

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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ALINORM 87/15

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Seventeenth Session

Rome, 29 June - 10 July 1987

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE
CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

8 - 14 April 1986

Introduction

1. The Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia held its Fifth Session in Yogyakarta from 8 to 14 April 1986 at the kind invitation of the Government of Indonesia.
2. Since Dr. Roestamsjah, who had been appointed Coordinator for Asia by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, had expressed a wish to withdraw from his position as Coordinator and hence was not able to chair the Session, the Government of Indonesia which was hosting the meeting designated Professor F.G. Winarno, Director, Food Technology Centre, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia, Adviser to the Junior Minister of Food Crops, Government of Indonesia and Secretary, National Research Council, Indonesia as alternate Chairman for the Session.
3. The Session was attended by 66 delegates and observers of 9 countries from the Region and by one country outside the Region and three international organizations. The List of Participants including officers from FAO and WHO is contained in Appendix I to this report.

Inaugural Address by the Minister of Health, Indonesia and Opening of the Session

4. Dr. Midian Sirait, Director General of Drug and Food Control, welcomed the delegates and observers to the meeting, stating that the government of Indonesia was greatly honored to have had the opportunity of hosting the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, the periodic meetings of which have enabled the Member Countries of the Asian Region to be conversant with the trends and developments in the areas of food standards and food safety. The delegates and observers to the meeting were also welcomed on behalf of His Highness Pakualam VIII, Vice Governor of the Special Province of Yogyakarta who had expressed the hope that the meeting would yield beneficial results to all countries in the region of Asia from the view point of food and health.
5. In the unavoidable absence of the FAO Representative, Mr. Hans Dall, the aims of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission were briefly outlined by Mr. H.J. McNally of FAO. He stressed the need for adequate international food standards and food regulations to protect the consumer and to ensure fair trade practices. He underlined also the need for an appropriate food control infrastructure to implement these regulations. Dr. Sathianathan, WHO Representative in Indonesia drew the attention of the participants to the importance given by his Organization to primary health care and its role in assisting in the task of achieving the objective of the attainment by the year 2000 of a level of health that would permit all the people of the world to lead an economically productive life. Mr. McNally and Dr. Sathianathan extended the thanks and appreciation of the Directors-General of FAO and WHO to the Government of Indonesia for kindly hosting the meeting.
6. The Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia was formally opened with a speech by His Excellency Dr. Swardjono Surjaningrat, the Minister of Health, Republic of Indonesia. He drew attention to the fact that despite the improvements in food standards and food legislation, food borne diseases and food contamination still continued to increase, seriously threatening the health of people. The text of the Keynote Address by the Minister is attached as Appendix II to this Report.

Adoption of Agenda

7. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in CX/ASIA 86/1. The Committee was informed that document CX/ASIA 86/4-Add.1 was not prepared and that both agenda items 7 (i) and 7 (ii) were covered in the document CX/ASIA 86/4.

Election of Vice Chairman

8. The Delegation of India seconded by the Delegation of the Philippines, nominated Mrs. Rozanah Abdullah (Malaysia) as Vice Chairman. The Committee unanimously concurred with the proposal.

Matters of Interest Arising from the Sixteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Committees and Other Matters

9. The Committee had before it Document CX/ASIA 86/2 containing matters of interest to it.

General

10. The Committee was informed of the publication of the Codex Alimentarius which is a collection of international food standards adopted within the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and also provisions of an advisory nature in the form of Codes of hygienic and/or technological practice intended to assist in achieving the objectives of the Codex Alimentarius. These can be obtained from Codex Contact Points in each Member Country. Efforts are being made to improve the ready availability of the Codex documentation to potential users. The list of all the final Codex texts published to-date (Section 1 - Codex Standards; Section 2 - Codes of Practice; Section 3 - Codex Methods of Analysis and Section 4 - Milk and Milk Product Standards) is given in document CX/GEN 85/1.

11. The attention of the Committee was brought to the availability of a document "A List of Codex Documents and Other Food-Related Publications" prepared by the Australian Department of Primary Industry. Copies of the Australian Document can be obtained free of cost from the Food Standards Section, Department of Primary Industry, Canberra, ACT 2500, Australia.

Matters of Interest Arising from the Sixteenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Acceptance of Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues

12. The Committee deferred discussion of the above to Agenda Item 6 - Acceptances.

Rule VI.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission

13. The background to the proposal of the Executive Committee to amend Rule VI.3, which concerned the elaboration and adoption of Codex Regional Standards was outlined for the Committee by the Secretariat. The Coordinating Committee noted that, on the basis of a submission by the representative of the Legal Office of FAO at the Sixteenth Session of the Commission, the Commission had decided on the interpretation to be given to Rule VI.3. This interpretation was that while a region or group of countries could take the initiative to elaborate a regional standard and decide on its contents, this function was subject to the more general functions of the Commission as a whole, which was to decide whether such a regional

initiative was compatible or not with its overall programme, its aims and purposes as listed under Article I of the Statutes, and, if not, to set aside the decision taken by the region or group of countries concerned.

Role of Observers at Codex Meetings

14. The Secretariat explained the background to this matter, which had been discussed at the Sixteenth Session of the Commission. The Coordinating Committee noted that the representative of the Legal Counsel of FAO had confirmed that, although from a strictly legal point of view observers had no right to insist on having their views reflected in the report of the Commission or in the reports of subsidiary bodies, a much more flexible practice had, until now, been followed whereby the views of participants from regional groupings of states (e.g. EEC) had been reflected in the reports of Codex meetings. Although the matter was entirely one of expediency on which the Commission had latitude to decide, the Commission felt that it would be useful if the various legal aspects related to the matter could be restated in a document to be prepared by the Legal Counsels of FAO and WHO.

15. The Coordinating Committee noted that the above-mentioned document would be prepared for consideration at the next session of the Codex Committee on General Principles, to be held in Paris from 24 to 28 November 1986. The Coordinating Committee also noted that the Commission had also decided that, in the meantime, the present flexible practice referred to above should be followed.

Residues in Food of Chemicals used in Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine

16. The Committee was reminded that the increasing use of veterinary drugs as growth promoters and for therapeutic and prophylactic reasons had been discussed during the 15th Session of the CAC. At that time some concern had been expressed from the public health point of view and concern had also been expressed that the development of national regulations concerning residues of these drugs could cause non-tariff (technical) barriers to trade. The CAC had therefore requested FAO and WHO to hold an Expert Consultation to review the whole situation and to advise the CAC whether it was necessary to establish a Codex Committee for dealing with this problem. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food took place in October 1984; the report had been published as No 32 of the FAO Food and Nutrition Series. The CAC, at its 16th Session in 1985, after having reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Consultation, decided to establish a new Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food. The USA is acting as host for this Committee. The first session will take place in Washington D.C. from 27 to 31 October 1986. FAO and WHO will be supporting the work of this Codex Committee by providing expert committee advice, as in the case of the Codex Committees on Pesticide Residues and Food Additives.

17. The Committee took note of this information. The delegation of Indonesia referred to Conference Room Document IV containing a statement of Indonesia on the subject and requested the production of simple educational material for farmers using veterinary drugs and proposed the development of simple analytical methods to identify drug residues in food.

Food Packaging - Health and Trade Problems and the Role of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

18. A paper on the subject which was prepared by a consultant and presented to the 16th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission had reviewed the regulation of packaging material for food, including the various approaches adopted so far, and health concerns, especially the health risks from chemicals migrating into foods from packaging materials. The paper had suggested that Codex should consider initiating work on the following:

- (a) to establish open ended permitted lists of ingredients for the various types of food packaging together with appropriate global or specific migration limits;
- (b) to establish methods for simulating food contact;
- (c) to establish methods for estimation of migrants to achieve a harmonized regulatory approach and of avoiding the creation of barriers to trade.

19. The Commission agreed that the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) was the appropriate forum for dealing with the problems of food packaging materials.

20. The subject had been discussed at the 18th Session of CCFA and the Committee agreed to make only a limited approach to the problem of food packaging and to concentrate on problems of migrants from food packaging materials.

21. The delegation of Indonesia in the Coordinating Committee strongly supported the undertaking of work on packaging materials by the Codex which would be helpful to the developing countries and proposed that Codex might include tin plate in its future consideration of packaging materials. The delegation of the Republic of Korea expressed the view that investigation should be limited only to specific harmful substances migrating from packing materials and that methodology for this purpose be standardized.

Consideration of Need for Developing Codex Standards for Tropical Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

22. The background to this topic, which had been discussed at the previous session of the Coordinating Committee and by the other Regional Coordinating Committees, as well as by the Executive Committee and the Commission, was outlined by the Secretariat. The Secretariat indicated that the Commission, at its Sixteenth Session, had decided to accept an offer of the Government of Mexico to host a worldwide intergovernmental meeting on this topic in Mexico City. The meeting, which would be conducted in Spanish, English and French was expected to be held in the second half of February 1987. The purpose of the meeting was to give in-depth consideration to the question of need for international standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetables, to define what types of products should be covered and to identify the real issues (e.g. nature of the standards, acceptance obligations etc.), taking into account the work in this field already carried out by other international organizations. The meeting would make recommendations to the Commission at its next (seventeenth) session on the question of whether Codex work should be started in this area.

23. The Delegation of Malaysia re-affirmed the position it took at the last session on this question, namely that the fruit industry was still being developed in Malaysia and that it was still premature to think about elaborating international standards. The delegation of Malaysia also made the point that if the intention was to include temperate zone products which were also grown in tropical countries (e.g. oranges), this could be to the disadvantage of developing countries producing such products, through possible emphasis in the standards on quality requirements of products produced in temperate zone countries. The delegation of Malaysia stressed that it was important that international standards do not erect non-tariff barriers for some countries.

24. The delegation of Thailand also re-affirmed the position it took at the last session, which was that it was premature to elaborate standards for tropical fresh fruits and vegetable and that the international trade in fresh fruits and vegetables should be on the basis of agreements between buyers and sellers.

25. The delegation of the Philippines stated that the trade in the Philippines had not yet reached the degree of maturity necessary for the establishment of international standards and also expressed the view that such standards might inhibit rather than help trade.

26. The delegation of Indonesia stated that it was important to have a definition of what was meant by tropical fruits and vegetables. The Secretariat indicated that this was a basic matter which would be discussed at the meeting in Mexico City. The delegation of Indonesia also mentioned that variety differences in the different regions might present a problem from a standardization point of view, and therefore, the delegation was somewhat concerned about the whole matter.

27. The observer from Australia stated that Australia supported the idea of starting work on the development of international standards for these products and thought that use should be made of the expertise and experience of other interested bodies, such as the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The observer mentioned that while the European standards for fresh fruits and vegetables were good standards, they tended to be restrictive in relation to varieties grown in Australia.

28. The Committee urged all interested countries in the region to try and be represented at the Mexican meeting and, at the very least, to ensure that their views were sent in writing.

Utilization of Codex Codes of Practice in Member Countries

29. The Secretariat indicated that unlike Codex standards, Codex Codes are voluntary texts and are not subject to acceptance. It is therefore difficult to assess the results of the intended purpose for which the Codes are elaborated, that is to assist governments to see that foods are prepared under good manufacturing practice, in particular under sound hygienic conditions, and to facilitate international trade.

30. The Committee noted that the Commission had agreed that countries be encouraged to embark upon some case studies on the effect of the Codes on improving their commodity distribution systems and that reports on the utilization of the Codes should be reviewed by the Regional Coordinating Committees.

31. The delegation of the Philippines informed the Committee that in the Philippines Codex codes of practice are being regarded as models for the guidance of food inspectors in evaluating the manufacturing processes in various processing establishments. They are of great value as sources of information for educating food processors. Voluntary compliance with the codes of practice is encouraged to inspire processing efficiency and ensure food quality.

32. In Malaysia a number of Codex codes of practice were referred to in the formulation of the national food legislation.

33. In Indonesia, the Codex codes of practice are considered as valuable sources of information and used as references. Some codes have also been translated.

34. In India, the Codex codes of practice were found to be valuable for food handling and implementation of food law.

35. In the Republic of Korea, the Codex codes of practice have been utilized to amend the national regulations concerning food sanitation. Most of the Codex codes of practice have been translated into Korean and distributed to food related institutions.

36. In Japan, the Codex codes of practice are always referred to when establishing new regulations. Many of the national regulations comply with the codes of hygienic practice elaborated by the Codex.

37. Thailand attaches great importance to the codes of practice for use in industry as a guideline, by government regulatory authorities and in the drafting of new food laws.

38. In Australia the codes of practice are given a wide circulation and most of them are in voluntary use. The codes are used as a basis for regulation of food safety.

39. Some delegations, however, expressed the view that the Codex codes of practice are difficult to follow in their entirety by countries. They are good guidelines and set the direction to be followed by a country, if it decides to improve on the existing hygienic/manufacturing practices. Inclusion of the hazard analysis critical control point concept (HACCP) in the codes more recently elaborated by the Codex has increased their utility.

Amendment of the Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food

40. This matter had been extensively discussed during the Committee's 4th Session (Thailand 1984) and the Committee had made proposals for the amendment of the above Code (for details please see ALINORM 85/15, paras. 128-135).

41. The problem had arisen after the adoption, by the World Health Assembly in 1981, of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, prohibiting sales promotion for infant formula. The Codex Code of Ethics for International

Trade in Food, in Section 5.9, which had been adopted by the CAC in 1979, had referred to the possibility of promoting the sale of infant formula. It was this incompatibility which needed to be corrected through an appropriate amendment of the Code of Ethics. The CAC, its Executive Committee and all four Coordinating Committees had dealt with this matter. During its last (16th) Session in 1985, the CAC had again dealt with this and decided to adopt the amendment in the form submitted by the Executive Committee, which was identical to the proposal made by the Coordinating Committee for Asia (for details please see ALINORM 85/47, paras. 164-172).

Consideration at Step 8 of the Draft Revised Text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (Appendix IV, ALINORM 85/22A) and the Draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling (Appendix III, ALINORM 85/22A)

42. The Committee noted that the draft revised text of the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Food and the draft Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling had been adopted by the Commission at Step 8.

43. The Committee was informed that the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods contains certain provisions for the labelling of irradiated foods, which makes it mandatory to label the first as well as second generation (ingredients) of irradiated foods, as foods treated by ionizing energy. These provisions remain under review.

Advertising by Mass Media

44. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL), as requested by the Commission at its 15th Session, had considered a working paper on advertising, as well as the legal opinions of FAO and WHO on whether advertising was within the terms of reference of the Codex. Advertising was within the terms of reference, but the CCFL had decided not to pursue the matter at this time.

45. The Coordinating Committee expressed the view that it was in favour of establishing ethical standards in food advertising for the benefit of consumer protection as well as fair trade practices. The Committee thought that even ideal labelling of foods does not achieve much if exaggerated claims could be made by advertising. The Committee pointed out that transnational advertising is such that no one country can control the information contained in it. A Code of practice would be of benefit to the consumers in all countries and the Committee strongly supported the elaboration of such a Code by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling. The delegation of Philippines, however, expressed the view that the development of a Code of Practice for advertising should be best left to the local affected parties in the individual countries concerned rather than to Codex.

Maximal Level for Tin

46. The Committee noted the views expressed by Malaysia and supported by India and Indonesia that since dietary intake of tin was low and there seemed to be no risk as regards long term toxicity, the figures for maximal levels of tin in processed foods should not be lowered below 250 mg/kg. The figure of 250 mg/kg for tin in all Codex standards for processed fruits and vegetables was recommended

for adoption by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables based on a survey of the tin content of canned foods carried out by Australia.

47. The Committee also noted that the question raised by Malaysia was considered by the 18th Session of the Codex Committee on Food additives (CCFA) which requested JECFA to provide a clarification concerning its statement that levels above 200 mg/kg of tin results in acute effects such as gastric irritation.

48. The Committee was informed that JECFA would be considering the question raised by CCFA at its next session to be held in June 1986 and that until the matter is clarified by JECFA, CCFA would not take any action concerning the request from Malaysia.

49. Considerable discussion ensued on the threshold level of 200 mg/kg tin. All the Member Countries in the region which have scientific data on the subject were invited to submit such data to the Codex Secretariat to be brought to the attention of JECFA. It was pointed out that consideration of the subject should be based on world wide information gathered rather than on information collected from few clinical trials.

Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt

50. The Committee noted that the Commission adopted the Draft Standard for Food Grade Salt at Step 8 with the proviso that the provisions on contaminants be included later into the standard, when finalized by CCFA.

51. The Committee was informed that the CCFA had established maximum limits for contaminants in Food Grade Salt at its 18th Session and while doing so took into consideration the intake levels of salt by the population. The maximum limits for contaminants in food grade salt will be before the next session of the Commission for adoption and Member Countries have already been invited to send their comments by Circular Letter 1985/8.

Labelling of Bulk Containers for Export/Import in Relation to Use of Pesticides

52. The Committee deferred the discussion of the above matter to Agenda Item 13 - Activities Regarding Pesticides and their Residues in Food.

Status of the Microbiological Criteria for Pre-Cooked Frozen Shrimps and Prawns

53. The Committee noted that microbiological criteria for Precooked Frozen Shrimps and Prawns as end product specifications were adopted by the Commission. These end product specifications were considered important to the region since there is a considerable international trade in these commodities. The delegations of Indonesia and Malaysia, however, pointed out that specifications for salmonella should be expressed on the basis of quantity of sample analyzed (for ex. per 25 g or 50 g).

Status of the Draft Standard for Dates

54. The Committee noted that the draft Standard for Dates was adopted at Step 8 by the Commission. Dates are an important commodity traded internationally by the countries in the Near East. The Committee noted that the Standard on Dates would be communicated to the Member Countries for acceptance in due course.

Proposal of Thailand to Amend the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple

55. The Committee deferred discussion of the above matter to Agenda Item 9b - Amendment Proposals Received from Countries in the Region of Asia.

Proposals for Deletion of Provisions for Colours and Flavours in Certain Codex Standards

56. The Committee was informed that its request to delete the provisions for colours and flavours from the Codex Standards for Canned Pineapple, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Canned Peas and Canned Mature Processed Peas had been considered by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables. That Committee did not agree to the deletion of colours and flavours since they were considered necessary in the formulation of products under good manufacturing practice.

Consideration of the Draft Standard for Liquid Pulpy Mango Products Preserved Exclusively by Physical Means at Step 8 (Appendix III to ALINORM 85/14)

57. The Committee noted that the Draft Standard for Liquid Pulpy Mango Products had been adopted at Step 8 by the Commission. The Standard contained a labelling provision in Section 7.1.1 which permitted the use of the name "mango juice" for products of not less than 50 percent m/m fruit ingredient in countries where the product was traditionally known as such. This accommodated markets in those countries, especially India (which alone produces more than 50 percent of the product moving in world trade) where these products are marketed as "Mango Juice", even though the product did not comply with the definition of fruit juice. The delegations of Malaysia and Indonesia pointed out that in their Countries a product based on liquid pulpy mango products cannot be labelled as Mango Juice. A proposed draft standard for mango juice, a product which was not produced in commercially significant quantities had been discontinued.

Vegetable Juices

58. The Committee noted that the Group of Experts on Fruit Juices would consider the need for and feasibility of elaborating a General Standard for vegetable juices. This commodity was becoming of increasing importance in trade particularly in Europe. Furthermore, several European Countries had started to develop standards for these products.

Consideration at Step 5 of Draft Guidelines for the Use of Vegetable Protein Products (VPP) and Milk Protein Products (MPP) in Processed Meat and Poultry Products (PMPP)

59. The Committee noted that the Draft Guidelines for the use of VPP and MPP in PMPP, the scope of which is to provide guidance for use of VPP and MPP in PMPP, by establishing:

- (i) principles for the appropriate use of VPP and MPP in PMPP, and
- (ii) principles for the appropriate labelling of processed meat and poultry products containing VPP and MPP

were presently at Step 5 and would receive one more round of comments from governments.

Consideration of Draft Standard for Wheat Flour, Maize (Corn) Grains, Whole Maize Meal and Degermed Maize Meal and Maize Grits (ALINORM 85/29, Appendix II, III, IV and V)

60. The Committee noted that all the above draft standards had been adopted by the Commission at Step 8. They would be sent to governments for acceptance in due course.

Consideration of the Proposed Draft Standard for Certain Pulses at Step 5 (Appendix VI to ALINORM 85/29)

61. The Committee noted that a minimum standard was being elaborated. The Draft Standard is presently at Step 5 and will receive one more round of comments from governments. The subject is of interest to the Committee since pulses are an important item in the diet of large segments of the population in South East Asia.

Consideration of the Draft International General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products at Step 5

62. The Committee noted that the Draft International General Standard for Vegetable Protein Products being elaborated by the Codex Committee on Vegetable Proteins is presently at Step 5 and will receive one more round of comments from governments.

Consideration of (i) Draft International Standard for Soybean Products at Step 5, (ii) Draft International Standard for Wheat Gluten at Step 5, and (iii) Draft General Guidelines for the use of Vegetable Protein Products in Foods at Step 5

63. The Committee noted that the above standards and guidelines are at Step 5 of the Codex Procedure and will receive one round of comments from governments.

Matters arising from the 18th Session of CCFA (ALINORM 87/12)

Guidelines for a Simple Evaluation of Food Additive Intake

64. The Committee noted, from the Report of the Codex Committee on Food Additives, that guidelines for a simple evaluation of food additive intake would be developed by Thailand, Belgium, USA, India and WHO. These guidelines for a simple approach to estimating food additive intake were being developed, to assist developing countries to carry out such an exercise.

65. The Committee expressed a keen interest in the exercise and looked forward to the guidelines for carrying out food additive intake studies.

Intake of Glutamates

66. The Committee noted that the Codex Committee on Food Additives had proposed that the discussion at its last Session of the subject of "Intake of Glutamates" should be brought to the attention of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, since it was considered of interest to many countries in the Region.

67. The Committee noted the following from statements made by various delegations and observers.

68. Monosodium Glutamate, in addition to being present in processed foods, was widely used in many countries of the region as a seasoning in food preparations made at home. Food preparations made in restaurants had been reported to contain higher levels of MSG than similar preparations made at home. Guidelines that could be followed for carrying out studies on intake of glutamates should, therefore, be slightly modified from general guidelines for food additives intake, in order to accommodate the additional use of glutamates as seasoning in food preparation.

69. In certain countries in the Region, as in the Philippines, studies carried out have shown that MSG could be used with advantage as a carrier of Vitamin A. Such procedures if adopted could lead to an increased intake of the additive. The Committee, however, learnt that because of certain financial constraints and technological difficulties, the Philippines had given up the study on using ISG as a carrier of vitamin A.

70. A number of surveys had been carried out in different countries of the region, Republic of Korea, Japan, Thailand and Indonesia, but these surveys had shown that the intakes of MSG do not exceed the acceptable daily intake of 0 - 120 mg/kg body wt, calculated as glutamic acid, additional to glutamic acid intake from all non additive dietary sources. However the observer from IOCU brought the attention of the Committee to the results of a survey carried out by its member organization under the sponsorship of UNICEF, which showed that the ADI was exceeded. Some countries intended to carry out further studies on the intake of MSG in the near future and were looking forward to the guidelines for a simple evaluation of food additive intake, under elaboration by the CCFA.

71. MSG was last reviewed by JECFA in 1973 and some countries in the region expressed the view that the food additive should be reviewed in the light of newer data on toxicology and consumption patterns in the region of Asia.

72. Such of the governments in the region which have data on intakes and toxicology of MSG were invited to provide the data to the Codex Secretariat for bringing to the attention of CCFA and JECFA. Observers from international bodies were also invited to provide such data.

Matters arising from the 16th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP) (ALINORM 85/18)

Code of Practice for Food Grade Fish Protein Concentrate (FPC)

73. The Committee noted that the delegation of Thailand had brought to the attention of the CCFFP that its country and other developing countries in the region of Asia, had been receiving large amounts of FPC through Food Aid Programmes and reiterated its opinion that there appeared to be a need for the Asian Region to have guidelines for determining the suitability of the product for human consumption. It sought assurance that such products should conform to the compositional and microbiological criteria of FPC, type B prepared by the PAG.

74. The delegation of Thailand at the Session expressed the view that a Code of Practice for Food Grade Fish Protein Concentrate should be elaborated by Codex.

Inclusion of Sardine Sardinella Sp. in the Product Definition of the Codex Standard for Canned Sardines and Sardine Type Products

75. The Committee was informed that its proposal for inclusion of the species Sardine Sardinella in the product definition in the Standard on Canned Sardines would be considered by the 17th Session of CCFFP to be held in Norway 5-9 May 1986, on the basis of data to be made available by India. It was pointed out that the name of the species would need to be clarified.

Matters arising from the 2nd Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia

Assistance from UNIDO - Tin Plate

76. The Committee noted that following a proposal made by the 2nd Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (ALINORM 79/15, para. 107), UNIDO had organized a Workshop in Jamshedpur, India in April 1984 on tin plate production in countries of Asia and the Pacific. The Workshop had been attended by 31 participants from India, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Rep. of, Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey. The objective of the meeting was to develop cooperation among those countries for the manufacture of the right quality of tin plate from indigenous sources.

77. The report of the Workshop can be obtained from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna, Austria.

Labelling Provisions for Processed Meat Products with regard to Islamic Religious Requirements

78. The Committee recalled its discussions on the subject at its 2nd Session on the basis of a draft document prepared by Malaysia. The delegation of Saudi Arabia had agreed to convene a working group to discuss the format and specific labelling provisions for processed meat products with regard to Islamic religious requirements, but this working group had not yet been convened pending completion of a study by the Islamic Centre in Brazil.

79. The Committee noted that the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Muslim World League had sponsored a meeting on Islamic Requirements of Food of Animal Origin, which had taken place from 5-8 December 1985 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The meeting was attended by an international group of widely recognized Muslim scholars, as well as by observers from FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre, Berlin (West) and Muslim associations.

80. The meeting had prepared a list of food animals, the meat of which is permitted for consumption by Muslims. The essentials of Islamic methods of slaughter were defined and methods for stunning before slaughter, especially by the use of captive bolt, by electric or carbon dioxide methods had been discussed. The meeting had appointed a Committee of four members to study the aspects of electric stunning and to report in six months to the organizers of the meeting.

81. The Committee took note of the above and requested copies of the report. The Committee also wished to be kept informed of developments on the subject of stunning.

Matters arising from the 4th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia
Problems concerning Acceptance of the codex Standard for Infant Formula

82. The committee deferred discussion of the above to Agenda Item 12.

Code of Practice for the Storage, Handling and Transport of Edible Oils and
Fats in Bulk

83. The Committee was informed that the proposal it had made at its 4th Session that a Code of Practice for the Storage, Handling and Transport of Edible Oils and Fats in Bulk be elaborated was accepted by the Commission at its 16th session. The Committee noted that the first draft prepared by Malaysia had not yet been circulated to Member Countries for Comments.

Malaysia, which in the meanwhile prepared a second draft of the Code proposed that it be circulated to Member Countries. The Secretariat gave an assurance that the document prepared by Malaysia will be put into the Codex format and will shortly be circulated for comments at Step 3. The subject will be discussed by the 13th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, which will be held in London, February 1987.

Assistance to Increase Participation by Developing Countries in the Codex Region
of Asia in the Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

84. Introducing this topic, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the need to give assistance to developing countries to attend Codex sessions, in order to provide necessary inputs into the work of the Commission, which may have economic or health implications for them, and also in order to enable them to derive full benefit from Codex work, had been stressed by the Executive Committee and by the Commission. The Secretariat had issued a Circular Letter (CL 1985/52) in September 1985 which had been sent to all Codex Contact Points in developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean for action. Attached to the CL was a document which gave information on a UNDP project INT/83/904 explaining operational policies and procedures for the use of UNDP funds for promotional activities of TCDC (Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries). The CL had indicated that lack of funds had led to diminishing attendance of developing countries at Codex Commodity Committee sessions, many of which were developing standards of great interest to developing countries, and at Codex Regional Coordinating Committee sessions, where such important problems as food safety including pesticide residues and infrastructural needs to achieve better food control were being discussed. This lack of funds to enable developing countries to send delegates to these important sessions stood in the way of developing countries making further use of the ideal opportunities for TCDC.

85. The CL had brought attention to a possibility for funding which the authorities in developing countries had been urged to explore. The CL had suggested that requests for assistance be limited to one or two Codex meetings of particular importance to the country concerned. The UNDP project provided for financial support to cover the cost of such things as travel from one developing country to another. The Secretariat indicated that it understood that

travel to a Codex Committee session in a developed country was not necessarily excluded - the important thing being that interested developing countries should make out a good case showing the importance attached by the country concerned to being represented at the session, especially where the Codex Committee was dealing with commodities or technical matters related to ongoing or potential TCDC activities. Speed in making a case for assistance through the Resident Representative of UNDP in each country had been urged in the CL.

86. The delegations of Indonesia, India, Thailand, and Malaysia stated that they intended to explore the possibilities for funding under the above mentioned UNDP project as soon as possible. The delegation of the Philippines indicated that the UNDP Representative in the Philippines had been approached about this matter but that the response from UNDP had been negative. The delegation of the Philippines indicated that it would try again to seek financial support from UNDP for attendance at one or two Codex meetings of particular interest and aimed to make out a case showing the relevance of attendance to TCDC activities.

87. The Secretariat requested countries applying for assistance under the UNDP project to report to the Codex Secretariat on the outcome of their efforts.

88. The Representative of the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean drew attention to the very scant attendance of countries in the Middle East (or Western Asia) at sessions of the Coordinating Committee for Asia over the years. The Committee agreed that this matter be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee and the Commission, in order to see how Members of the CAC in the Middle East could be induced to be associated with and participate in the sort of Codex work carried out at the regional level.

Review of Acceptances by Countries in the Region of Asia of Codex Standards and Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide residues

89. The Committee had before it document CX/ASIA 86/3, which reviewed progress concerning acceptances by countries in the Region of Asia. It was noted that the following countries had notified acceptances of some of the Codex standards or Codex maximum residue limits: Republic of Yemen, Bahrain, Democratic People's Republic of Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The document also set out details of further replies which had been received from Japan and Thailand since the last session of the Committee and details of statements on acceptances which had been made by the delegations of Iraq, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand at the 16th Session of the Commission. These latter statements had indicated that even if standards had not been accepted as yet, the Codex standards were being used as useful guidelines and points of reference by the regulatory authorities and by the food industry.

90. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Commission, at its last session, had decided to place on record the desire of developing countries that developed countries should do more to accept or otherwise implement the Codex standards, in order to help the trade of developing countries. The Commission had also decided that it would be good for the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to examine problems associated with acceptance of Codex standards and Codex maximum limits for pesticide residues at its next session, in order to see how the situation regarding acceptances could be improved. This meeting of the

CCGP would take place in Paris from 24 to 28 November 1986. The Commission had also agreed that it was important for all member countries of the commission to submit a report in writing concerning acceptances to the next session of the Commission.

91. The delegation of Malaysia stated that it was important that pesticides being extensively used in the Region of Asia be evaluated by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and that Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) be established for them.

92. The delegation of Thailand stated that in Thailand Codex standards were used as guidelines and the Codex MRLs were always taken into consideration. Thailand had already accepted four Codex standards. Thailand appreciated the importance of accepting Codex standards, but was faced with some problems, about lack of data which would require further study, especially as regards contaminants and pesticide residues in food and also quality of tinplate. Thailand could not accept the Codex Standard for Infant Formula, but would continue to study the possibility of giving more acceptances.

93. The delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that in the Republic of Korea the Codex standards and codes of practice were very useful for food producers. The Codex recommendations were looked upon as fundamental guidelines in the Republic of Korea. Concerning the Codex MRLs, the Republic of Korea has been monitoring levels of pesticide residues found in foods and planned to establish MRLs which would take the Codex MRLs into account, but would be appropriate to circumstances prevailing in the country.

94. The delegation of the Philippines indicated that in the Philippines the Codex MRLs were being used as guidelines.

95. The delegation of Kuwait stated the Codex Standards were being utilized in Kuwait.

96. The delegation of Japan referred to its statement of position as set out in document CX/ASIA 86/3. The use of Codex standards in Japan can be urged on a voluntary basis, but there is no legal right to prevent the distribution of products below the Codex Standard, but the Government of Japan makes manufacturers to comply with Codex Standards on a persuasion basis. Concerning the Codex MRLs, they were taken into account as far as possible. As regards pesticide residues in imported foods, Japan uses Codex MRLs as guidelines, when they are not included in the list of National Standards.

97. The delegation of India stated that in India the Codex standards were considered useful as guidelines. It would be necessary for India to develop data concerning levels of food additives and contaminants provided for in Codex standards, following which India would be in a better position to indicate whether it could accept the Codex standards.

98. The delegation of Indonesia stated that it fully appreciated the importance of giving acceptance to the Codex standards. Some of the Codex standards had been used in the development of national legislation. Indonesia had still some problems as regards availability of skilled manpower. Indonesia considered that the standards should be adopted by the various countries concerned and that a Committee should be set up to monitor this. The Secretariat indicated that exactly such a monitoring role was being proposed for the Codex Committee on General Principles.

99. The observer from Australia stated that whilst for constitutional reasons the Commonwealth Government of Australia was not able to formally accept Codex standards and MRLs for domestic application, it nevertheless strongly encourages their adoption by state authorities and by industry. Australia's export inspection legislation, which is federally enacted, places heavy reliance on Codex recommendations.

100. The observer from the International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU) stated that double standards were to be deplored and in this connection referred to legislation being put forward in one major country which would permit the export of pharmaceutical products although they might not be approved for sale domestically. The observer expressed the hope that this would not lead to a similar situation as regards food products and stressed the importance for importing countries to set standards for products exported to them.

Strengthening the Infrastructure for national Food Control systems:
Information on Existing and Proposed Projects of FAO/WHO and Other
International Bodies on Food Control in the Asian Region

101. The FAO Representative introduced Document CX/ASIA 86/4 and indicated that it included information on food control assistance projects in the Asian Region. The document was meant to update information on technical cooperation projects implemented since the Fourth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia.

FAO Activities

Regional Cooperation Project for Establishing a Food Control Training Network
in Asia

102. The attention of the Committee was drawn to the regional action programme for strengthening food control training and assistance recommended by the FAO/UNDP Technical Consultation among Developing Countries of Asia and the Pacific on Food Control Needs and Means, held in Manila in September 1979. This action programme gave highest priority to manpower development and to information exchange amongst the developing countries of the region. In addition, the last four sessions of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia had strongly supported the recommendation that FAO/WHO with the possible support of UNDP and donor agencies should assist in the further development and implementation of the above regional action programme on food control. The Fourth Session of this Committee very strongly recommended that immediate steps be taken for the early establishment in Asia of a Regional Training Centre for Food Inspectors which would also promote the concept of Technical Cooperation in Developing countries.

103. The Committee was informed that FAO had prepared a draft proposal to establish an Asian Regional Network of Food Inspectors Training Centres which had been circulated to countries of the region for comment. In addition, an FAO Consultant had visited a number of countries and assessed the potential interest to participate in the proposed network. A further review of the draft proposal was held in Bangkok in late 1985 with representatives from selected countries of the region and the draft proposal was revised and tentative identification of the potential institutes was made.

104. The proposal has been submitted to the UNDP for funding consideration with a preliminary indication that favourable response will be forthcoming and that possibly one training facility will be established and operating in 1986.

105. If UNDP concurs with the proposal it will then be sent to the UNDP Representatives in the Region for official submission to the concerned governments for their official agreement.

106. Several delegations suggested that there might be a need to hold longer and more extensive training programmes for food inspectors, as necessary and that there was also an urgent need to establish a similar network system for the training of food analytical chemists, including training in laboratory instrument repair.

107. The delegation of Thailand indicated their complete support for the project and indicated their willingness to host one of the proposed training centres and in fact it was reported that the Government of Thailand had submitted to FAO a written proposal to establish such a centre.

108. The delegation of Australia provided information to the committee with regard to the national training programmes for food inspectors in Australia and indicated that examples of the various training packages used would be provided to FAO for their perusal and possible use in the international training programmes that are held, especially those conducted in the Asian countries.

109. The Committee indicated their unanimous support for the proposed network and strongly recommended that the UNDP provide the necessary funds to implement the project.

Asian Regional Workshop on Street Foods

110. The Committee was informed of several projects being conducted with FAO assistance to review and ascertain the quality and safety of street foods with a purpose to determine what action if any should be taken to improve the current situation. Reviews have been conducted in India, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines as well as in several countries of Latin America. As street foods were in many countries considered to be a most important aspect of food distribution and consumption, an FAO Asian Regional Workshop on Street Foods is scheduled to be held in Bogor, Indonesia in November 1986 to review the situation and hopefully arrive at recommendations for action to improve the current systems.

Conference on Food Control

111. The Committee was informed on the Inter-American Conference on Food Protection held in Washington, D.C. in August, 1985 with the support of FAO/PAHO/USA/Canada. The workshop involved senior level food control participants from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and resulted in the unanimous adoption of an action plan designed to establish and strengthen the food control infrastructures of the countries of the region.

112. Several delegations indicated that it might be worthwhile to consider the holding of a similar conference for the countries of the Asian Region as a means to develop an overall integrated food quality control strategy for the Region so as to improve the supply of safe food as well as to stimulate trade:

113. Realizing the needs of the Region the Committee endorsed the concept of holding a Regional Conference on Food Control and further requested that FAO and WHO take the necessary initial action to develop a proposal that can be submitted for concurrence and consideration by funding agencies, including the developed countries of the Region. The delegations of Australia and Japan indicated that the proposal would be placed before their respective governments for consideration and comments.

Other Activities

114. Information was provided on selected projects, particularly those which dealt with policy and strategy issues and involved more than one country, such as the project "Irradiation as a Quarantine Treatment for Tropical Foods" for the Asian Region; food sampling techniques training course for Arab-speaking countries and on the Regional Food Inspection Training Course held in Sri Lanka in 1985.

115. The specific attention of the Committee was also drawn to some of the national food control strategy workshops recently supported by FAO (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka). The purpose of such workshops was to develop an overall integrated food quality control strategy, to promote coordination amongst various ministries of the government concerned with food quality, safety and related matters, in particular the health and food and agriculture sectors; and to provide coherence amongst activities of various agencies at national level.

116. The Committee was also informed of several projects now in the pipeline and various sources of funding, particularly in Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, UAE, South Yemen and the Republic of Korea.

117. The availability of resources from FAO/WHO/UNEP as well as other donor agencies depended upon the priority attached to these activities by the national authorities. It was therefore necessary that the Government should give high priority to food control in their national plans and programmes. Effective implementation of food quality control activities depended upon the political will at the national level and determination of authorities to ensure effective action, monitoring and surveillance, policing and above all, extension and development action, at various levels in the food production and distribution chain. The Committee was requested to give this matter serious consideration.

WHO Projects/Activities

118. The Committee was informed that the Codex Region of Asia comprises countries which belong to three WHO Regional Offices. The respective WHO officer with responsibility for food safety in his particular region presented his report to the Committee. In addition to the information provided in document CX/ASIA 86/4 the following information was shared with the Committee

(a) Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO)

119. WHO/EMRO support to national food safety programmes has been increased during the period 1984-1985, 14 activities have been implemented and this support is expected to be expanded during the balance of the 7th General Programme of Work (1984-1989).

120. The national food safety situation in countries was reviewed in cooperation with EMRO, training of personnel within the Region, four national workshops, preparation of manual in Arabic, training in mass catering, training in food sampling in collaboration with FAO, expertise in different aspects of food additives, Islamic requirements for meat slaughtering, identification of two new WHO collaborating centres are among the activities implemented during the same period.

121. Except for a few countries (oil exporters) which have a more elaborate food safety and control system, there is at national levels insufficient recognition of the work of the Food Safety Services, lack of well defined strategies and inadequate administrative set-up. Other constraints include inadequate allocation of funds for food safety activities, insufficient manpower for laboratory analysis, lack of appropriate equipment and proper maintenance, and information material.

122. AT WHO/EMRO level, budget allocation for the Food Safety Programme at country level has increased from nil in 1982-83 to \$80,000 for 1984-85 and to \$280,600 for the 1986-87 biennium. In the future, FAO collaboration, AGFUND support, UNDP project proposals and bilateral inputs will be given due consideration and more emphasis will be placed on these extra-budgetary funds.

(b) South East Asian Region (SEARO)

123. WHO has been supporting the Member States in food safety programmes since 1976. The nature of the collaboration depends on the Member States situation, problems and needs which is reflected in the country regular budget and inter-country budget for consumer purposes. Emphasis has been given so that the food safety policy, strategy and implementation should be in the context of HFA/2000 and PHC approach. Specific areas in which WHO collaborate with the Member States are:

- (i) to assist countries in developing, reviewing and strengthening national policies for food safety;
- (ii) to have technical manpower in different fields of food safety programmes;
- (iii) to promote TCDC activities in the field of food safety;
- (iv) to establish a national and regional surveillance programme for monitoring of chemical and microbiological food safety;
- (v) to assist countries in establishing food standards and preparing training modules for training of food handlers and food inspectors;
- (vi) to promote integration of food safety activities through primary health care approach at grass root level;
- (vii) to assist countries in preparing appropriate training material for information to the community to encourage community participation in food safety programmes;
- (viii) to collaborate with countries in health services research particularly for the study of food habits and behavioural patterns with a view to evolving appropriate strategies for food safety at the grass root level.

(c) Western Pacific Region (WPRO)

124. WHO considers clean air, safe drinking water, safe use of chemicals and safe food which are interrelated as essential parts of environmental health programme. Food is vital to human health as it provides nutrition value but it may cause food borne diseases if it is not properly prepared and handled.

125. The WPRO approach to food safety programmes is similar to those described by the representatives from EMRO and SEARO, i.e. technical cooperation provided to Member States in priority areas identified by the government as crucial to strengthening the development of national food safety programmes. These may range from institutions development, manpower development, food legislation and standards, laboratory services, preparation of manuals, guidelines and teaching aids for public education, promotion of public awareness on food safety and exchange of information.

126. WPRO would promote the networking of cooperation and collaboration among WHO Collaborating Centres and national institutions in this important area.

127. WHO provided regular budget for country project activities. In addition, intercountry projects, such as PEPAS centre also provided technical services and support to the Member States. Efforts would be made to obtain extra technical and financial resources from multinational and bilateral agencies, if the government so desired. WPRO collaborated closely with FAO in order to complement each others programme activities and avoid duplication of work which might create confusion and waste of scarce resources.

128. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the officers of FAO and the WHO Regional Officers for their reports. He appreciated the fact that WHO Regional Officers were for the first time in the history of the Coordinating Committee for Asia attending a session of the Committee and supporting its work. He hoped that this would be only the beginning of a long lasting fruitful cooperation.

Information on Other Work of FAO and Who Complementary to the Work of the Codex

Report on Joint FAO/WHO Activities

129. The Committee had before it document CX/ASIA 86/5. The Secretariat informed the Committee that in addition to supporting the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission both organizations had several activities which were of additional direct or indirect support to the work of the Committee.

Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

130. The Committee was informed that the expert groups had the task of toxicological evaluation of pesticides and food additives respectively and that these evaluations led as a rule to the establishment of acceptable daily intakes (ADI's). In addition the expert groups established i) maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticide residues for food commodities on the basis of data from supervised trials and ii) specifications for food additives. The expert reports of JMPR and JECFA on pesticides and food additives respectively form the basis for establishing Codex MRLs and maximum levels of food additives in various foodstuffs.

Food Irradiation

131. (a) International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation (The Group)

The Committee was informed that the Group which had been established in 1984 was jointly sponsored by IAEA, FAO, and WHO; IAEA had assumed the responsibility as Secretariat. During the second meeting of the Group in December 1985, extrabudgetary resources (cash and in-hand contributions) had been pledged, enabling the Organizations to carry out several activities, such as Workshop on Food Inspection for the Food Irradiation Process. This Workshop was a direct follow-up to discussions held during the 4th Session of the Coordinating Committee for Asia (for details please see para. 138 of ALINORM 85/15). This meeting was scheduled to take place in India in November 1986.

(b) WHO Publication on Food Irradiation

132. Given that food irradiation technology can be utilized to increase food safety and to reduce food losses and given that there is still a tremendous lack of knowledge about this technology, WHO has decided to produce an information book on food irradiation. FAO has accepted the invitation to cosponsor this publication. The target groups for which this book is being written includes public health and other governmental officials, management of food industries and consumer associations. An Editorial Board had been established to guide FAO and WHO in the writing of this book. It was hoped to have the book available in English and French and possibly in Spanish during 1987. The translation into other languages (Arabic, Russian, Chinese) would depend upon the wishes of the countries concerned.

(c) Codex Standard

133. The conflict between:

- (i) the prohibition of irradiation treatment included in certain Codex standards (e.g. for foods for infants and children), and
- (ii) the general clearance of the process of irradiation through the Codex General Standard for Irradiated Foods - which was also discussed during the 4th Coordinating Committee for Asia - had been taken up by the 16th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission which decided to refer this issue to the CCFSDU. If necessary, FAO and WHO will call a special consultation of experts to advise especially concerning infant foods.

Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme

134. To promote the recognition, evaluation and control of environmental contaminants and hazards that may affect human health, FAO and WHO are actively participating in the health-related monitoring activities of the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) sponsored by UNEP. The main objectives of the Programme are:

- (i) to collect and evaluate data on levels of certain chemicals in individual foods;
- (ii) to obtain estimates of the intake via food of specific chemicals;
- (iii) to provide technical cooperation to the governments of countries wishing to strengthen food contamination monitoring programmes; and

- (iv) to provide the relevant Committees of CAC with information on levels of contaminants/pesticide residues in foods in connection with the establishment of Codex standards/MRLs.

135. The Committee was informed that some 30 Member States were collaborating in this programme, among them several Asian countries such as China, India, Japan and Thailand.

136. The Committee was advised that one of the components of the Programme involves Analytical Quality Assurance to assist laboratories improve their analytical capabilities. Experience to date indicates that large differences exist between laboratories with regard to analytical capability and that as a result training and other assistance has been provided to improve on the quality of the data produced.

137. The "Guidelines for the Study of Dietary Intakes of Chemical Contaminants" had been prepared under the Programme and have now been published (WHO Offset Publication No 87) and distributed to all the Collaborating/Participating Centres as well as to the Codex Contact Points.

Joint Publications

Guidelines for Can Manufacturers

138. The contamination of canned processed foods by lead and tin is a recognized problem in food quality control. The problem is particularly severe in tropical countries, where a combination of elevated temperatures and the limited availability of high quality tinfoil, combined with extended storage or shipping times can lead to levels of contamination above those recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. A publication "Guidelines for Can Manufacturers and Food Canners" has been prepared by an international group of authors acquainted with the manufacture of cans as well as with the canning process, to assist food processors in developing countries to meet the requirements of Codex standards for levels of lead and tin in canned foods. The publication is in press, and will be issued by the middle of 1986.

139. The book describes the processes of can corrosion and the various factors which influence the rate of corrosion. Practical advice to the processor in the choice of tinfoil, manufacture of the preformed cans and handling of the cans during filling, is included. The publication also contains descriptions of methods for testing cans and for the analysis of foods.

FAO Activities

Food control Assistance to Developing Countries

140. As food control activities include many aspects, including food safety it is evident that the control of foods is a multi-ministerial responsibility and therefore requires very close coordination and cooperation so as to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure maximum utilization of available resources. In this regard technical assistance in the form of project implementation, consultations and/or other advisory services has been provided or initiated in Burma, China, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Tonga.

141. The delegation of India recognized the support provided by FAO to India, along with Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the organization, establishment and design of food contamination monitoring programmes but indicated that some additional assistance in this area was of critical need and requested FAO to review the possibility of providing additional help in this area.

National Food control, Strategy Workshops

142. The Committee was informed that FAO has cooperated with and provided support to several countries to organize national food control strategy workshops. The subject matter being multi-sectorial covering agriculture, health and commerce sectors, such policy level workshops have been able to develop policies and programmes for general improvement of the food systems to ensure quality and safety of food supplies and protect consumers from food hazards. Such workshops in the Asian Region have been recently held in India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Training

143. FAO has placed great emphasis on providing assistance to member countries in the form of training. An FAO Asian Regional Workshop in food inspection techniques was held in Sri Lanka in November and December 1985. In addition, several of the FAO operated food control projects in the Region involve large components of technical assistance.

Urbanization - Problems of Food Control

144. The Committee was informed concerning FAO's involvement in reviewing the problems of food control related to the rapidly growing urban populations, especially in the Asian region. Such a situation is placing new and greater demands on food transportation and distribution systems and often lead to shipments of foods over much longer distances; leading to problems of food spoilage, decomposition and contamination, both chemical and microbiological. Work has been initiated by FAO in Latin America to review the situation which has indicated many complexities and problems. As a result, FAO and WHO are planning on convening an expert consultation in October 1986 to review the food control problems associated with urbanization from a global view point and arrive at recommendations for attacking the problems encountered.

Mycotoxins

145. The Committee was informed that FAO is actively involved in the area of prevention and control of mycotoxins. Aflatoxin was receiving the highest priority.

146. A new training programme called the "FAO/UNEP/USSR Training Activities on Food contamination with Special Reference to Mycotoxins" has been initiated with UNEP support. Two training courses have been held in the USSR during 1984 and 1985 and fellowships provided in 1985/1986.

147. The Committee was advised that since 1977, when the first FAO/WHO/UNEP Conference on Mycotoxins was held in Nairobi, FAO together with the support of other external funding agencies has held intensive training courses in laboratory control of mycotoxins at the national level as part of the development of food quality control and contaminants monitoring programmes.

148. In 1987 a second International Conference on Mycotoxins is planned jointly by FAO and WHO to which all member countries of both organizations will be invited. This conference will review developments since 1977 and propose plans and strategies to deal with the mycotoxin problems through to the year 2000.

149. The Committee was informed that a regional project which is based in Bangkok but includes all member countries in the FAO Asian and Pacific region is currently collecting data on levels of aflatoxin contamination and steps to be taken in those countries to control the situation. Another Project in Thailand which was established to prevent post harvest losses in stored grains has included support to the laboratory in determination of mycotoxins, identification of mycotoxins producing fungi, and methods of sampling and control at the storage level.

Report on Global and inter-regional WHO Activities

150. In addition to the information contained in document CX/ASIA 86/5 the Committee was informed that WHO, following recommendations of a Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Safety (Geneva 1983, TRS 705), was now concentrating on the study of domestic food preparation. Foodborne diseases and intestinal parasites rank high as a cause of morbidity in many developing countries (and as far as food borne diseases are concerned, also in industrialized countries). The traditional approach of official food control, aiming at food moving in trade channels, has limited application as much of the food consumed in developing countries escapes inspection. In addition, the quality of inspection of different commodities and of food establishments, where carried out, is variable. Finally, food inspection can't be extended into the houses of consumers. It is for these reasons that measures of food control authorities do not have any significant effect upon the incidence of foodborne diseases, including such serious infections as typhoid and cholera.

151. In the foregoing situation, the only practical approach to assure the safety of food at the time of eating and to prevent foodborne disease is to make the consumers and food handlers aware of the dangers of mishandling and mistreating food and to teach them simple methods of rendering it safe in the home and in small processing establishments. The main difficulty in formulating appropriate health education materials in this field is the lack of knowledge of factors favouring the transmission of foodborne disease under the very varied cultural, ecological and socio-economic situations of different communities. This difficulty can be overcome largely by a relatively new method of assessing the hazard in any food service operation (home, restaurant, street vendor, cottage industry), When the hazards have been analysed, the critical points at which control measures should be applied can be identified. This "new" method is called Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to food safety. On the basis of the HACCP findings and possibly of limited epidemiological information, health education material and methods can be designed.

152. WHO has taken steps to initiate the HACCP approach also in several Asian countries (Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia) and is at present trying to obtain extra-budgetary resources so as to be able to start the work in these countries.

List of Selected WHO and Joint FAO/WHO Publications on Food Safety/Food Control and Related Matters

153. The above List was made available to all participants as Conference Room Document III.

International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)

154. In response to the growing concern of the Member States on the problem of chemical safety and toxic and hazardous waste a significant portion of which would eventually end up in food in the form of pesticide residues and other contaminants, WHO is increasing its efforts in providing technical cooperation in the area of chemical safety as part of the International Programme on Chemical Safety which is being coordinated by WHO Headquarters. For example, WHO Western Pacific Region plans to intensify its collaborating activities in this area by convening a regional workshop on chemical safety at PEPAS, Kuala Lumpur from 24 to 28 November 1986. Information on the organization, management, legislation and existing problems at country level is being collected and compiled. A background paper for workshop is also being prepared. Priority areas for future collaboration will be identified and follow-up action at the country level will be made.

155. The Committee took note of these reports and felt that the FAO and WHO activities in the field of food safety and food control were relevant to the needs of the countries of the Region.

Consideration of Provisions in Codex Standards which may need Reconsideration and Amendment

156. The Committee had before it document CX/ASIA 86/6 which contained a summary report on developments concerning earlier proposals of the Committee for the amendment of certain Codex standards. Many of the proposed amendments were to the effect that certain provisions in the Codex Standards concerned - those relating to quality factors of an aesthetic nature, such as styles, types of pack, cuts, defects, etc., should be made optional, to be agreed upon between buyer and seller. The Committee was also informed that a consultant (Dr. D. S. Chada) had prepared a paper for consideration by the Sixteenth Session of the Commission entitled "Consideration of whether there is too much detail in certain Codex standards and whether some parts of these standards should be made optional".

157. The Committee noted that, after discussion, the Commission had concluded as follows:

- "(i) Codex standards, being of a mandatory nature, should not include optional clauses providing for agreement between buyer and seller in regard to quality factors of an aesthetic nature, like styles, types of packs, etc. as this would not provide consumer protection and would not ensure fair practices in the food trade, especially when dealing with products where such criteria are important.
- (ii) The Committees concerned should review their standards periodically, in order to consider whether they could be simplified by omitting or modifying some of the details about styles, dimensions of sizes, uniformity of sizes, defect tables, keeping in mind consumer protection, trade practices, changes in technological processing etc. However the initiative lies with the countries which wish to see changes made in the standards.

- (iii) For the future, it may be necessary for the commodity committees to direct their efforts to the more essential matters of composition, quality, hygiene, food additives and food labelling, taking into account the Work Priorities Criteria and any economic impact statements that may be submitted, but without sacrificing the details which are necessary for consumer protection, having regard to the nature of the products.
- (iv) The Member countries of Codex should take urgent steps to notify acceptances of the standards to the Secretariat. Even if they are not in a position to notify Full Acceptance, they may be in a position to notify Acceptance with Specified Deviations, or Target Acceptance, or a declaration of so called "Free Entry".
- (v) The Coordinating Committee for Asia is asked to identify those provisions in Codex standards which need reconsideration and amendment. Detailed amendments would need to be put forward, together with reasons for them."

158. The Secretariat briefly reviewed the outcome of consideration of the Committee's proposed amendments by the Codex Commodity Committees concerned and subsequently by the Commission. The Committee noted that a few of the proposed amendments still remained to be considered by the next sessions of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils and the Joint UNECE/Codex Group of Experts on Standardization of Fruit Juices. The decisions taken on most of the proposed amendments were indicated in CX/ASIA 86/6.

159. One of the conclusions of the Commission had been that "The Coordinating Committee for Asia is asked to identify those provisions in Codex standards which need reconsideration and amendment. Detailed amendments would need to be put forward together with reasons for them". The Secretariat indicated that in response to a Circular Letter which had been issued on this topic, only one country - Thailand - had put forward proposals for amendment, as contained in Document CX/ASIA 86/7.

160. Concerning the proposed amendment relating to the level of tin in Codex standards, the delegation of Thailand did not think it necessary to have a further discussion on this matter at this stage, as the question of the maximum level for tin had already been discussed earlier in the session, where the decision taken by the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, at its most recent session in March 1986, had been brought to attention as well as the fact that this matter was to be reconsidered by JECFA (see paras 45-48).

161. Concerning the proposed amendment to the Codex standard for Canned Pineapple, where it had been proposed that a more precise distinction between "broken slices" and pieces should be made, the Committee noted that the delegation of Thailand had withdrawn this proposed amendment at the March 1986 Session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables.

162. The Committee was also informed about another proposal of Thailand for the amendment of the Codex Standard for Canned Pineapple which had been considered at the March 1986 session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV). The amendment concerned section 2.2.4 of the standard, relating to texture

and specifically to the tolerance of not more than 7% by weight of "core material". The delegation of Thailand had explained to the CCPFV that there were varieties of pineapple grown in Thailand which had core material which was soft and edible. Using present coring methods, it was possible for Thailand to be in conformity either with the provision for drained weight or with the limit for core material in the standard, but not with both. However, Thailand can produce canned pineapple to comply with Codex standards but would suffer from loss of certain amount of raw material. In its written comments, they proposed that the provision regarding content of core material be deleted from the standard. However, the Thai delegation subsequently suggested that possibly a footnote explaining what is meant by core material would help to resolve its problem.

163. The CCPFV eventually agreed to a footnote defining "core material" as "the hard fibrous centre portion of the fruit". The point was also made at the CCPFV session that an agreed definition of "core material" would be very desirable from an enforcement point of view. The CCPFV had requested the Commission, at its next session (1987), to accept the footnote.

164. Concerning the above decision of the CCPFV, the delegation of Malaysia at the present session thought that it would be difficult to make a distinction between the soft core and the flesh of the fruit if there is no distinction between the two. The Delegation of Indonesia thought there should be methodology for determining compliance with the provision concerning core material, as now being presented to the Commission. Concerning the standards for processed fruits and vegetables in general, the delegation of Indonesia thought that broader definitions of products might be desirable.

165. The observer from the International Life Science Institute (ILSI) thought the standards should reflect more the technologies available in developing countries. The observer from ILSI also thought that there was greater need for industry participation in Codex work. The Secretariat indicated that the standards represented the consensus of opinion in the CCPFV as to the products actually moving in international trade and that every country, developing and developed, had, under the Codex procedure for the elaboration of standards, several opportunities to comment on the standards while still in draft. The Secretariat added that, in point of fact, there was considerable industry participation in Codex work and national Codex Committees should provide for industry participation.

166. On the proposal of the delegation of the Philippines, the Committee wished to commend Dr. Chadha for the work he had done in expounding to the Commission the question of whether there was too much detail in certain Codex standards and whether some parts of the standards should be made optional. It was noted by the Committee that the views expressed by Dr. Chadha in his paper put before the 16th Session of CAC were at variance with the views that had been expressed by him as a delegate of India at an earlier session of the Committee.

167. The Committee noted that it was always open to any country to propose amendments to a Codex Standard. The procedure for this was set out in the Procedural Manual of the Commission.

THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND THE PROMOTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC)

168. Introducing Document ALINORM 85/39 the Secretariat pointed out that the CAC, during its 16th Session in 1985, had already discussed this paper under its agenda item dealing with the future direction of the work of the CAC (for details please see paras. 114-122 of ALINORM 85/47). The CAC had requested the Coordinating Committees to further discuss at the forthcoming sessions the possibilities for integrating food safety into the PHC delivery system at national level and particularly the various proposals in the paper under review. These proposals referred, among other things, to:

- (i) the utilization of Codex Codes of Hygienic Practice as additional training material in food safety for community health workers, agricultural extension workers, home economists, nutritionists and similar staff working with the community, who need a knowledge of the basic principles of food safety;
- (ii) the translation of at least selected parts of the Codex Alimentarius into national languages in order for Codex texts to be utilized by small industries and communities;
- (iii) the need for the Secretariat to produce appropriate information material on the CAC and to inform from time to time, the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO on those activities of the CAC which are complementary to the promotion of Health for All/2000 and Agriculture Towards 2000, in order for these Governing Bodies to better implement the work of CAC;
- (iv) the advisability of inviting a wider range of international or regional governmental and non-governmental organizations to attend sessions of the Committee;
- (v) the need to consider the feasibility of introducing on the agendas of Coordinating Committees a permanent agenda item dealing with monitoring of national policies, programmes, services and institutions related to food control and food safety, in order to stimulate action at the national level leading to increased technical cooperation activities in food control and food safety between Member States themselves and between Member States, FAO and WHO.

169. During the discussion the following points were made. In the countries of all participants, PHC had been adopted and was being further developed in order to reduce and minimize the inequality and inadequacy of the present national health care systems. Food safety was seen as an important component of PHC. However, its integration into the PHC delivery system had so far only partly been pursued, one reason being that there was still a lack of awareness of the serious health and economic consequences of food contamination. In addition, vertical disease control programmes were consuming a large part of the health budget making it more and more difficult for food safety to receive the degree of priority it urgently needed.

170. Several delegations pointed to the need for food safety being a part of the primary and secondary school education. In the context of education, consumer associations would also have an important role to play, and they should work together with governments, complementing their efforts. Decentralization and intersectorial coordination have also been identified as major prerequisites for more successful food safety programme delivery.

171. In conclusion, the Committee noted the proposals contained in the paper under consideration and felt that they should be acted upon. The observer from Australia, whilst supporting the general thrust of the paper cautioned that such activities should not extend beyond food standards issues and should not duplicate work which is the direct responsibility of UN Agencies. Concerning proposals for action by FAO and WHO (preparation of information material on the CAC; report on the work of CAC to the Governing Bodies of FAO and WHO) the Committee was informed that the Secretariat had already taken appropriate steps in this direction.

172. Concerning the proposal to invite a wider range of international or regional governmental and non-governmental organizations to attend sessions of the Committee, the suggestion was made that in future, bilateral aid agencies and UNDP should be encouraged to attend.

173. The proposal to consider the feasibility of introducing on the agendas of Coordinating Committees a permanent item dealing with monitoring is dealt with under paragraphs 174 to 176 of this report.

Monitoring of National Policies, Programmes, Services and Institutions related to Food Safety and Food Control in order to Stimulate Action at the National Level Leading to Increased TCDC

174. In introducing document CX/ASIA 86/8, the Secretariat referred to the paper "The Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Promotion of Primary Health Care" (ALINORM 85/39; see also paras. 168 to 173 of this report) which contained the proposal that Regional coordinating Committees, in the interest of promoting food safety and public health, might consider it worthwhile to regularly monitor national policies, programmes, services and institutions related to food safety and food control. This might help to stimulate action at the national level which could in turn lead to increased technical cooperation activities in food safety between Member States themselves and between Member States, FAO and WHO. In order to facilitate such monitoring, FAO and WHO had elaborated Guiding Principles on Evaluation of Programmes to ensure Food Safety (WHO/EHE/FOS86.1; FAO/ESN/MISC 86/1) which contained, inter alia, a list of indicators to be used for monitoring which had been made available to the Committee. The CAC, during its 16th Session in 1985, had invited the coordinating Committees to consider the feasibility of introducing on their agenda a permanent item dealing with monitoring of National Food Control and Food Safety Programmes. The Committee was now requested to:

- (1) consider, on the basis of information and experience in Member States on their currently run monitoring and evaluation systems/ activities, ways and means which might be used for strengthening such activities at the national level;

- (ii) determine the role that the Coordinating Committee of Asia might play in stimulating such action and in monitoring the progress achieved;
- (iii) suggest improvements, if any, in the FAO/WHO evaluation document, to make it more suitable for the needs of the Asian Region.

175. In order to be able to discuss these three points in substantial depth and detail, the Committee was divided into four working groups of about 15 persons each, which were chaired by the heads of the delegations of Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and India, respectively.

176. The reports of the Working Groups, which contained - among other things - considerable detailed and useful comments and proposals for the improvement of the FAO/WHO document on evaluation, were made available to the Committee as Conference Room Document VI. In summary the Working Groups had arrived at the following conclusions:

- (i) monitoring and evaluation were seen to be useful tools for strengthening food safety and food control programmes in Member States;
- (ii) the Coordinating Committee for Asia could and should assume a catalytic role in this matter;
- (iii) several delegations felt that the time was not yet ripe to discuss the results of national monitoring and evaluation systems/activities in an intergovernmental committee such as the Coordinating Committee for Asia. Instead it was agreed that all Member States of the Region of Asia should prepare for the next (6th) session of the Committee a paper reporting on action taken by governments, and possibly NGOs, in response to the Resolution on food safety, adopted by the Committee during its 4th Session in 1984 (ALINORM 85/15, Appendix V). This would have the advantage that countries would be at liberty to respond as they thought fit, without being obliged to follow a detailed reporting format. The delegation of the Philippines, supported by the observer from Australia, expressed its concern that the proposals before the Committee go beyond the proper functions of the Committee. These delegations also expressed some apprehension concerning preparation of such a paper because of the workload it might involve for individual countries;
- (iv) in addition to the comments on the FAO/WHO document on evaluation already made during the sessions of the four working groups, individual delegations felt that this document needs to be discussed in detail at the national level with representatives of various ministries and NGOs. It was, therefore, agreed to send additional comments to the Secretariat and that these comments should arrive in WHO Geneva not later than the end of 1986. The secretariat in turn would use these comments, together with those coming from the Coordinating Committees for Africa, Europe and Latin America, to revise the present provisional edition of the FAO/WHO Guiding Principles on Evaluation of Programmes to Ensure Food Safety. The final edition is scheduled to be published during 1987.

177. Concerning the Resolution on food safety referred to in para 176 (iii) above, the Committee noted that a Circular Letter (CL 1986/19) had already been sent out inviting countries to respond to the Resolution. During the present session, the delegation of the Republic of Korea provided the Secretariat with a progress report on action taken in that country. It was agreed that this topic should be on the agenda of the Committee's next session.

Report of Consultant on Current Situation and Capabilities of Selected Countries in the Asian Region for the Manufacture of Infant Formula and Weaning Foods

178. The Committee had before it Document CX/ASIA 86/9. The Committee recalled its discussions at its 4th Session on problems concerning acceptance of the Codex Standard for Infant Formula, which revealed that it was mainly the techno-economic problems facing the countries in the region which were standing in the way of their accepting the Standard.

The Committee had suggested, therefore, that, as a first step, a consultant be recruited to visit some countries in the Region and study the current situation and capabilities of the countries for the manufacture of infant formula and weaning foods.

179. A consultant had been engaged and had visited five countries of the region: India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. The report of the consultant was attached as Annex I to the Document CX/ASIA 86/9.

180. The Secretariat presented the report of the consultant on the current situation and capabilities of the countries visited in the Asian Region as regards the manufacture of infant formula and weaning foods and drew the Committee's attention to the conclusions of the consultant as set out below:

- (a) The Codex Standard for Infant Formula was a standard containing minimum nutritional requirements for the infant, and the manufacture of a product with a nutrient content lower than the Codex Standard would be most undesirable, since that would affect the nutrition of the growing infant and would increase the problem of malnutrition and child morbidity.
- (b) The development of locally manufactured infant foods based on milk is often still possible and any improvement in milk production should accord priority to the manufacture of milk for babies.
- (c) Breast feeding should, however, remain the rule as far as possible, but given the nutritional status of mothers in these regions, a supplementary food is often necessary for the child from its 4th month.
- (d) Experience in the countries visited has shown that it is possible to manufacture supplementary foods based on vegetable products (groundnuts, soya, lentils, millet, peas, rice and beans) locally produced.

- (e) Development of extrusion type products and improved marketing conditions would encourage investment, leading to better manufacturing conditions. Diversity of formulae is desirable both to vary the taste for the consumer and to increase the range of raw material that could be used. The diversity of vegetable products (see (d) above) used, would mean that there would always be raw materials available, despite difficult climatic conditions.

181. The delegations of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as the observer from IOCU, took part in the ensuing discussion of the consultant's report. The general view was that there were several inaccuracies in the report and that it did not adequately address itself to the need for suggestions for the development of an infant formula and other foods using indigenous raw materials, which would meet Codex standards and be, at the same time, affordable by low-income populations of the Region.

182. In addition to the above-mentioned major point, the following points were also made by various speakers:

- (a) the study carried out by the consultant was not an in depth study. The Report was not sufficiently comprehensive, possibly because the consultant had spent rather short periods in the different countries visited. In certain instances, the consultant had not visited some important institutes which were active in development of work on the formulation of infant foods and weaning foods. The data presented in the report appeared to be based too much on oral reports which were not entirely accurate.
- (b) several statements made in the report are not correct. The following few examples were pointed out:
 - (i) the proportion of mothers using breastmilk substitutes in India is about 1% and not 3% (page 4, line 4);
 - (ii) buffalo-cow crossings to improve productivity (page 5, line 23) are not feasible;
 - (iii) per capita availability of milk supplies is 140 ml and not 60 ml (page 5, line 24);
 - (iv) weaning of infants in Malaysia as a policy begins at four months and not at two months (page 23, line 18);
 - (v) in the Philippines the WHO Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes has not been approved because of the penalty clause. The Code has been accepted in principle by the industry concerned (cf. page 27, line 24);
- (c) The report did not sufficiently separate the very different requirements in the production of Infant food on one hand and supplementary foods based on locally produced foods on the other hand;

- (d) Many measures are being taken by governments to promote breast feeding, such as the adoption of the WHO Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. Reference has not been made in the report to the measures being taken by governments which restrict the sale and prohibition of breast milk substitutes in order to protect breast feeding. The committee however noted that consideration of the subject was not in the terms of reference of the Consultant.

183. In the light of the above, the Committee did not feel able to endorse the Report. It was agreed that all interested countries and international organizations in the region should send their comments on the report to the Secretariat, who would then consider the matter further, in the light of the comments.

Activities Regarding Pesticides and their Residue in Foods

184. The Committee had before it Conference Room Documents I and II containing the draft report and a summary of the Second Session of the Group of Developing Countries in Asia Concerning Pesticide Residue Problems, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2-5 April 1986. The Committee also had available a status report on the control of pesticide residues in food in Indonesia as Conference Room Document V.

185. The Committee was informed that the Group had discussed:

- (i) trade in food containing excessive amounts of pesticide residues;
- (ii) identification of pesticide residues in exported foods;
- (iii) need for pesticide residue data from good agricultural practice (GAP) in developing countries;
- (iv) estimation of intake of pesticide residues in food;
- (v) the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides;
- (vi) simplified methods of analysis for pesticide residues;
- (vii) third questionnaire on laboratory facilities and manpower;
- (viii) establishment of a regional pesticide training centre and service laboratory, and
- (ix) acceptance of Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues.

The Group had made a number of recommendations directed towards strengthening capabilities of countries to solve their pesticide residue problems. The summary report of the meeting and the recommendations are attached as Appendix III to this Report.

186. The delegation of India stated that it was not in agreement with the conclusions of the Group concerning the question of identification of pesticide residues in exported foods. The delegation added that the subject should be discussed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, on the basis of the document (LIM 2) which it had submitted to the 16th Session of the Commission.

The delegation made a reference to the Codex Code of Ethics for International Trade in Food which recommends that countries exporting foods should ensure that such foods conform with appropriate legal limits for pesticide residues in the importing country. The delegation of India also stated that India's proposal which would help importing countries, related only to shipping documents accompanying bulk containers and did not include products offered directly to the consumer. If information on the content and identity of pesticide residues in exported foods was not made available to the importing country, the philosophy behind acceptance of Codex MRLs would, in the view of the delegation of India, have no significance. The position taken by the delegation of India was supported by the observer from IOCU. The delegation of Indonesia, however, agreed with the conclusions of the Group on the subject.

187. Concerning the estimation of intake of pesticide residues in food, the delegation of Indonesia stressed the need for guidelines on methods of estimation.

188. The Committee comended the elaboration of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides by FAO. The observer from IOCU offered to be of assistance in monitoring the implementation of the Code. The Committee noted that the objectives of the Code were to set forth responsibilities and establish voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities engaged in or affecting the distribution and use of pesticides, particularly where there is no, or inadequate, national law to regulate pesticides.

189. The Committee was informed that the code contained 12 Articles as below:

- Article 1: Objective of the Code
- Article 2: Definitions
- Article 3: Pesticide Management
- Article 4: Testing of Pesticides
- Article 5: Reducing Health Hazards
- Article 6: Regulatory and Technical Requirements
- Article 7: Availability and Use
- Article 8: Distribution and Trade
- Article 9: Information and Exchange
- Article 10: Labelling, Packaging, Storage and Disposal
- Article 11: Advertising
- Article 12: Monitoring the Observances of the Code

Copies of the Code could be obtained from the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy.

190. The delegations of Malaysia and Indonesia supported the activities in CCPR for standardization of simplified methods of analysis for pesticide residues suitable for use by developing countries. Development of such methodology would facilitate monitoring of pesticides.

191. To a question raised by the delegation of the Philippines about measures to be taken to prevent the use of pesticide containers for food storage or transport, the Secretariat drew the Committee's attention to the provision in 10.4 of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

Nomination of Coordinator

192. The delegation of Malaysia, seconded by the delegation of the Philippines, proposed that Professor Dr. F.G. Winarno (Indonesia), Chairman of the current session of the Committee, be nominated for appointment by the Seventeenth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, July 1987) as the Codex Coordinator for Asia. This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Committee. Dr. Winarno indicated that he accepted the nomination, subject to the approval of the Government of Indonesia.

Other Business (including Proposals from Delegations for New Standardization Work

193. None

Date and Place of the Next Session

194. The Committee was informed that its next session would be held in Indonesia at an acceptable time to the Host Government during the first half of 1988, subject to approval by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Vote of Thanks to the Government of Indonesia

195. The Committee wished to place on record and to express to the Government of Indonesia its sincere appreciation of the Government's generosity in having kindly provided host facilities for the Session. The Committee also wished to express its appreciation of the excellent arrangements for the Session and for the generous hospitality extended to delegates during the course of the Session.

Statement by the Delegation of the People's Republic of China

196. The Delegation of the People's Republic of China could not be in time at the session to take part in the deliberations of the Committee under different Agenda Items. The delegation hence made a statement on its position on different issues discussed at the session. This is attached as Appendix IV to the Report.

Thanks to the Chairman

197. The Committee thanked the Chairman, Prof. F.G. Winarno for so ably conducting the proceedings of the session and looked forward to his chairmanship of the next session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia, which will be held in Indonesia in 1988.

APPENDIX I

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SPEECH BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SUWARDJONO SURJANINGRAT
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE
CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

8 - 14 APRIL 1986
HOTEL GARUDA, YOGYAKARTA

The Honourable Vice Governor of Yogyakarta,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to welcome you on behalf of the Government to the Fifth Session of the CODEX Coordinating Committee for Asia. We sincerely hope that your short stay in this historic and cultural city of Yogyakarta will be a most pleasant one.

Since the establishment of THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION in 1963, global and regional improvements have been observed, with regard to the need for protecting the health of food consumers and in the area of promoting food trade.

We have noted with satisfaction that since the inception of the COMMISSION awareness related to safety and quality of food supplies has been increasingly emerging, particularly in the developing countries in ASIA. It is also with great pleasure we note that membership of the COMMISSION has risen from some 30 countries to 129 over a period of about 22 years.

We also notice that 29 Asian Countries have joined this Commission, indicating their great concern about the hygiene and safety of food consumed in their respective countries.

In my humble opinion, however, more efforts should be made towards improving infrastructures to better control food production and distribution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Important steps have been taken in the Asian Region aiming at improving practices in food hygiene and food handling. With great pleasure we note that a Model Food Law and Regulations were adopted and also that an Agreement was reached on methods of improving national food services and development of regional standards. A great amount of information on food control and standards is made available to most developing countries through technical cooperation among the developing countries or TCDC. Despite the improvements in standards and legislation, foodborne diseases and food contaminants still continue to increase, threatening the health of the people seriously.

We all realize that a substantial number of deaths are caused by contaminated food. Such health hazards, as a matter of fact, can also cause substantial losses to the food industry and to the national economy. I strongly believe that

steps should be taken to prevent and reduce the catastrophic nature of foodborne diseases. We have noted with interest and satisfaction that this meeting is putting due emphasis on strengthening the national infrastructures in the area of control of food production. In view of the magnitude of the problems, the vast territory and the large populations of most developing countries in Asia, it is suggested that decentralized authority systems are the most appropriate approach to infrastructural development, emphasizing the strengthening of local institutional capabilities, which requires certainly technical guidance and supervision. One of the challenges faced at the local levels is lack of skilled manpower.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am also happy to learn that matters related to pesticide residues and additives in food are on the list of agenda items for discussion in this meeting. These are indeed subjects requiring continuous attention, as these harmful chemicals certainly may have their immediate and long term effect on the health of the people. It is also encouraging to learn that close on forty countries have now accepted CODEX limits for pesticide residues in food.

The present global economic crisis moves countries in the Asian Region to look at other alternatives and one of the possibilities is in the area of food commodities. For most developing countries, international trade, particularly food exports, may become a source of essential foreign earnings. However, we have to be aware that the strict quality control should be exercised to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics or with accepted quality standards.

For all the reasons have mentioned above, it is clear to us that improvements in the area of production and local institutional abilities to achieve better food control should be given due attention. We must, therefore, constantly keep in mind that food trade depends definitely on the purchasers' confidence in safety and quality of food.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO and WHO for their continuous support to this programme to promote coordination in food standards, food safety and international trade, and I am particularly grateful that my country has been selected as the venue for the Fifth Session of the Regional Codex Coordinating Committee.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and a very pleasant stay in Yogyakarta. May I now have the honour to declare the Fifth Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia officially open.

Thank you.

Minister of Health
of the Republic of Indonesia

Dr. Suwardjono Surjaningrat

APPENDIX III

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA CONCERNING PESTICIDE
RESIDUE PROBLEMS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Session of the Group of developing countries in Asia was held in response to the recommendations of the Working Group on Pesticide Residue Problems in Developing Countries of the CCPR. The Session was organized by the Government of Thailand in cooperation with FAO and WHO. The Meeting was attended by 50 participants and observers from two countries and 8 international organizations and other organizations.
2. The present summary includes matters of interest to the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. Copies of the Draft Report will be available to participants of the Committee on request.

TRADE IN FOOD CONTAINING EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES

3. The Group considered a claim coming from the Coordinating Committee for Africa that food containing 'excessive' residues are being marketed in developing countries. The matter had been considered by the CCPR and the Secretariat had been requested to obtain information concerning the claim. The Group, following discussion, agreed that 'excessive' residues should be taken to mean that food containing residues in excess of the legal limit of the importing country or if no such limit exists of the exporting country or of the Codex MRL is being marketed. It agreed that it would be a difficult task to try to obtain information on the extent of the marketing of such foods. It also agreed that lack of harmonization of legal limits made it difficult to define 'excessive' residue.

IDENTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN EXPORTED FOODS

4. The Group considered a paper prepared by India for the 16th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in which India proposed that consumers be informed concerning the presence of pesticide residues in food products. The paper also suggested that, in order to assist the competent authorities in the analysis of residues in imported foods, non-retail containers

or shipping documents should indicate the pesticides present in the food and the amounts of the pesticide residues.

5. The Group agreed that it would not be feasible to indicate pesticide residue content on the label of prepackaged foods. As regards information on non-retail containers and in shipping documents as mentioned above the Group agreed that this amounted to a mandatory requirement for a full analysis of each and every shipment of food. This requirement was considered by the Group to be neither desirable nor feasible. However the Group recommended that, where the treatment history of a food commodity was known or where analytical information on pesticide residues was available this information should be made available on the request of the importer.

NEED FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES DATA FROM GAP IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

6. The Group discussed, on the basis of papers prepared by the Secretariat, the need for developing countries in Asia to generate their own residues data under GAP using supervised field trials and similar studies. The Group agreed that the availability of such a residues data would make participation in the work of the CCPR more meaningful. This was so since (a) on the basis of residues data obtained from the region maximum residue limits could be developed through the mechanism of the JMPR/CCPR of particular interest to countries in Asia, (b) existing Codex MRLs or draft MRLs could be considered on the basis of direct data from the region and (c) results from GAP based trials would strengthen the credibility of the region in following good practices in the use of pesticides.

7. The Group was made aware of a number of possible ways in which technical and financial assistance in carrying out trials to generate residues data could be obtained. The Group agreed that a Circular Letter should be distributed to ascertain the pesticide/crop combinations of interest to the region for which residue data should be generated.

ESTIMATION OF INTAKE OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN FOOD

8. The Group had available several documents on the subject of pesticide residues intake estimation and also received a verbal report on action being carried out or contemplated at the international level.

9. The Group was informed of the activities of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Contamination Monitoring Programme, especially in respect of the problem of determining pesticide residue intake.

10. The Group urged governments to be aware of and participate in international efforts directed to the estimation of pesticide residue intake and to carry out appropriate dietary intake studies as a means of consumer protection.

THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF PESTICIDES

11. The Group noted with satisfaction that the 1985 FAO Conference had endorsed the above Code of Conduct together with related technical guidelines elaborated by FAO in relation to the use of pesticides. The Group strongly supported the Code.

12. It was noted that at least a year would be needed to study the Code and to gain experience in its application from the various countries in Asia before any suggestions could be made concerning improvements in the text. It was thought to be desirable that the Code be translated into national languages.

SIMPLIFIED METHODS OF ANALYSIS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

13. The Group noted with satisfaction that the Working Group on Analysis of the CCPR had not only defined 'simplified' residue analytical methods, but that it had identified a number of them as being suitable for use by developing countries in laboratories equipped with normal instruments and reagents.

14. The Group supported the criteria used by the Working Group on Analysis in selecting 'simplified' methods and recommended that this work be continued. It was also recommended that countries in Asia should collaborate in testing the performance of methods of residue analysis of interest to them.

THIRD QUESTIONNAIRE ON LABORATORY FACILITIES AND MANPOWER

15. The Group noted with satisfaction that a Third Questionnaire had been issued in January 1986 seeking information on available facilities on the one hand and needs for assistance on the other hand (CL 1985/11-PR). The Group urged countries in Asia to respond to the Third Questionnaire. Information received could be used to identify TCDC and the needs of individual countries for technical assistance.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL PESTICIDE TRAINING CENTRE AND SERVICES LABORATORY

16. The Group was informed that FAO, acting on the recommendation of the Group, had formulated a project proposal for the establishment of a Regional Pesticide Training Centre and Services Laboratory in Chiang Mai. The Group fully supported the immediate and long term objectives of the project which were considered to be appropriate since they would result in an improved control over the use of pesticides leading to better food production, improvement in the quality of food products as well as health protection. Using the regional centre, countries in Asia could cooperate more closely in activities relating to the safe and effective use of pesticides and in generating the much required pesticide residue information referred to earlier (see recommendations on financial support for the implementation of the project).

ACCEPTANCE OF CODEX MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES

17. The Group received a written report (CX/PR 86/3) on recent developments in the promotion of acceptances by governments of Codex maximum limits. It also received a verbal report from the Secretariat on the various legal obstacles to governments giving acceptance to the limits. The Group welcomed the recent publication of "Recommended National Regulatory Practices to Facilitate Acceptance and Use of Pesticides in Food" and noted with satisfaction that the Resolution adopted by the first meeting of the Group had been endorsed by the Commission and included in the said document. The Group reiterated the importance of implementing the recommendation in the Resolution adopted at the first meeting that all members of the Commission should review the lists of products contained in Volume XIII of the Codex Alimentarius (Codex MRLs) in order to determine which of the listed products were imported. As a start to the harmonization process, the acceptance of Codex MRLs in respect of imports should be given serious consideration. In connection with the implementation of Codex MRLs, the Group noted that there was need for more technical assistance to improve the capabilities of developing countries to check compliance with Codex MRLs.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP

18. The Recommendations for further action by developing countries of the region by UN agencies, and international organizations etc. are given in the Appendix to this Summary.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA CONCERNING
PESTICIDE RESIDUE PROBLEMS 1/

The Group of Countries in Asia recommends that:

1. Governments in the Region of Asia identify their needs regarding the establishment or strengthening of pesticides and pesticide residue laboratories and communicate them to FAO.
2. UN Agencies, other International Organizations and Governments should, if they are not already doing so, provide assistance to developing countries in pest control programmes, such as IPM, leading to an improvement in the safe and efficient use of pesticides and to a decrease in pesticide residues in food and the environment.
3. FAO to take urgent steps to set up the Regional Pesticide Training Centre and Services Laboratory in Chiang Mai, Thailand as soon as possible so that training in all fields of pesticides can be given. This would result in accelerating the study of human health hazards, the control of the proper quality of pesticide formulations, safer and more efficient use of pesticides and the generation of much needed residue data from countries in Asia. Countries in the region of Asia, International Organizations and bilateral donor agencies are urged to give the strongest support to this project.
4. Developing countries be urged to take steps to ensure the continued availability of funds and foreign exchange so that laboratories, including those established under UN technical assistance arrangements, remain fully operational.
5. Countries in Asia should respond to the third questionnaire on laboratory facilities and manpower (CL 1986/11-PR) issued by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues.
6. FAO, WHO, UNEP, International Organizations and Governments should provide the means to hold regional meetings on pesticide problems aimed at technical cooperation (TCDC) and evaluation of common problems in the areas related to:
 - (a) Pesticide Registration
 - (b) Good Agricultural Practices
 - (c) Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - (d) Hazards
 - (e) Analytical Methods
 - (f) Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

1/ The Group of Developing Countries in Asia (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2-5 April 1986) was attended by two countries only (Thailand and Japan).

- (g) Acceptance of Codex Maximum Residue Limits
- (h) Environmental Pollution

7. FAO, WHO, UNDP and other International Organizations as well as bilateral donor agencies such as USAID, CIDA, SIDA, DANIDA and NORAD, be urged to provide funds in order to increase participation of representatives of Developing Countries at sessions of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and at other Codex sessions where pesticide residue matters are discussed. This would make the contribution of these countries to the work of the Commission in general and of the CCPR in particular, more effective.
8. Regional meetings on questions relating to the proper use of pesticides, such as indicated in Recommendation 8 should be held on an approximately two yearly basis with the financial support of UN agencies and other International Organizations and bilateral donor agencies, preferably in conjunction with regional inter-governmental sessions on pesticide questions. Such meetings should also continue to discuss regulatory questions relating to Codex work on harmonization of maximum residue limits.
9. FAO/WHO prepare international guidelines for the reduction of pesticide residue content of food commodities both at the level of the consumer and at the point before entering trade channels.
10. FAO/WHO find ways and means of promoting better understanding of the Codex regulatory principles which would promote the harmonization of pesticide residue limits, through educational means such as seminars or illustrated printed material.
11. Countries in Asia should identify the title of the officer to whom Codex and other publications relating to pesticides should be sent.
12. Countries in Asia should identify the technical units which deal with matters relating to pesticides and their residues, leading to better cooperation between countries in these matters.
13. Developing countries be urged to undertake collaborative studies aimed at generating residue data from supervised field trials conducted according to GAP for pesticides and crops of common interest in the Region, so that these data can be submitted to JMPR for evaluation.
14. Developing countries in Asia should be fully aware of and participate in activities at the international level as regards the estimation of pesticide residue intake and carry out appropriate dietary intake studies for consumer protection as necessary.
15. Developing countries in Asia should collaborate in testing the performance of methods of residue analysis of interest to them.
16. Countries of the region should report to the next session of the Group on their experience regarding implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Uses of Pesticides.
17. The Secretariat explore the possibility of obtaining financial assistance for the office of the Asian Regional chairman to cover expenses related to the duplication, distribution of documents and to urgent matters requiring his attention in his capacity as Regional Chairman.

STATEMENT MADE BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. Chairman,
Dear Participants,
Ladies and Genetlemen,

We Chinese delegation, first are sorry about our delay to attend the 5th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia because of some reasons. Second, we would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO and WHO Regional Offices for their efforts so that we finally could come here to attend the last part of the meeting. We also want to thank you, Mr. Chairman for kindly giving us the chance to make the Statement.

It is a great honour for us to attend the Meeting as a Member Country for the first time. On behalf of the Chinese Delegation, I would like to give you a summary introduction of some activities in China, which are related to the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme and our views on some issues that have been discussed during the Meeting.

China is a country with a large land and a billion people. Food Safety Control is really a matter to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The Government has paid great attention to improve food quality and to develop food standards and regulations.

Since 1981, more than 2000 Units or Institutions of Food Safety Control have been set up, reorganized or strengthened, at national, provincial and county levels. In addition, the Ministries of Railway, Commerce and Foreign Trade have their own systems on food safety control. A national-wide network has been established. The Provisional Law on Food Hygiene was adopted in 1982. 275 National Standards on Food Hygiene have been drawn up and became effective. Besides, more than 100 local regulations have been published by provincial authorities. For formulating these regulations and standards, 26 collaborative groups were organized. A quarterly reporting programme on food poisoning has been established. About 1 million food hygiene licenses have been issued and food handler health examinations are conducted annually. Besides engaging about 28,000 staff in food hygiene in the institutions or units of different levels, we are also planning to develop self administration and hygienic file programme according to the provisional law on food hygiene. More than 6 million Health Administrators, Food Hygiene Inspectors, Technicians and persons in food production and management have been trained for different periods of time during last several years. We also have done some research work on food poisoning by bacteria, mycotoxins, poisonous plant and animal foods, pesticides, food additives, chemical pollutants, radioactivity base of food and irradiated foods. As regards the farm chemical control, China adopted the Regulations for Pesticide Registration in 1982 in order to enforce the management of the use of farm chemicals.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have done some work relying on our own resources and great achievements have been made. However, we are facing many difficulties and challenges. First of all, China is a developing country and the lack of funds is a big problem which hampers the participation in the work of CAC and its subsidiary bodies. Since receiving the Circular Letter of last September

from the Chief of Joint FAO/WHO Food Standard Programme, we contacted the International Economic and Technical Center which is in charge of UNDP Programme in China. The answer is: "The fund under UNDP has finished and it is impossible to allocate any resources for attendance at Codex Meeting". Therefore, we suggest that, in order to increase participation in the work of CAC, UNDP should set up a special fund to assist developing countries attending international Codex Meetings.

The second problem that we are facing is the undevelopment of analytical methods and inspection. We appreciate very much the activities being carried out by FAO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia in the past years and hope that these activities will continue, especially in training specialists in food safety control, consultation and development of simple analytical methods. We appreciate the idea about setting up a Training Centre for the region, but the qualification of candidates should be defined. In our point of view, the task of the Centre should focus on the training of staff who have had experience in the field at a certain level. Primary training could be done by the member countries themselves.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to give some comments now on some other issues discussed during the meeting.

First, we support the view that food safety is an important component of primary health care and it should be integrated into the PHC Delivery System. We also support to establish a new Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in foods and prepare to participate in the first Session of that Committee.

As concerns infant and weaning foods, our delegation's view is that each country could have their own formula and standards according to its resources and breast feeding habits.

Most chinese babies are breast fed and milk substitutes are also available. There are four kinds of infant formula and 3 kinds of weaning foods in China.

China has not yet accepted the Codex Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues, but the Codex MRLs were used as a main reference in the formulation of national legislation. We have 68 standards for safety use of pesticides and among them, 24 were established by using Codex Maximum Residues Limits as reference. We are planning to establish the standards of Maximum Residue Levels in Foods at present time, but such standards have not yet been established. We shall take steps to make Chinese Standards to be in consistence with Codex Standards.

At the last Session we raised the question of tolerance for pesticide residues in frozen rabbit and low fat meat. We suggested that if the fat content of meat is less than 10%, the residue of pesticide should be calculated on the basis of total weight rather than on fat basis. In the 16th Session of the Codex Commission, our delegation readdressed this suggestion, and requested that this matter be referred to the up coming session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues for further discussion. We hope that this matter will be considered and a solution reached.

We also want to express that we fully support the nomination of the Codex Coordinator for Asia.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and gentlemen, the Chinese delegation congratulate the success of the 5th Session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia.

Thank you

The Chinese Delegation