

FAO/WHO/Codex Side Event Brief

Revitalization of Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) and strengthening standard-setting and implementation of Codex standards

On the occasion of the 20th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia

Friday, 30 September 2016 13.00 – 16.00 hrs

Introduction

As the 70th session of CCEXEC and the 38th session of CAC agreed, FAO and WHO together with the Codex Secretariat have proceeded with the actions to revitalize Regional Coordinating Committees (RCCs) in all regions. According to the results of the discussions of the previous RCCs on the proposals on the revitalization process, four new initiatives have been started in this biennium: 1) keynote speech to be included in the RCC agenda; 2) use of the RCC mechanism to identify critical and emerging issues in food safety and quality; 3) new online platform is in development to exchange information of national food control systems, which will replace previous Circular Letters (CLs); and 4) collection of data/information on the use of Codex text/standards at the national level.

Objectives

This side event is organized for CCASIA delegations to understand the overall progress of the revitalization process across the region and share the experience of the revitalization process at the national level. Comments and feedback will be useful in improving the process and the relevant mechanisms applied across the region. The last half of the event will be dedicated to CCASIA Members to share their lessons-learned on the process in strengthening standard-setting and implementing Codex text at the national level. FAO Regional Project (GCP/RAS/295/JPN) will be highlighted as the project is currently surveying the status of national Codex activities in ASEAN countries in relation to implementing Codex standards.

Tentative agenda (Friday 30 September 2016)

#	Time	Item	Note
1.	13.00 – 13.10	Welcome	
2.	13.10 – 13.20	Overview on the status of the revitalization process	FAO/WHO/Codex
3.	13.20 – 14.00	Structured discussion session 1) Keynote 2) Critical/emerging issues 3) Online platform 4) Use of Codex text/standards 5) Areas for improvement and additional needs	All
4.	14.00 – 14.30	FAO and WHO activities relevant to strengthening standard-setting and implementation of Codex standards in the region	FAO and WHO
5.	14.30 – 15.20	National experiences (multiple country speakers)	National speakers
6.	15.20 – 16.00	Discussion and closing	All

FAO/WHO/Codex Secretariat team

The team members include Annamaria Bruno, Gyanendra Gongal, Peter Hoejskov, Catherine Mulholland, Roberto Sciotti, Makoto Sakashita, Shashi Sareen, Masami Takeuchi, Takako Yano and Lingping Zhang. For questions regarding this side event, send an e-mail to Masami.Takeuchi@fao.org.