

Developing National and Regional Positions and Written Comments

A case study from the Philippines

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Philippine Participation in Codex Standards Setting

- **2005**: the National Codex Organization (NCO) of the Philippines was created jointly by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health through a Joint Administrative Order
- A **government-private sector-academe collaboration** in developing appropriate national positions on international food safety standards in Codex
- Members:
 - ✓ **Mandatory**: Government agencies responsible for policy, regulatory, and standards setting work relate to food safety
 - ✓ **Voluntary/by invitation**: The academe, individual experts, private organizations that have an interest and a stake in Codex standards and related texts

Philippine Participation in Codex Standards Setting

- **2010**: First Edition of NCO Manual of Operations (MOP) was issued:
 - defines the basic foundations and the practical functioning of the NCO
 - more importantly, defines the consultative process of developing national (country) positions, including participation and sending of delegates to Codex Committee Sessions
 - **2018**: updated edition
- Process of Codex work formalized and institutionalized**

Philippine Participation in Codex Standards Setting

- Work of NCO parallels that of Codex and technical work is overseen by a **Technical Committee (TC)**
- **Sub-Committees** and **Task Forces** have equivalent Committees or Task Forces as those in Codex
- Chairmanship of the SCs and TFs are **equally apportioned between DA and DOH competent agencies** (if one Department chairs the SC, the other Department co-chairs, and vice versa)

NATIONAL CODEX ORGANIZATION (NCO)
Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons

SUB-COMMITTEE/ TASK FORCE	CHAIRPERSON	VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ASEAN Task Force for CODEX Focal Point	Asec. Hansel O. Didulo Asst. Secretary For Regulation	Dr. Maria Victoria D. Pinion FDA-DOH
SC on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes	Ms. Rosalyn F. Tomimbang FDA-DOH	Ms. Elvira Martinez NFA-OP
SC on Cocoa Products & Chocolates (In Recess)	Ms. Elvira E. Nano FDA-DOH	Ms. Ma. Theresa Corpuz NDA-DA
SC on Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia	Ms. Ma. Victoria D. Pinion FDA-DOH	DA CODEX BODY Representative DA
SC on Contaminants in Foods	Ms. Emmylyn A Tagnia FDA-DOH	Ms. Edith M. San Juan FDC-NFA-OP
SC on Fats and Oils	Mr. Roel M. Rosales PCA-OP	Mr. John Mark Tan FDA-DOH
SC on Fish and Fishery Products	Dr. Ulysses Montojo BFAR-DA	Ms. Caroline Duller FDA-DOH
SC on Food Additives	Ms. Chrismasita Oblepias FDA-DOH	Mr. Alberto R. Cariso Jr. FDC-NFA-OP
SC on Food Hygiene	Ms. Almueda David FDA-DOH	Mr. John Gregory V. Aquino BAFS-DA
SC on Food Import and Export Inspection Certification System	Dr. Imelda Santos BAI-DA	Atty. Ronald R. De Veyra FDA-DOH
SC on Food Labelling	Ms. Hannah Margaret M. Rabaja FDA-DOH	Ms. Amelita C. Natividad FDC-NFA-OP
SC on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Ms. Edna Guiang BPI-DA	Mr. Andrew Delos Angeles FDA-DOH
SC on General Principles	Asec. Hansel O. Didulo ASST SECRETARY FOR REGULATION	Atty. Ronald R. De Veyra FDA-DOH
SC on Meat Hygiene (In Recess)	Atty. Beata H.O. Obsioma NMIS-DA	Ms. Kris Jenelyn M. Pasiona FDA-DOH
SC on Methods of Analysis and Sampling	Ms. Luz D. Padilla FDC-NFA-OP	Dir. Jocelyn E. Balderrama FDA-DOH
SC on Milk and Milk Products	Ms Caroline C. Duller FDA-DOH	Ms. Judith Platero NDA-DA
SC on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses	Ms Helena Alcaraz FDA-DOH	Ms. Judith Platero NDA-DA
SC on Pesticide Residue	Ms. Aida Ordas BPI-DA	Ms. Rochelle H. Parangan FDA-DOH
SC on Processed Fruits and Vegetables	Ms. Maria Theresa Cerbolles FDA-DOH	Ms. Lennie Manipon BPI-DA
SC on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods	Dr. Jonathan Sabiniano NMIS-DA	Mr. Phelan G. Apostol FDA-DOH
SC on Spices and Culinary Herbs	Dr. Herminigilda A. Gabertan BPI-DA	Ms. Joan Marie C. Alcazar FDA-DOH
SC on Sugars	Ms. Elane Malalay FDA-DOH	Ms. Jean Nanette C. Sumagaysay SRA-DA
TF on Animal Feeding	Ms. Marilou Esterlina D. Arifalo BAI-DA	Ms. Mary Grace E. Gabayoyo FDA-DOH
TF on Antimicrobial Resistance (Concluded)	Dr. Irene Fariñas BOQ-DOH	Dr. Maria Fe B. Cabullo BAI-DA

Philippine Participation in Codex Standards Setting

➤ **2013:** Legal basis for Philippine participation was further strengthened with a national legislation: **The Food Safety Act of 2013**

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY TO PROTECT CONSUMER HEALTH AND FACILITATE MARKET ACCESS OF LOCAL FOODS AND FOOD PRODUCTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 9. *Setting of Food Safety Standards*

explicitly mentions **the standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)** as among the references

SECTION 9.
*Setting of Food
Safety
Standards:*
Delineation of
responsibilities

- **Department of Agriculture:** fresh foods or foods from the primary production and postharvest sectors of the food supply chain
- **Department of Health:** processed and prepackaged foods.

Codex Contact Point

- **Rule 17.2** The Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, R&D and Regulations, DA, shall be the **Codex Contact Point (CCP)**.

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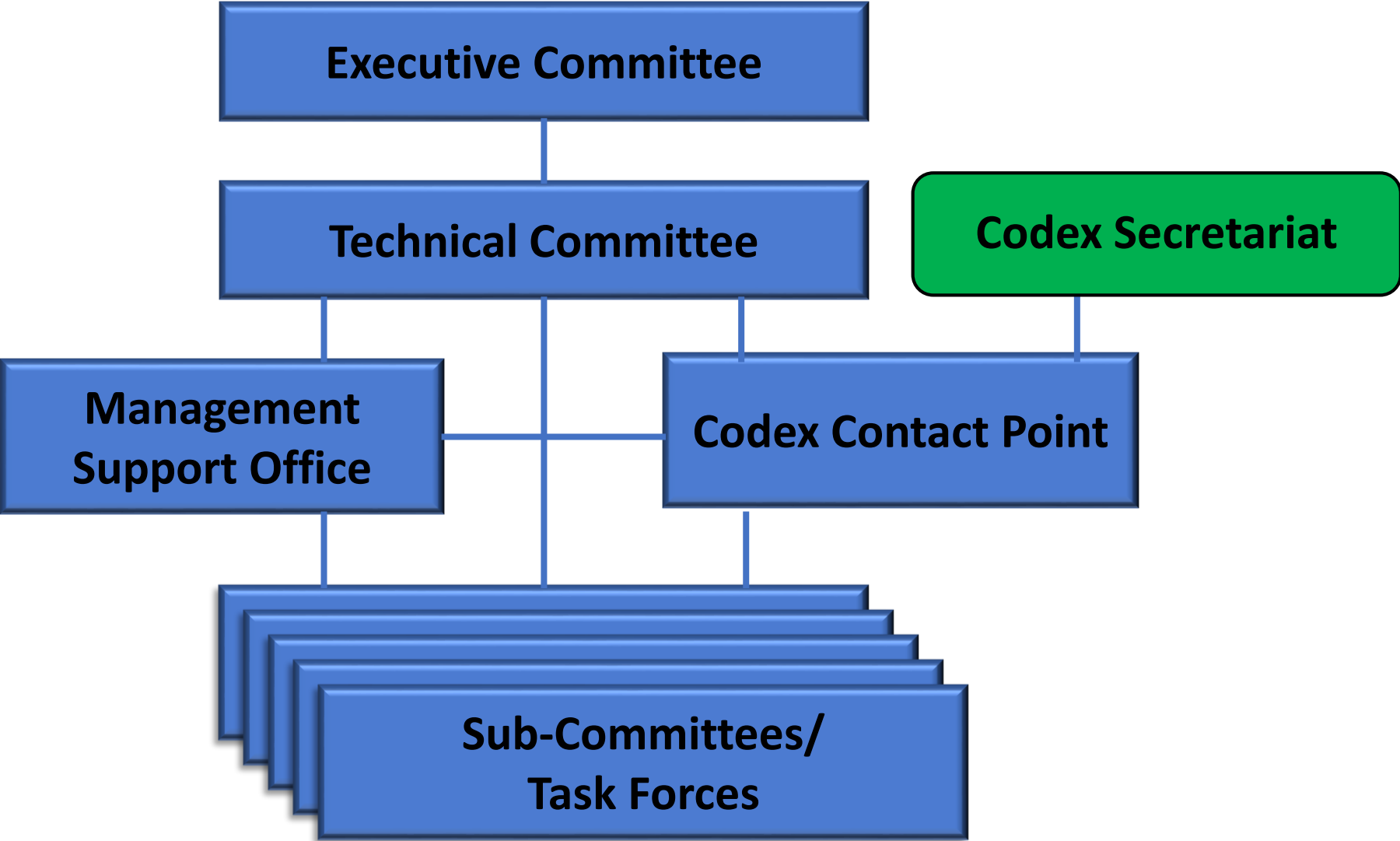
Developing national and regional
positions and written comments

NCO Manual of Operations (MOP)

Process of Codex work:

- organized
- formalized
- institutionalized

NCO Organizational Structure



In the TC: **Observers**

Duly designated representatives of:

- **National Sectoral Committees** of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) of the DA
- **Food organization, or food industry association** such as the Philippine Association of Food Technologists, (PAFT), the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, Inc. (PCFMI), the Philippine Metrology Standard Technical and Quality (PMSTQ)
- **National Consumer Affairs Council** of the Department of Trade and industry (DTI)

Developing National Position: **Process Flow**



Developing National Position: **Substantive Process**

➤ The **concerned SC/TF convenes** and identify needs/issues, deliberates and prepares the country position, elaborated in the form of a discussion paper following a prescribed format, **taking into account:**

- ***public health protection;***
- ***food safety;***
- ***trade practices/market potential;***
- ***economic impact to the country; and***
- ***national policies***

Developing National Position: **Substantive Process**

➤ **Decisions on the country position:**

- ✓ *Scientific/technical justification*
- ✓ *Results of risk assessment, risk categorization, and other tools of risk analysis*
- ✓ *Reports of FAO/ WHO expert bodies such as Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA); Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA); Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Nutrition (JEMNU); other expert bodies such as European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); and local experts*

Note: The SC/TF may organize a **public consultation** with affected stakeholders. Comments generated are then considered and consolidated as appropriate to come up with the proposed country position.

Developing National Position: **Substantive Process**

- The draft country position is **reviewed by the TC** and if there are any comments, the draft is sent back to the SC/TF for the necessary revision. The revised draft is recirculated to the TC.

Comments provided on (format for commodity standard):

- a. name of standard;*
- b. scope;*
- c. description;*
- d. essential composition and quality factors;*
- e. food additives;*
- f. contaminant;*
- g. hygiene;*
- h. weights and measures;*
- i. labelling; and*
- j. methods of analysis & sampling*

****Online Commenting System also employed through the CCP***

Developing National Position: **Substantive Process**

Reference documents:

- a. Previous Codex Committee/Task Force reports
- b. Circular letters (CLs) covering substantive and procedural matters such as agenda items of Codex subsidiary bodies, and copies of reports of Electronic/Physical Working Groups
- c. Codex Procedural Manual
- d. Current and former Philippine positions
- e. Positions of non-government organizations

Developing National Position: **Substantive Process**

If no further comments, the SC/TC Chairperson shall request for **endorsement of the country position*** from the TC Chair to the Codex Committee Secretariat through the Codex Contact Point

****this is the country's official stand**, opinions, recommendations, and/or data contribution to draft standards, amendments under review, or other matters under deliberation at Codex subsidiary bodies.*

a country position is **a requirement for attendance to a Codex meeting (aside from cost-effectiveness of participation)*

Developing National Position: **Timelines**

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE
Development and submission of draft country position	SC/TF	within 3 working days from circulation to SC/TF members
Review/approval of draft country position	TC	within 3 working days from its circulation to all TC members.
Revision and finalization of country position	SC/TF	final 3 working days

Developing Regional Position: ASEAN

- The **same process** as developing national positions is followed by the TC and the SC/TF concerned.
- **There is a counterpart national Task Force (a TC Member) that takes the lead in collecting, reviewing, and consolidating comments and inputs from the concerned SCs/TF, based on the agenda and issues to be discussed at the ATFC.**
- The Philippines through the **Department of Agriculture** participates in the meetings of the **ASEAN Task Force on Codex** (ATFC)

Developing Regional Position: ASEAN

Philippines

1. Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)
2. Codex Committee on Processed Fruit and Vegetables (CCPFV)
3. Codex Committee on Sugar (CCS)

Some take home insights to share...

1. It is important to have **national structure and organization** to facilitate doing Codex work and ensure as much as possible that all inputs and comments are heard, deliberated on, and endorsed officially as a unified country/national position
 - But structure and organization are useless without:
 - ✓ **Government support and competence** of those involved in Codex work (policymakers, regulators, risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators and standard-setters)
 - ✓ **Strong and active participation from private sector/industries and academe**=users of standards and followers of technical regulations
 - ✓ **Adequate and sustained funding** to participate in Codex activities

Some take home insights to share...

2. It is important to **continuously engage with other Codex members and the international community** to facilitate exchange of technical views and information
 - ✓ promote **consensus-building** for a win-win situation
 - ✓ **build capabilities** and expand knowledge



Thank you!

Mabuhay!