



**“Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard
Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries”
(GCP/RAS/295/JPN)**

**The FAO Regional Training Workshop:
“Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities in ASEAN Countries”
7-9 January, 2016
[Hotel] Bangkok, Thailand**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The new FAO Regional project “Support for Capacity Building for International Food Safety Standard Development and Implementation in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) was launched in February 2016 for a period of five years as a second phase of the Regional project “Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/280/JPN).

The new project aims to strengthen the capacities of ASEAN countries in contributing to Codex standards-setting and implementing the adopted Codex Standards. Main project activities include implementation of workshops and training courses for food safety officials as well as preparation of case studies and guidance documents on food safety standards-setting and implementation in ASEAN countries as with the project GCP/RAS/280/JPN.

One of the goals of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) Strategic Plan 2014-2019 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 effectively contribute to the Codex standard setting process. The project has already organized a national training course on “Strengthening Food Safety Standard Setting and Enhancing Effective Participation in Codex Activities” in June 2016 in Lao PDR. As the second programme, this regional training workshop would be a good opportunity for ASEAN participants to understand how to prepare, present and promote national positions in Codex Committees as well as how to develop negotiation skills through a simulation of a real Codex Committee session.

Also, under the project GCP/RAS/280/JPN, the regional training course on strengthening capacity building in data collection and generation for food safety risk analysis was organized in 2013 in Tokyo, Japan and participants gained an understanding of risk assessment within the Codex analysis frameworks and the role of scientific expert bodies. However, according to the feedback to previous training workshops by the ASEAN participants, many participants have still requested to organize a workshop focusing on topics related to the process of risk

assessment and scientific expert bodies such as JECFA, JMPR, and JEMRA. With this background, the training workshop will overview the risk analysis including steps of risk assessment and role of scientific expert bodies and then offer programme on the process of risk assessment conducted by the scientific expert bodies.

Finally, under the previous project GCP/RAS/280/JPN a brochure “Status of National Codex activities in ASEAN Countries”¹ was published in 2012. Since then, around four years have passed. Therefore, the new project surveyed the updated status of national Codex activities in ASEAN countries and consolidated the responses from ASEAN countries. In this regional workshop, the updated status of national Codex activities in ASEAN countries and its analysis result will be presented.

Objectives

The main objective of the regional training workshop is to provide participants with:

- enhanced understanding of the impact of Codex standards on international trade, structure and function of CAC, up-to-date information of recent Codex meetings, food safety risk analysis and risk assessment including the role of scientific expert bodies such as JECFA, JMPR, and JEMRA
- opportunity to share knowledge and experience on current national Codex activities in ASEAN countries
- training on development of regional/national positions through mock sessions to enhance participants capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work

Training Course Methodology

The training workshop methodology will consist of lectures, case study, and group work (mock training session).

Expected Outputs

- 1) Enhanced knowledge on structure and function of CAC, latest meeting of CAC and impact of Codex standards on international trade
- 2) Enhanced understanding of risk assessment within the Codex risk analysis framework and the role of scientific expert bodies
- 3) Participants trained on development of national positions and capacity to contribute effectively to Codex work
- 4) Report of the training workshop

Profile of Participants

Participating ASEAN countries are requested to nominate three candidates from their different national department or agency responsible for food safety standards setting. Participants are expected to have attended the Codex meetings or have the potential to attend them in near future. Participants are also expected to be involved with the work of Codex and have basic knowledge of development of commodity standards. It is recommended that participants understand principles of risk analysis for food safety and are preferred to have basic scientific knowledge. As the training workshop will be conducted in English, all those attending must be fluent in that language. Female candidates are encouraged.

¹ <http://foodsafetyasiapacific.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Status-of-National-book.pdf>