Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Project Newsletter:
Enhancing Capacity in Codex for Effective Participation and Contribution of Selected Countries in Asia

January - June, 2024 – Issue #5

Project Progress and Story (January–June, 2024) GCP/RAS/278/JPN

HIGHLIGHT

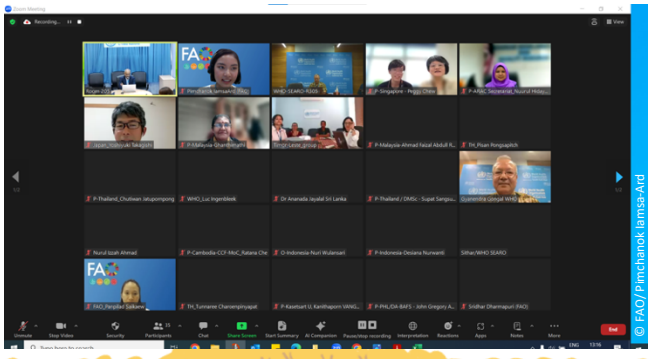
- The virtual regional workshop on "GEMS/Food Contaminants database"
- Webinar on "Food safety incident management – Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region"
- Highlights of the FAO regional workshop on "Pesticide residue risk assessment and the elaboration of Codex Maximum Residue Limits"

The virtual regional workshop on "GEMS/Food Contaminants database"

On 23 May 2024, the project, jointly with the World Health Organization Regional Office for South-East Asia (WHO SEARO), organized the virtual workshop on "GEMS/Food contaminants database", with the following objectives:

- describe an overview of the GEMS/Food programme and GEMS/Food contaminants database;
- enhance understanding on minimum requirements for qualified data to be submitted to GEMS/Food contaminants database;
- enhance members' recognition of data contribution to GEMS/Food contaminants database as well as Codex work; and
- provide a forum for countries' discussion on occurrence data and contaminants issues as well as make network in Asia.

A total of 29 officials in charge of food safety standards from nine Asian Countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam) and ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC) secretariat representatives participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by Project Coordinator, with technical input provided by experts (including expert from Japan).



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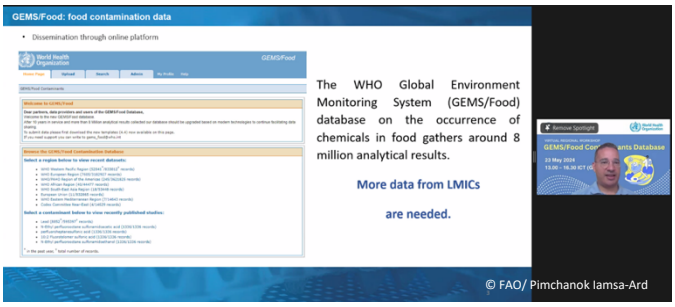
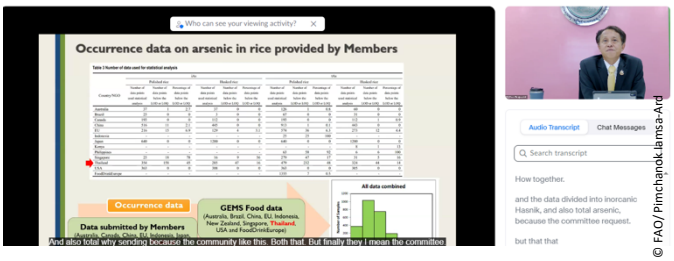


The workshop methodology included a combination of lectures and group exercises. The evaluation results showed that participants were satisfied with the workshop. Most attendees found the topics, presentations, and technical insights to be valuable and relevant to their needs. The presentations and exercises notably improved their understanding on the overview of GEMS/Food programme, as well as how to access and contribute to the GEMS/Food Contaminants Database. Additionally, participants expressed strong interest in submitting occurrence data to the database.



Webinar titled “Food safety incident management – Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region”

The project, on behalf of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), together with WHO, organized a webinar titled " Food safety incident management – Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region”, on 11 June 2024, to celebrate the 2024 World Food Safety Day (WFSD).

The objectives of the webinar are to:

- to raise awareness about unexpected situations and the importance of effective food safety emergency response plans in mitigating the impact of foodborne disease outbreaks and other emergencies on public health and the economy.
- to share knowledge and best practices related to the development, implementation, and management of food safety emergency response, including risk assessment, communication strategies, and coordination mechanisms.
- to encourage participants to take concrete actions to strengthen food safety emergency preparedness and response in their respective countries or organizations.

More than 140 Participants registered to attend this webinar. Participants could learn how national authorities:

- respond to food safety emergencies;
- disseminate key messages to safeguard public health and trade;
- recall contaminated food; and
- prepare for the next unexpected event.

The record is available on YouTube.

www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/events/event-details/tr/c/1696265/

PUBLICATIONS

Highlight of the FAO regional workshop on “Pesticide residue risk assessment and the elaboration of Codex Maximum Residue Limits”.

The project, jointly with FAO’s Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), organized the workshop entitled “Pesticide residue risk assessment and the elaboration of Codex Maximum Residue Limits”, from 21- 24 November 2023, with the following objectives.

- to strengthen the capabilities of participating countries in evaluation of residue data;
- to update their knowledge of the assessment of risks associated with dietary intake of pesticide residues; and
- to upgrade the capacity of participating countries in establishment of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in food and feed.

The summary of this regional workshop is now available on FAO website.

openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/CD0562EN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

“Enhancing Capacity in Codex for Effective Participation and Contribution of Selected Countries in Asia” (GCP/RAS/278/JPN) is a five-year FAO regional project designed based on lessons learned from the earlier Japanese-funded projects, “Support to Capacity Building and Implementation of International Food Safety Standards in ASEAN Countries” (GCP/RAS/295/JPN). The total budget is USD 1.27 million, of which contributed by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan. The recepient countries include ASEAN countries, Kiribati, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

This project aims to strengthen the capacity on the effective participation in Codex activities and the data generation for the establishment of national, regional and international food safety standards.

Contact Information:

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
www.fao.org/asiapacific
FAO-RAP@fao.org
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Bangkok, Thailand

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