



REPORT ON TASK ORDER 1: CODEX OUTREACH PROGRAM

Towards Structured Codex Coordination and Engagement in South-East Asia and the South-West Pacific

Deliverable 8: Engagement Meetings with SEA Asia and SWP Partners towards the Establishment of the Coordination Structure

Deliverable 9: Written Proposal for the SEA Coordination Structure

Deliverable 11: Written proposal for the SWP Coordination Structure

Deliverable 12: Report on Activities of Coordination Structures

Summary of Deliverables – Index

1. Deliverable 8: Engagement with South-East Asia Officials and Organizations to Support the Establishment of an On-Going Codex Coordination Structure 2
2. Deliverable 9: Written Proposal for South-East Asia Coordination Structure..... 3
3. Deliverables 11 and 12: Written Proposal for South-West Pacific Codex Coordination Structure and Operationalization 5

Summary of Deliverables

1. Deliverable 8: Engagement with South-East Asia Officials and Organizations to Support the Establishment of an On-Going Codex Coordination Structure

The approach to structure regional and sub-regional Codex coordination and capacity enhancement in Asia was set to include a three-prong approach:

- i. Engagement with the Coordinator for Asia: with efforts to structure the organization of meetings and colloquiums in support of Codex position coordination and engagement with the US Codex office,
- ii. The possible development of a Codex coordination structure in South-East Asia, including countries of the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN), and possibly beyond (Timor-Leste)
- iii. The possible development of a Codex coordination structure in the Indian Sub-continent, that would include Pakistan, Lao, Bhutan and Bangladesh

These coordination mechanisms would also leverage individual country engagement, with priority countries to be identified in collaboration with the US Codex office.

This deliverable will focus on the development of a Codex Coordination structure in South-East Asia.

The review of active scientific societies with a track record of contribution to the food regulatory system in the region has led to consider the International Life Science Institute (ILSI) South-East Asia Chapter (ILSI SEA) as a possible partner in the development of the Codex Coordination structure in South-East Asia.

This organization has an established track-record in convening food competent authorities of the region, to support food regulatory decisions and propagation of good food regulatory practices underpinned by risk analysis.

Engagement with ILSI SEA was pursued through the organization of Virtual meetings as well as through direct engagement with missions organized in Singapore and Malaysia, enabling to meet regulators and codex contact points from these two countries along with ILSI SEA and Food Industry Asia (FIA): the organization convening the food production sector in Asia.

4 missions were organized in Asia: 3 prior to the organization of the event gathering south-east Asian Codex contact points (Taskorder 2) and 1 follow-up mission in late December 2022:

- i. Mission to Singapore and Kuala-Lumpur: 11-12 October 2022
 - Meetings with ILSI SEA
 - Meetings with members of CCP Malaysia
- ii. Mission to Singapore: 23-27 October 2022
 - Meetings with FIA and the Singapore Food Authority, host of the CCP Singapore
 - Meetings with ILSI SEA: preparation of the training and engagement event in Malaysia
- iii. Mission to Singapore: 02-05 November 2022
 - Final Preparations for the Event to be held in Malaysia
 - Agreement on Codex Coordination Structure
- iv. Mission to Singapore 28-31 December 2022
 - Follow-up meetings with ILSI SEA and FIA

Records of discussions of the Virtual meetings that led up to the first physical meetings with ILSI SEA are accessible through these links:

Meetings Leading Up to Establishing the Coordination Structure

- ❖ [Meeting of 3 August 2022](#)
- ❖ [Meeting of 2 September 2022](#)
- ❖ [Meeting of 15 September 2022](#)
- ❖ [Meeting of 5 October 2022](#)

During these meetings, material was used to introduce the Asia Codex Initiative and to discuss opportunities of structuring the Codex Coordination effort in South-East Asia. This material was developed in collaboration with the team from Venture 37:

Introduction to the Asia Codex Initiative

- ❖ [Codex Initiative – Introduction and Overview](#)
- ❖ [Asia Codex Initiative – Enhancing Codex Capacities in Asia](#)

2. Deliverable 9: Written Proposal for South-East Asia Coordination Structure

An initial attempt to develop the Codex Coordination structure for South-East Asia through the ASEAN Secretariat did not receive a favorable outcome. It was then decided to develop a parallel structure where Codex Contact points from the region would be invited to join an informal coordination mechanism

identified as the: **Codex Roundtable for South-East Asia**. Being set outside of the official ASEAN governance structure would also enable other countries from the region, which are not members of ASEAN, to join this forum e.g., Timor Leste.

The development of this coordination mechanism was discussed with ILSI SEA and stakeholders from the region (such as FIA). A proposed set of terms of reference were developed and shared with Codex contact points of the region. The concept and its terms of reference were further discussed and endorsed at the first meeting of South-East Asian Codex Contact points held in Kuala-Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 November 2022.

The terms of reference endorsed are accessible through this link:

- ❖ [Codex Roundtable for South-East Asia – Terms of Reference](#).

Amongst the key activities of the Roundtables is the preparation for key codex technical committees for which an approach was developed, according to the following proposal:

- ❖ [Proposed Approach Adopted for the Analysis of Agenda Items](#)

The adoption of the creation of the Codex Roundtable for South-East Asia is a major milestone in the development of a structured approach to engage with and to support enhanced participation from countries of South-East Asia as a group of countries interested in developing a more cohesive approach in the contribution to international food standard setting.

A proposed roadmap for operationalization of this roundtable should include the following milestones:

- ❖ Convening a workshop gathering codex contact points in the region, to identify priorities of Codex technical committees and priorities of capacity building and training,
- ❖ the possible consideration of a mentoring program where countries with a developed Codex structure e.g., Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines could offer their support to other countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Lao and Timor Leste,
- ❖ A plan for meetings to review and prepare for the participation in priority Codex technical committees with emphasis on those of high interest for South-East Asia, as discussed during the first meeting of CCPs of the region (November 11th, 2022).

3. Deliverables 11 and 12: Written Proposal for South-West Pacific Codex Coordination Structure and Operationalization

Engagement with the South-Pacific region Codex programs was initially facilitated by the US Codex office, through an introductory call with Codex Australia and Codex New-Zealand.

Followed, a series of discussions aiming to identify mechanisms of collaboration and coordination targeting enhanced participation from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and the organization of an initial outreach event in Auckland New-Zealand on 8-9 November 2022.

Coordination calls were organized with Codex Australia and Codex New-Zealand on:

- ❖ 01 Aug, 04 Aug, 18 Aug, 06 Sept and 07 Oct 2022. One call was documented with a record of discussions as reported:
 - [Summary of Call with CCP Australia / New Zealand – 6 September 2022](#)

The discussions led to identifying a similar approach for Codex coordination to that adopted for South-East Asia, with the concurrence on the creation of the Codex Roundtables for the South-West Pacific.

The proposed terms of reference of this forum were developed and submitted to the endorsement of member countries during the CCP meeting held in New-Zealand (Nov8-9, 2022). These terms of reference were further amended and endorsed on January 13th, 2023, upon holding the first meeting of the Codex Roundtable for the SWP.

These terms of Reference are accessible through:

- ❖ [Codex Roundtable for the South-West Pacific – Terms of Reference – Endorsed 13 January 2023](#).

Discussions continue to consider anchoring this structure in an on-going capacity building program targeting the region with the opportunity to provide on-going and sustainable support to the operations of this mechanism of coordination and collaboration between codex contact points in the region such as the Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access Plus (PHAMA PLUS) program, a capacity building initiative destined to support the agriculture sector in the PICs funded by Australia and New-Zealand.

The operationalization of the SWP Codex Roundtables was acted upon in early January 2023, with the organization of the first meeting on January 13, 2023, where the agenda for Side Event destined to reviewing a Codex Capacity Enhancement Roadmap was discussed.

- ❖ [Operationalizing the Codex Roundtable for the South-West Pacific Inaugural Meeting of January 2023 – video](#)
- ❖ [Agenda for Meeting of 13 January 2023 – Codex Roundtable for the South West Pacific](#)
- ❖ [Agenda for Side Event Celebrating Codex @ 60 by CCNASWP Membership](#)

SWP Codex roundtable meetings were then organized regularly subsequent to CCNASWP, with participation from members of PIC CCPs.

Beyond the inaugural meeting of 13 January 2023, at least two other meetings were organised to support:

- ❖ The preparation for CCRVDF26.
- ❖ The review of the outputs of CCRVDF26 and the preparation of CCNFSDU.
- ❖ Another meeting is also planned for April 13th 2023, to prepare for the upcoming session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF16).

They are as follows:

- ❖ [Agenda for Meeting of 10 February 2023 – Codex Roundtable for the South West Pacific](#)
- ❖ [Agenda for Meeting of 1 March 2023 – Codex Roundtable for the South West Pacific](#)



Roundtable meetings of 10 Feb and 1 March 2023 – Canberra time

It was agreed that future meetings of the SWP Codex roundtables will be extended to include representation from the US Codex Office and Canada’s Codex program, covering all countries of CCNASWP.

Effort

Expert Support

- ❖ **Senior Expert: 20 days, which includes meetings and missions to the Asia.**
- ❖ **Junior Expert: 4 days**

Travel

Includes 4 regional missions to Asia:

- ❖ **Mission to Singapore and Kuala-Lumpur: 11-12 October 2022**
- ❖ **Mission to Singapore: 23-27 October 2022**
- ❖ **Mission to Singapore: 02-05 November 2022**
- ❖ **Mission to Singapore 28-31 December 2022**

** Costs account for 4 missions to Asia instead of 2 missions to Asia and 1 mission to the SWP.*

Deviations from initial plans

This report includes 4 missions to Asia instead of the planned 3 missions to Asia and one mission to SWP.

Various documents associated with these deliverables are reachable through:

- ❖ <https://foodregsci.com/asiaswpapr2023>

Password: **asiaswpapr2023**