

CODEX AND ITS RELEVANCE

S Dave - India

What is Codex ?

- Codex is the common name for the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)
- Inter-Governmental body
- Two parent organizations - FAO and WHO
- 185 member countries and 1 member organization (European Union)

CAC Adopts

- Food Standards
- Code of Practices
- Guidelines
- Recommendations

Organizational Structure of Codex

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission
- The Executive Committee of the Commission
 - Chairperson
 - 3 Vice-Chairpersons
 - 6 Regional Co-ordinators
 - 6 Members from these regions

Organizational Structure of Codex

- Codex Secretariat
- Active Codex Subsidiary Bodies
 - General Subject Committees (10)
 - Commodity Committee (6)
 - Regional Coordinating Committee (6)
 - *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Forces (2)

General Subject Committees (10)

- CCFA
(additives)
- CCCF
(contaminants)
- CCFH
(food hygiene)
- CCFICS
(inspection)
- CCFL
(labeling)
- CCGP
(general principles)
- CCMAS
(analysis & sampling)
- CCNFSDU
(nutrition)
- CCPR
(pesticides)
- CCRVDF
(vet. drugs)

Commodity Committees (6)

- CCMH
(meat)
- CCFFP
(fish)
- CCMMP
(milk)
- CCFO
(fats & oils)
- CCFFV
(fresh fruits & veg.)
- CCPFV
(processed fruits & veg.)

Regional Coordinating Committees (6)

- CCAFRICA
(Africa)
- CCEURO
(Europe)
- CCNASWP
(North America and
South West Pacific)
- CCASIA
(Asia)
- CCLAC
(Latin America and
the Caribbean)
- CCNEA
(Near East)

Ad hoc intergovernmental Task Forces (2)

- Foods derived from Biotechnology
- Animal Feeding

FAO / WHO Scientific Advice

- Long Term Joint Expert Committees
 - JECFA (Jt. Expert Committee on Food Additives)
 - JMPR (Jt. Meeting on Pesticide Residues)
 - JEMRA (Jt. Expert Committee on Microbiological Risk Assessment)

Relevance of Codex to members

- Based on scientific principles and Risk Analysis
- Consensus based approach
(inter-governmental consultation process)
- Reference standard in WTO
- Easy to harmonize national legislations
- Exchange of information is standardized
- Saves time and facilitates trade

Relevance to Developing Countries

- Flexibility in adaptation
- Small business interests
- Awareness to protect health of consumers and development of standards
- Truly global standards
- Helps to settle differences
- Regional integration

Issues relevant to Developing Countries

- Melamine and Dioxins in food (*CCCF*)
- Mycotoxins in groundnuts, coffee, sorghum (*CCCF*)
- Heavy metals in rice, vegetables, milk (*CCCF*)
- Control of viruses in food (*CCFH*)
- National Food Control System (*CCFICS*)
- Principles of Risk Analysis (*CCGP*)
- Foreign on-site Audits & Assessments (*CCFICS*)
- Frauds concerning Organic Products (*CCFL*)
- Judgment of Equivalence (*CCFICS*)

Issues Currently under Discussion

- Codex Strategic Plan 2014 -19
- Private standards
- Co-hosting of Codex sessions
- Participation of developing countries
- Traceability
- Nanotechnology
- Animal Feeding, Ractopamine

Why harmonize with Codex...?

- Influx of imported food
- Helpful in absence of national standards
- Orients standardized process of food safety
- Overall development of consumer health / safety
- Private standards exceed consumer safety needs
- Equivalence process is facilitated
- Facilitates export to developed markets

What Developing Countries in other Regions are doing...?

- Increased role of NGOs & Consumers in NCCP
- Regional groupings discuss issues of common interest (*Asean, Mercosur and others*)
- Codex standards are used in absence of national standards to strengthen trade (*LAC*)
- Special Committee to identify differences in harmonization (*LAC*)
- Development of list of inter-governmental standards for harmonization (*CIS countries*)
- Strategic framework for harmonization

Relevance of Codex to Sri Lanka

- FFV : Tomatoes, Chillies, Okra, Coconuts, Avocadoes, Sorghum
 - Spices
 - Tea
- } Pesticide Residues
- Organic Products
 - Fish and Fishery Products
 - Additives / Contaminants / Vet. Drugs / Labeling / Inspection / Methods of Analysis / Nutrition



**THANKS FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**