Codex Capacity Enhancement Workshop
Towards a National Codex Strategy for Bangladesh

(An Initiative funded by the United States Department of Agriculture)

REVIEW OF CODEX CAPACITY – BANGLADESH

24 -25 May 2023, Gangchil Hall, National Science and Technology Museum, Dhaka

Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Ph.D.| Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Policies, Université Laval, Canada

Evaluation Based Upon

Codex Assessment Tool: 3 Key Components

- ❑ Evaluation of Element 1: Core Mechanisms and Related Processes for Consultation and Management of Codex Work
- ❑ Evaluation of Element 2: Knowledge and Understanding of Codex Work
- ❑ Evaluation of Element 3: Policy Framework and Maximizing Use of Codex Work at the National Level

Levels of Performance

4 Levels of Performance:

- **Level 1: Aspiring** – the capacity is at an initial stage and with a keen interest for development
- **Level 2: Emerging –** the capacity is developing but in need for more guidance and support
- **Level 3: Consolidating** – the capacity exists and is at a good level of development and progressing well / consolidating but requires more targeted guidance
- **Level 4: Well established –** has a good national capacity and in a position to share knowledge and experience with others.

Highlights of Findings

Existing and Functioning Codex Contact Point

- **Dedicated Capacity within BSTI**

  Budget ?

- Level of Activity in Relation with Committee attendance and Position development

- **Technical Committees mirroring Codex Structure**

  Engagement with Stakeholders and partners

- **Engagement with other Partners and Stakeholders**

Highlights of Findings: Element 1

Overall evaluation of **Element 1** covers:

- ❑ Codex Contact Point Structure and Processes.
- ❑ Consultation Mechanisms and Processes.
- ❑ Management of Codex Work.

Attribution of the Level 2 Rating of the FAO/WHO Codex Evaluation Framework:

Emerging – Developing national Capacity but in need for more guidance and support

Highlights of Findings: Element 2

Knowledge Base and Awareness – Level 3:

- ❑ Consolidating – there is an existing capacity that requires more targeted guidance

Scientific and Technical Capacity – Level 2:

- ❑ Emerging – developing national capacity but in need for more guidance

The overall assessment for Element 2 - Knowledge and Understanding of Codex Work is therefore granted a Level 2: Emerging – developing national capacity but in need for more guidance

Highlights of Findings: Element 3

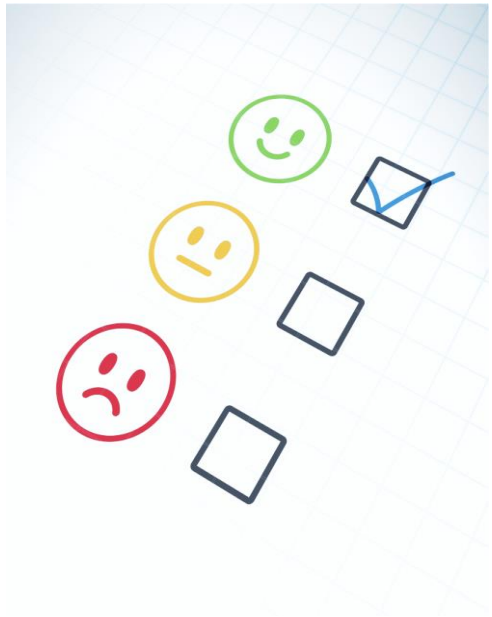
Already Underway:

- ❑ **Strategy targeting the "Harmonization of Bangladesh's Food Safety Standards with Codex Standards and other International Best Practices" - 2019**
- ❑ **Core Data to Support Adoption of Codex Standards and Adaptation Missing ?**
- ❑ Food Monitoring Data / Food Consumption Data
- ❑ Capacity in Food Risk Analysis

The overall assessment for Element 3 – a Level 1: Aspiring

Overall Evaluation

- The overall evaluation identified a good foundation for Codex activities anchored in a history of contribution to Codex proceedings that goes back to 1975.
- The overall rating of the current Codex capacity, based on the Codex Evaluation Framework was identified to be:



Level 2: Emerging - "with a developing National capacity, but in need for more guidance and support."

Recommendations

A. That a Codex strategy be developed to guide all activity development in relation with Bangladesh contribution to International Standard Setting Processes.

B. That the standard harmonization strategy initiated by BFSA in 2019 be further supported with a dedicated expert pool trained in various food risk analysis disciplines.

C. That BFSA experts initiate the development and management of a food occurrence database

D. That a multistage training program on Codex processes and procedures, be tailored and delivered to the various Codex partners: BSTI and BFSA Teams, Stakeholders, including industry organizations.

E. That the National Codex Committee be reactivated, including a set agenda of meetings scheduled in line with the 2023 Codex meetings and with the aim to review and endorse national Codex positions and delegations prior to priority Codex Committees. **Terms of Reference of the Committee should be considered for update to reflect the operational nature of the Committee.**

F. That the Expert Working Group / Subcommittee structure working under BSTI and BFSA be unified under a single structure and report to the National Codex Committee. These committees should be tasked with an encompassing mandate that includes:

- Analysis of agenda items of Codex committees and preparation of Codex positions, and
- Consideration of adoption or adaptation of Codex standards as the basis for National standards, as part of the harmonization agenda.

G. That the Codex Contact Point, upon advice and endorsement from the NCC, seeks co-hosting agreements with select countries / Codex Committee hosts based on priorities established by the NCC.

USDA

FOOD & AGRICULTURE EXPORT ALLIANCE

BANGLADESH TRADE FACILITATION