects of Codex work, I am sure there will many opportunities to not only learn about these differences but also to see the strength that lies therein. In this way, we can learn how to make Codex work more suited to our respective national contexts and how we can interact better at an international level.

Codex clearly needs to be the sum of its component parts.

Speaking more specifically on behalf of the EU, I feel that the time you spend together this week will undoubtedly also provide an opportunity for participants to know how the EU works as a closely knit regional group and how the fact that we are composed of so many members influences our negotiating positions in Codex. I am also pleased to note that the Commission colleagues who follow Codex issues closely will also be sharing with you a mock session of a Codex Committee which will demonstrate how Codex committees are run. I trust this will illustrate the many interactions – both on and off the stage – that take place.

The work of Codex and the several hundreds of standards it has adopted since its creation in 1963, has led to significant improvements in food safety levels across the globe. Not only has this reduced the number of food scares and thus increased consumers' confidence in national and international food safety systems, it has also ensured that the current explosion in the food trade takes place on a secure and safe footing. Close to 200 billion euros worth of food trade takes place annually.

Part of helping Codex to expand its reach and its relevance in the coming years will come from ensuring its structures and bodies are constantly fine-tuned to ensure they are fit for purpose. Needless to say, in a rapidly changing environment, like the one Codex operates in, it is essential to ensure we have the tools we need to continue to deliver high standards of food safety. The work that is currently underway on improving the Codex work management – which came from the embryo of an idea promoted by Japan – is crucial for assuring that Codex will have a flexible and “voluntary” organization capable of dealing with the realities of today and the emerging issues of tomorrow.

The mission of Codex is to ensure good and safe food for everyone, everywhere.

I encourage you to keep this at the forefront of your mind as you deliberate over the next few days.

Thank you once again to MAFF Japan and the FAO Regional Office, and all your staff, for hosting this meeting. Thank you also for your kind invitation to include EU representatives (Ella, Eva and Bernadette from the European Commission, and Jerome from the Beijing delegation) in this meeting.

I wish you every success.

Summary of evaluations by participants

(Countries: 9; Participants: 25; Responded: 23)

1. How do you evaluate the quality of the training workshop in general?						
		Excellent	Very Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
1	Subject coverage	15(68%)	6(27%)	1(5%)		
2	Material and handouts	10(45%)	11(50%)	1(5%)		
3	Organization of the programme	13(59%)	9(41%)			
4	Technical inputs by experts	15(68%)	6(27%)	1(5%)		

One respondent did not answer this question. The above is a summary of 22 evaluations.

2. How do you evaluate the quality of each subject in the training workshop?						
		Excellent	Very Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
1	Importance of Codex Alimentarius Commission and its structure and functions (Item 3)	11 (48%)	12 (52%)			
2	Elaboration of Codex standards (Item 4)	11 (48%)	11 (48%)	1 (4%)		
3	International agreements governing food trade – WTO/SPS and TBT and dispute settlement process (Item 5)	16 (70%)	7 (30%)			
Role of regional coordinator (Item 6)						
4	- Role of regional coordinator	10 (43%)	13 (57%)			
5	- Development of regional positions (EU/CCEURO)	10 (43%)	13 (57%)			

		Excellent	Very Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
Developing national or regional positions/ written comments (Item 7)						
6	-Inorganic arsenic in rice (CCCF): national position based on science	10 (43%)	13 (57%)			
7	-Sardine (CCFFP): successful compromise	9 (39%)	14 (61%)			
8	-GM product labelling (CCFL): face saving conclusion	8 (35%)	14 (61%)	1 (4%)		
9	-Development of regional and national position for Codex in Lao PDR	8 (35%)	14 (61%)	1 (4%)		
10	-The Vietnamese standards for fish sauce: National position based on science	6 (26%)	12 (52%)	5 (22%)		
Current work in Codex Committees: mandate, the result of the 38th CAC, and key issues most relevant to the region (Item 9)						
11	The results of the 38 th CAC	14 (61%)	6 (26%)	3 (13%)		
12	Commodity Codex Committees: CCFO	12 (52%)	9 (39%)	2 (9%)		
13	Commodity Codex Committees: CCFFV	11 (49%)	10 (43%)	2 (9%)		
14	Horizontal Codex Committees: CCRVDF	14 (61%)	7 (30%)	2 (9%)		
15	Horizontal Codex Committees: CCFH	13 (57%)	8 (35%)	2 (9%)		
14	Horizontal Codex Committees: CCCF	14 (61%)	7 (30%)	2 (9%)		
15	Horizontal Codex Committees: CCFA	13 (57%)	7 (30%)	3 (13%)		

		Excellent	Very Good	Adequate	Poor	Very Poor
Mock session (Agenda items 8 and 10)						
16	Preparation of the mock session (Item 8, Day1)	16 (70%)	7 (30%)			
17	Mock session: preparing national/ regional positions [Group Exercise] (Day2)	15 (65%)	8 (35%)			
18	Mock session: preparing national/ regional position [Group Exercise](Day 2)	16 (70%)	6 (26%)	1 (4%)		
19	Mock session: proposing new work in Codex (Day 2)	15 (65%)	8 (35%)			
20	Mock session: meeting between delegations + exchange of views with other delegations [Group Exercise] (Day 3)	13 (57%)	10 (43%)			
21	Mock session: plenary of CCMMP (Day 3)	16 (70%)	7 (30%)			
22	Discussion/ Debriefing: lessons learned from the mock session (Day 3)	16 (70%)	7 (30%)			

For 22, one participant commented: “The Tips & Tricks discussed are very helpful. It cannot be learned by reading the reference but by experience in actual sessions.”

3. Have the following objectives set forth for the training workshop been achieved?

- 1) an enhanced knowledge of the structure and functions of CAC including its history and objectives, procedures for elaboration of Codex standards, Codex documentations and how to use the online tools.

Answer: Yes 23/ No 0

- 2) an enhanced understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade

Answer: Yes 23 /No 0

- 3) training on development of regional/national positions

Answer: Yes 23 /No 0

- 4) up-to-date information on the result of the 38th CAC

Answer: Yes 23 /No 0

- 5) simulated training through mock sessions to enhance participants capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work

Answer: Yes 23 /No 0

4. Based on the conduct of the training course are you in a position to accomplish tasks related to the

i) Development of national positions

Answer: Yes 22 /No 1

ii) Positive participation in Codex work

Answer: Yes 23/No 0

5. If the answer to the above questions is negative, what are the additional aspects that need to be covered/ your suggestions on improvements?

Answer: We lack data for Codex work.

6. Any suggestions on how the training workshop needs to be improved?

- A technical/practical exercise to propose or make a discussion paper/project document will be useful.
- More time should be given to the mock session so that participants can have time to speak about their positions.
- To encourage better participation, selection of the best participant should be done during the last session.
- Halal food may be served during the training.
- It is better to have one full day of a mock session to cover all subject matters so that we get to experience well in discussion pertaining to all sessions.
- Increase the number of days as at present it is too short.
- There should be a maximum of 4 slides per one sheet otherwise the small print makes it impossible to read the slides.
- The duration of the training may be extended to at least 7 days.
- More details on skills for developing compromise statements are needed.
- More information can be given on developing national positions in cases where data is lacking or data are available (how to present the results of data).
- Follow-up training programme can be arranged in order to further enhance participants' skills in creating national positions and representing countries for CAC meetings.
- Addition of topics related to Expert Committees, such as JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA, process related to risk assessment.
- Training workshops like this should be organized by FAO more often.
- Training workshops on risk assessment and risk assessment policy are required.