



Background and Objectives

The International Food Code or Codex Alimentarius plays a foundational role in shaping and modernizing food regulatory frameworks across the globe. Its science-based international standards are vital for protecting consumer health, facilitating fair trade, and guiding national regulatory decisions.

The active engagement of food regulators in Codex proceedings is therefore essential—not only to ensure that standards are practical and reflective of diverse realities, but also to build globally harmonized systems rooted in scientific evidence.

As an observer to Codex, the International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFOST), and its disciplinary group the Global Food Regulatory Science Society GFORSS, represents the voice of the food science and technology community.

IUFOST is committed to promoting food regulatory science as a core pillar of food science and to strengthening collaboration among stakeholders. One of the objectives pursued is to enhance meaningful and effective participation in Codex, particularly from developing countries, and to ensure that Codex standards serve as the backbone of food regulatory transformation worldwide.

To advance this vision, IUFOST and its disciplinary group GFORSS are launching a series of multi-stakeholder events under the banner “Codex and Food Regulatory Forum,” anchored at the regional level. These forums aim to convene Codex Contact Points, representatives of Codex programs, and national food competent authorities to discuss regional food regulatory priorities, coordinate input to upcoming Codex committee meetings, and explore opportunities for work-sharing to enhance regional representation in global standard-setting processes.

The forums will also foster dialogue among national authorities on capacity building needs and strategies to develop modernized, science-based food regulatory frameworks—anchored in risk analysis, responsive to innovation, and

designed to be agile, transparent, and future-ready. IUFoST and GForSS will collaborate closely with Codex Regional Coordinators and all relevant stakeholders to ensure inclusive and impactful engagement.

The IUFoST Codex and Food Regulatory Forum will aim to:

- ❖ Advocate for science-based, globally harmonized food standards to protect consumers, support fair trade, and guide national regulations.
- ❖ Strengthen meaningful participation of food regulators—especially from developing countries—in Codex to ensure standards reflect regional realities.
- ❖ Promote regional coordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration to enhance engagement in Codex committees and align regulatory priorities.
- ❖ Support capacity-building efforts to develop modern, flexible, and innovation-friendly food regulatory frameworks.

Meeting Format, Proposed Dates and Location

- ❖ 3-day meeting: face to face with possible hybrid participation.
- ❖ 18-20 August 2025 at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Riverside Hotel Bangkok, Thailand.

Meeting Objectives

The 2025 Asia Codex and Food Regulatory Forum aims to:

1. Review Outcomes from Recent Codex Committees

Examine key agenda items and outcomes from recent Codex committee meetings, particularly those with relevance to the Asia region, to assess their implications and align regional positions ahead of the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48).

2. Prepare for Effective Regional Engagement at CAC48

Consolidate regional viewpoints on priority topics and develop coordinated strategies to enhance Asia's contribution to deliberations and decision-making at CAC48.

3. Strategize Future Participation in Codex Committees

Identify upcoming Codex committees of strategic interest and define approaches to strengthen regional participation, including the identification of data gaps and mechanisms to support data generation and submission based on scientific evidence and regional needs.

4. Advance Regulatory Transformation in Support of Food Innovation

Host a dedicated session on regulatory transformation to explore frameworks that are responsive to emerging technologies and food innovation, while maintaining consumer protection and public health goals.

5. Strengthen Capacity in Codex and Risk-Based Food Control

Conduct a focused session on capacity-building to enhance Member States' capabilities in Codex standard-setting processes and the implementation of modern, risk-based food control systems. Promote knowledge exchange and technical collaboration to build resilient, science-based regulatory infrastructures across the region.

Expected Participation

- ❖ Representatives of Codex Programs from countries of CCASIA.
- ❖ Representatives of Food Competent Authorities from countries of CCASIA.
- ❖ At Dedicated Sessions:
 - Representatives of Academia.
 - Representatives of Food Industry Associations at the regional and global level.

Proposed Agenda

DAY 1: REVIEWING THE CODEX LANDSCAPE

Day 1 is Dedicated to Engagement of Codex Contact Points from CCASIA Countries

Hybrid Format: In-Person and Virtual Participation Restricted to CCASIA Members

08:00–09:00 Registration, Welcome Coffee, Informal Networking

09:00–09:10 Opening Remarks and Introduction

➤ **Ms. Aya Orito Nozawa**, Chair, Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Setting the scene and offering an overview of the meeting.

09:10–09:20 Opening Remarks

➤ **Dr. Tian Jing**, Vice Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission

Opening remarks and official opening of the meeting.

09:20–09:30 Review of Meeting Agenda

➤ **Ms. Aya Orito Nozawa**, Chair, Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Setting the scene and outlining forum objectives including those specific to Day 1.

09:30–10:00 Roundtable Introduction of Participants

To enable better introduction of participants and serves as ice breaker.

10:00–11:00 Recent Codex Committee Outcomes – Part 1

- **Overview of the outputs of the CCEXEC88**

➤ Japan, with input from Vice Chairperson Dr. Tian Jing

- **Review of Outputs of CCGP34**

➤ Japan

- **Moderated Discussion**

RoundTable Discussions and Q & A – Moderated

Review recent Codex committee agenda items and outputs and discuss their implications on CCASIA countries; Identify items of importance to CCASIA jurisdictions; Development of input on key items of relevance to CCASIA countries.

11:00–11:30 Group Photo - Coffee Break & Networking

11:30-12:30 Recent Codex Committee Outcomes – Part 2

- **Review of outputs of CCCF18**
 - *Thailand*
- **Review of outputs of CCMAS44**
 - *Bangladesh*
- **Moderated Discussion of Items of Relevance to CCASIA**
 - RoundTable Discussions and Q & A – Moderated*

Review recent Codex committee agenda items and outputs and discuss their implications on CCASIA countries; Deeper dive on how recent outcomes affect regional priorities.

12:30–14:00 Lunch**14:00–14:30 Preparing for Future Sessions of Codex Committees: CCPR56, CCSCH8**

- *China – Introducing CCPR56 (possible intervention by the CCPR Chair via virtual participation)*
- *India – Introducing CCSCH8 (virtual intervention) with possible intervention by the CCSCH Chair (via virtual participation)*

Review of Proposed Agenda items for upcoming Codex Committees and identification of key items of importance to CCASIA countries.

14:30-15:00 Identification of Key Codex Guidance Under Development Requiring Further Attention (Eg: Allergen labelling guidance – precautionary labelling, performance of allergen methodologies)

- IUFoST Facilitators

Presentations and moderated discussions to review key upcoming Codex guidance under development requiring more investment / coordination from CCASIA countries.

15:00-15:45 Reviewing Items of Importance for CCASIA23

Group work through a guided discussion to identify key areas of interest for CCASIA members with impacts on national food control systems and/or requiring further coordination efforts.

15:45–16:00 Coffee Break & Networking**16:00–17:00 Report-Back & Plenary Synthesis**

Working-group presentations

Draft joint recommendations to carry into CCASIA23 and CAC48 preparation.

DAY 2: FOOD REGULATORY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES – ROLE OF CODEX AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF CCASIA MEMBERS

Part 1 Food Innovation

Hybrid Format: In-Person and Virtual Participation Open to CCASIA Members, Codex Observers and Stakeholders

The program is structured to present and explore key focus areas related to emerging food regulatory challenges that are increasingly influencing the global food landscape. It will place particular emphasis on areas where the Codex Alimentarius can play a strategic role in fostering regulatory convergence and advancing the adoption of science-based best practices. Through focused presentations and interactive dialogue, participants will examine real-world examples, exchange national and regional experiences, and consider how Codex can act as a catalyst for greater alignment among countries — helping to promote equitable access to global markets and enabling the safe and inclusive advancement of food innovation.

08:00–09:00 Registration of New Participants, Welcome Coffee, Informal Networking

09:00–09:10 Opening Remarks and Introduction

➤ **Ms. Aya Orito Nozawa**, Chair, Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Setting the scene and offering an overview of the multistakeholder meeting.

09:10–09:20 Opening Remarks

➤ **Dr. Tian Jing**, Vice Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission

Opening remarks and official opening of the meeting.

09:20–09:40 Introduction by IUFOST Representatives

➤ **Prof. Pavinee Chinachoti**, President Elect IUFOST

➤ **Prof. Samuel Godefroy**, Current President IUFOST; President/COO, GForSS

Opening Remarks on behalf of supporting organizations.

09:40–10:00 Official Opening by Senior Officials from Thai Government and Thai Codex Contact Point, as Host Country

➤ *Officials from the Government of Thailand by order of protocol priority*

Official opening remarks on behalf of host country organizations.

10:00–10:30 Introduction of Participants and Overview of Meeting Agenda

➤ **Ms. Aya Orito Nozawa**, Chair, Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)

Introduction of partners, stakeholders participating at the meeting and introduction of the meeting agenda.

**10:30–11:00 Official Picture of Participants with Senior Officials from Thailand
Coffee Break**

11:00–11:30 Summary of Day 1 Discussions: Reviewing Codex Committee Outputs and Seeking Input from Stakeholders

➤ *CCASIA designate (identified from Codex Contact Points of CCASIA members)*

Moderated discussions to solicit stakeholder input on key agenda items; To gather input from stakeholders and Codex observers in CCASIA countries regarding the potential impacts of Codex standards under development, as well as views on Codex priorities; To invite contributions from stakeholders and Codex observers across CCASIA countries.

11:30–12:00	Introduction of Focus Area 1: Regulatory Approaches to Food Innovation – Stakeholder Perspectives and the Role of Codex (Paper Developed with Support from Protein Industry Canada) <p>➤ <i>Introduction by IUFoST expert / facilitator of discussion paper</i></p> <p>Provide a summary of a collaboratively developed paper with stakeholders on the regulatory management of food innovation, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of best practices and initiating dialogue on the role of Codex.</p>
12:00–12:30	Regulatory Best Practices to Manage Food Innovation: Thailand’s Food Innovation Regulatory Network (FIRN) <p>➤ <i>Prof. Pavinee Chinachoti, Chair FIRN and President Elect, IUFoST</i></p> <p>Presentation providing an overview of a collaborative mechanism among stakeholders aimed at strengthening cooperation in the regulatory management of food innovation.</p>
12:30–14:00	Lunch
14:00–14:30	Regulatory Best Practices to Manage Food Innovation: Experience from other CCASIA Countries e.g., Singapore <p>➤ Representative(s) of Food Competent Authorities from CCASIA members</p> <p>Presentations / Interventions by representatives of member countries from CCASIA.</p>
14:30–15:00	Towards More Convergence of Food Regulatory Frameworks Addressing Innovation in Food Ingredients and Processes – Role of Codex <p>Moderated Roundtable Discussion - Exchange of Experience and Open discussion</p>
15:00–15:45	Advancing Agile Regulatory Models for Food Innovation through Codex Engagement <p>Group Work Facilitated by IUFoST Experts / Support Team to explore how Codex processes can support the development of agile regulatory pathways for food innovation, and to foster greater exchange and emulation of best practices across countries through enhanced regulatory cooperation.</p>
15:45–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–16:30	Report by Small Groups and Formulation of Recommendations <p>➤ <i>Plenary presentation by Group Leads</i></p> <p>To develop recommendations for further actions reached</p>
16:30–17:00	Soliciting Input from CCASIA Stakeholders on Future Actions to Support Agile Regulatory Models <p>To develop recommendations for advancing more agile and harmonized food regulatory frameworks that support innovation, drawing on stakeholder input and best practices to guide future actions within and beyond the Codex framework.</p>

DAY 3: FOOD REGULATORY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES – ROLE OF CODEX AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF CCASIA MEMBERS

Part 2 Food Contact Materials and Ultra Processed Food

Hybrid Format: In-Person and Virtual Participation Open to CCASIA Members, Codex Observers and Stakeholders

This session will explore key regulatory challenges facing CCASIA countries, with a focus on food contact materials (FCMs) and the growing discourse about what were identified as ultra-processed foods (UPFs) on food policy decision-making. These issues are increasingly shaping regulatory priorities across the region, requiring science-based, coordinated responses. The discussion will highlight how Codex can support regulatory convergence and provide a platform for sharing best practices. Participants will exchange experiences and consider how Codex can help guide coherent, evidence-informed policies that strengthen food safety, support innovation, and enhance regional and global market access.

09:00–09:15 Welcome and Objectives

- CCASIA Chair and /or IUFoST Facilitators

Re-focus on capacity and action planning.

09:15–09:45 Introduction of Focus Area 2: Regulatory Approaches to Food Contact Materials (FCMs) – Stakeholder Perspectives and the Role of Codex (Paper Developed by IUFoST)

- Introduction by IUFoST Expert / Facilitator of Discussion Paper

Identification of Issues for discussion in small groups.

09:45–10:30 The Role of Codex in Managing FCMs

Group discussions to formulate recommendations on how Codex can address better guidance on management of FCMs.

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-11:30 Report of Groups

- Identified Group Leads

Report of Outputs of Group Discussions.

11:30-11:45 Towards Formulation of Recommendations / Future Direction

Facilitated discussions, with support from IUFoST facilitator, to formulate recommendations on adoption of best practices for FCM regulatory management and how Codex processes can be leveraged.

11:45-12:15 Introduction of Focus Area 3: Introduction and Review of the Current Discourse on What was Defined as Ultra Processed Foods (UPF) (Paper Developed by IUFoST)

- Introduction by IUFoST Expert / Facilitator of Discussion Paper

12:15-12:30 The Impact of Food Classification on Food Policy Decision Making and Possible Role of Codex Guidance

Moderated Discussions to identify potential entry points for Codex discussions related to food classification schemes that inform policy-making.

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00-14:30 Listening to Stakeholders and Codex Observers

- *Representative of Stakeholder Organization/Codex Observer*

Presentation from a volunteer Codex observer organization in relation with CCASIA priorities to identify challenges encountered by Codex stakeholders in CCASIA members and opportunities of engagement and enhanced collaborations with CCASIA members.

14:30-15:00 Moderated Discussions

Facilitated by IUFoST experts, to identify avenues for more structured collaboration between CCASIA members and Codex observers / stakeholders.

15:00–15:30 Action Planning: Regional Work-Sharing & Engagement with Stakeholders

Group Discussions to examine approaches for more structured and systematic engagement with Codex observers and stakeholders, and identify priority areas for future Codex work of relevance to Asia and the CCASIA region.

15:30–16:00 Coffee Break & Networking**16:00–16:30 Discussion of Group Work Output**

- *Reporting by Group Leads/Spokespersons*

Plenary discussion to Identify mechanisms for structured stakeholder engagement and recommend priorities for future Codex work relevant to CCASIA.

16:30–16:45 Reviewing Forum Outputs and Recommendations Prior to CCASIA23 and CAC48

Plenary discussion to finalize forum outputs and confirm Items requiring further follow-up for collaborative action; Wrap up and confirm timelines for post-forum deliverables.

16:45 Closing Remarks & Next Steps

- **Ms. Aya Orito Nozawa**, Chair, Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA)
- Officials of the Government of Thailand

Official Adjournment of the 2025 Forum.
