



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Concept note for
“Regional Workshop on the Development of a set of National Food Safety Indicators”
19 – 21 November 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

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

Background

An effective national food control system (NFCS) is essential for ensuring the food safety for consumers and fair practices. An effective NFCS may apply different approaches, core elements, and components, as appropriate to the national circumstances. Thus, it is important to know where they stand with regard to their food safety situation in food chain in order to prioritize the areas that need improvement. In order to measure the “State” of food safety in food chain, it is proposed to use a set of indicators. Indicators had been introduced in some areas including food security and nutrition aspects. FAO set food security indicators capture various aspects of food insecurity. Nutrition global target indicators were set by WHO as problem orientated indicators to monitor, report on and account for progress towards improved nutrition across the Millennium Development Goals agenda.

A Codex Alimentarius guideline entitled “Principles and guidelines for monitoring the performance of national food control systems” (CAC/GL 91-2017), adopted in 2017, describes framework of planning, monitoring and system review steps for the performance monitoring of the effective NFCS. This guideline also recommends Members to establish food safety indicators¹ (FSI) for each desired outcome for the effective NFCS.

In order to support Members on the implementation of these Codex documents, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAORAP) held a regional consultation with the total of 84 participants from 24 countries in the region on food safety indicators (FSI) from 6 to 8 December 2017 in Singapore with national food safety competent authorities to review various existing FSI in the context of their national situations. As a concrete output of the consultation, the experts came up with a draft set of 40 regional FSI to develop their National Food Safety Indicators (NFSI). In 2018-2019, five countries (Bhutan, China, Cook Islands, the Philippines and Republic of Korea) have selected and piloted several indicators from the 40 regional FSI to develop a small set of tailored national food safety indicators to fit for their individual country capacities and contexts. The pilot project is producing many good results and lessons learned and FAO currently plans to develop a guidance to scale up the effort.

In order to enhance the understanding of the FSIs and build the capacity for ASEAN to develop a set of national food safety indicators, the regional workshops on capacity building in Food Safety Indicators will be organized under the FAO Regional project “Support for

¹ FSI is a simple and reliable means for measuring achievement, reflecting change or assessing performance of the NFCS. Indicator could be quantitative variable (e.g. percent of inspections that test positive for microbial contaminants) or qualitative factor (e.g. existence of a food traceability mechanisms). It should be established for each individual desired outcome of national food control system.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to enhance an understanding of FSIs and emphasize its importance and to enhance capacity on the development of FSIs.

Methodology

The workshop methodology will consist of lectures, presentations, and group work discussion.

Expected Outputs and indicators

- 1) Participating competent authorities understand on the concept and its importance of food safety indicators.
- 2) Participants will understand the establishment process of national food safety indicators.
- 3) Report of the regional workshop.

Profile of Participants

Participating ASEAN countries are requested to nominate two candidates from their different national departments or agencies responsible for food safety control. Participants should preferably be involved in food safety control at national and/or international level, the work of Codex Alimentarius and ASEAN, and represent national agencies involved in food control management. Self-funded participants will be also welcome.

As the regional workshop will be conducted in English, all those attending must be fluent in that language. Female candidates are encouraged.

Travel Arrangement

FAO will provide the air ticket and accommodation for two selected participants from the ASEAN countries in line with FAO’s rules and regulations on travel, which includes:

1) One economy class airplane return ticket (least cost and most direct route). Air ticket will be provided through FAO Representations in the countries of the participants or FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the participants where there is no FAO Representations.

2) Accommodation

Accommodation at the venue of the training workshop will be arranged for the participants during November 2019. The organiser will arrange on a single room basis for each participant. Breakfast and lunch from November 2019 will be provided at the venue of the training workshop.

3) Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) and En-Route Expenses

Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) will only be provided during FAO regional workshop. This will be paid through FAO Representations in the participants’ countries prior to their travel to Bangkok. Those participants from the countries which have no FAO Representation, DSA will be transferred through bank account prior to their travel to Bangkok.

En-route expenses of a fixed amount as per FAO Rules will be provided which covers costs such as visa application (if necessary), transportation from/to airport.

For any question, please address these to Ms Panpilad Saikaew, Project coordinator, at Panpilad.Saikaew@fao.org.

