



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION**  
**AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

**Twenty-third Session**

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**  
**RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS**

(Report of FAO and WHO)

1. The present document contains a report on the tools produced and made available to Member States and the relevant activities carried out since the last meeting of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export and Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).

**FAO guidance on risk-based imported food controls**

2. In March 2016, the English version of the FAO risk-based imported food control manual has been published and is available for download at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5381e.pdf>. The guidance explores the various risk-management options that can be used and combined to achieve risk-based controls and optimize the use of the available resources. It explains the various Codex principles relevant in this particular context and provides support to a country in assessing its situation and needs. It can be used as a basis to develop further more specific regional guidelines or national frameworks.

3. The French and Spanish versions are at press and will available in the coming weeks respectively at :

a. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5381f.pdf> and

b. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5381s.pdf>

**Risk Managers' Guide to the Statistical Aspects of Microbiological Criteria Related to Foods**

4. Statistical aspects of microbiological criteria Related to Foods: A risk managers guide, Microbiological Risk Assessment Series No. 24. 2016 is available to download at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3996e.pdf> and <http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/249531/1/9789241565318-eng.pdf?ua=1>. Links to additional resources including a simple spreadsheet tool and a number of short videos are provided within the Guide.

**Antimicrobial resistance**

5. An update of the FAO and WHO activities on AMR was presented to the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in June 2016 and the relevant information is available in CX/CAC 16/39/12. Since then FAO and WHO remain highly active in the area of AMR.

6. On 21<sup>st</sup> September the Director-Generals of FAO and WHO together with the Director General of OIE participated in a high level meeting of the UN General Assembly which addressed the issue of AMR, where Member States agreed upon a strong Political declaration that provides a good basis for the international community to move forward in addressing the issue of AMR.

7. FAO published its action plan on AMR in support of the implementation of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. The FAO action plan is available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf>.

8. FAO and WHO are working together with OIE to support the implementation of a One Health approach to AMR and have received project funding to support in particular low and lower-middle income countries in development and implementation of their national action plans on AMR.

9. FAO and WHO, in coordination with OIE, have begun work to respond to the Codex request for scientific advice on foodborne AMR. The initial phase involves collation of available data and a global Call for data and experts will be issued in the course of this year. An interim report will be presented to the CAC in July 2017 and to the first meeting of the ad hoc Task Force on AMR at the end of 2017. An expert consultation on this issue is anticipated for 2018.

10. WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) has revised the WHO AGISAR guidance document on integrated surveillance on AMR and updated the list of WHO critically

important antimicrobials for human medicine at the end of 2016. Both documents will be available in the first half of 2017. In addition, WHO is developing a guideline on the use of antimicrobials in food producing animals based on the WHO list of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine.

11. Further details are available in document CX/CAC15/38/16 Add.1 (available at: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/cac/cac38/cac38\\_16\\_add1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/meetings/cac/cac38/cac38_16_add1e.pdf)).

### **Early warning/alert and response to food safety emergencies**

12. The Secretariat of the joint FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), continues to develop and strengthen the Network. In 2016 the Advisory Group was revitalized with the purpose of contributing to strategic planning, guiding quality improvement, advocating for the Network, supporting the Secretariat for technical consultation and resource mobilization. The INFOSAN Secretariat responded to approximately 50 food safety events between December 2015 and March 2017, facilitating rapid communication among INFOSAN members. Three regional meetings for members in Southern Africa (November 2016), Asia (November 2016), and the Americas (December 2016), as well as three national workshops were organized in Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh (September 2016). The number of active members in the Network increased by 8% in 2016, with notable growth in Africa and in the Americas. Efforts to strengthen partnerships with regional authorities and networks continued with the EFSA's Emerging Risks Exchange Network (EREN), the EC's Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) and the African Union Food Safety Management Coordination Mechanism (AU-FSMCM). INFOSAN members' knowledge and capabilities to participate actively in the Network has been further developed through the delivery of several webinars, conducted by the INFOSAN Secretariat in English, French and Spanish. In addition, an 8-part Technical Webinar Series was launched in collaboration with, and presented by, INFOSAN members in Canada and was widely attended by INFOSAN members from around the globe. An online emergency simulation exercise was run for countries in the Americas targeting INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points and National IHR Focal Points.

13. In FAO, the EMPRES Food Safety continues the Initiative on Early Warning in Food Safety. A handbook on "Enhancing Early Warning Capabilities and Capacities for Food Safety" has been finalized and has been publically available since early 2016 at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5168e.pdf>. The handbook was translated in French and used as a basis for training in a regional and national workshops in Dakar, Senegal (January and October 2016) within the FAO project on "Strengthening of the food safety early warning surveillance, rapid alert and emergency response capacity in Senegal and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) Region". The French version of the handbook will be finalized and made available online by end 2017. FAO has further introduced the Early Warning handbook to the Indonesia Integrated Food Safety Network during a meeting on "Establishing Indonesia Early Warning System for Food Safety" (Jakarta, November 2016) as well as in Palestine through the FAO Capacity building programme in support of the Palestinian National Authority – Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures in Palestine.

14. EMPRES Food Safety in FAO further continues to engage with the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) through the aforementioned activities.

### **Food control system assessment tool**

15. FAO and WHO have worked jointly to offer Member Countries a tool to assess, in structured, transparent and measurable ways, the performance of their food control system throughout the entire food chain, identify priority areas for capacity development, and measure and evaluate progress over time.

16. Further to the FAO technical meeting held in December 2015, the second version of the FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool has been validated and has been used to support a number of countries, using this as an opportunity to test and refine the tool and its approach. Further to a pre- testing in Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Moldova (all 3 supported by FAO), Iran and Indonesia are currently undergoing pilots supported jointly by FAO and WHO. In the case of Indonesia the assessment will be supported by international experts. Iran has opted for a facilitated self- assessment.

17. Further and final testing is currently under discussion for Malawi, prior to publication of the tool in the second semester of 2017. Countries will then be able to use the tool independently for self-assessments or to request support for a facilitated assessment process. To facilitate the more widespread use of the FAO/WHO Assessment Tool, training is envisaged to develop a pool of reliable facilitators.

18. Following its publication, it is expected that the tool will be regularly reviewed and updated based on feedback received from users in countries or directly by FAO and WHO.

### **Guidance on the design and implementation of modern risk-based meat inspection systems**

19. FAO is in the process of completing guidance intended to provide Member Countries with an up-to-date reference on developing and implementing risk-based meat-inspection systems. The meat sector is evolving constantly and changes occur continuously as a result of new scientific information on meat-borne risks for

consumers as well as legislation and control approaches. Therefore, these guidelines are designed to provide a better understanding of risk-based meat inspection and complementary guidance for its implementation in slaughterhouse facilities in smaller and less-developed countries. The overall objective is to engage senior management in the process of developing and implementing risk-based meat inspection, to communicate key information on the concept and principles of RBMI, and to advocate for a shift of attitudes toward the acceptance of a science-based approach to meat inspection.

### **Regional and national activities**

20. In the FAO Regional Office for Europe, region the following activities with indirect implications for inspection and certification have been implemented:

- Informative session on CTF-2 for CCEURO countries (Oct 2016) to boost strengthening national Codex programmes and capacity to apply Codex standards;
- Support to implement HACCP-based food safety management system in poultry sector in Moldova (within TCP/MOL/3601). Related training for the inspection staff of the National Food Safety Agency of Moldova will follow.

21. In the regional office for Asia, Manuals on risk-based inspection and import controls and the relevant training was provided to officers of the National Board of Revenue who are posted at border entry points (land, sea and air) in Bangladesh. A regional GAP standard and certification scheme was developed for countries of the SAARC region and piloted in 4 countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal. Capacity building in Codex in all ASEAN member countries was supported to bolster the bloc's intent to promote trade. This included regional and national workshops on general principles of standards formulation and participation in Codex Committee meetings as well as assistance with data and evidence collection