



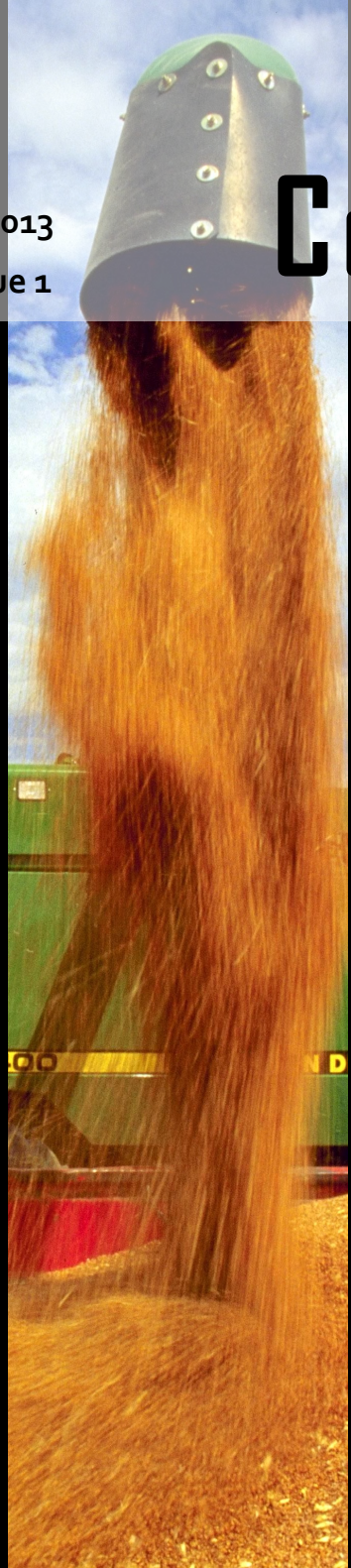
April — June 2013
Volume 1, Issue 1

Connect@CodexIndia

fssai

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

CODEX 50
ALIMENTARIUS 1963-2013



From the desk of National Codex Contact Point (NCCP)

It is with great pleasure that we present the first issue of the E-Newsletter on the activities being undertaken by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the National Codex Contact Point of India (NCCP).

As you are aware, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (commonly referred to as Codex) is the body established to develop food standards under the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. The first session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission was held in Rome, Italy from 25th

June to 3rd July, 1963. India is a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission since 1964. Currently, there are **186 Codex Members** (185 Member Countries and 1 Member Organization) and **220 Codex Observers** (which include UN bodies, IGOs and NGOs). One of the primary mandate of the Codex Commission is to **protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.**

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is celebrating 50 years of its existence. As part of the celebration, NCCP of

India has taken the lead to bring out this quarterly Electronic Newsletter, which would provide a platform for dissemination of information related to the Codex activities being undertaken by NCCP, India and also help in building linkages between the



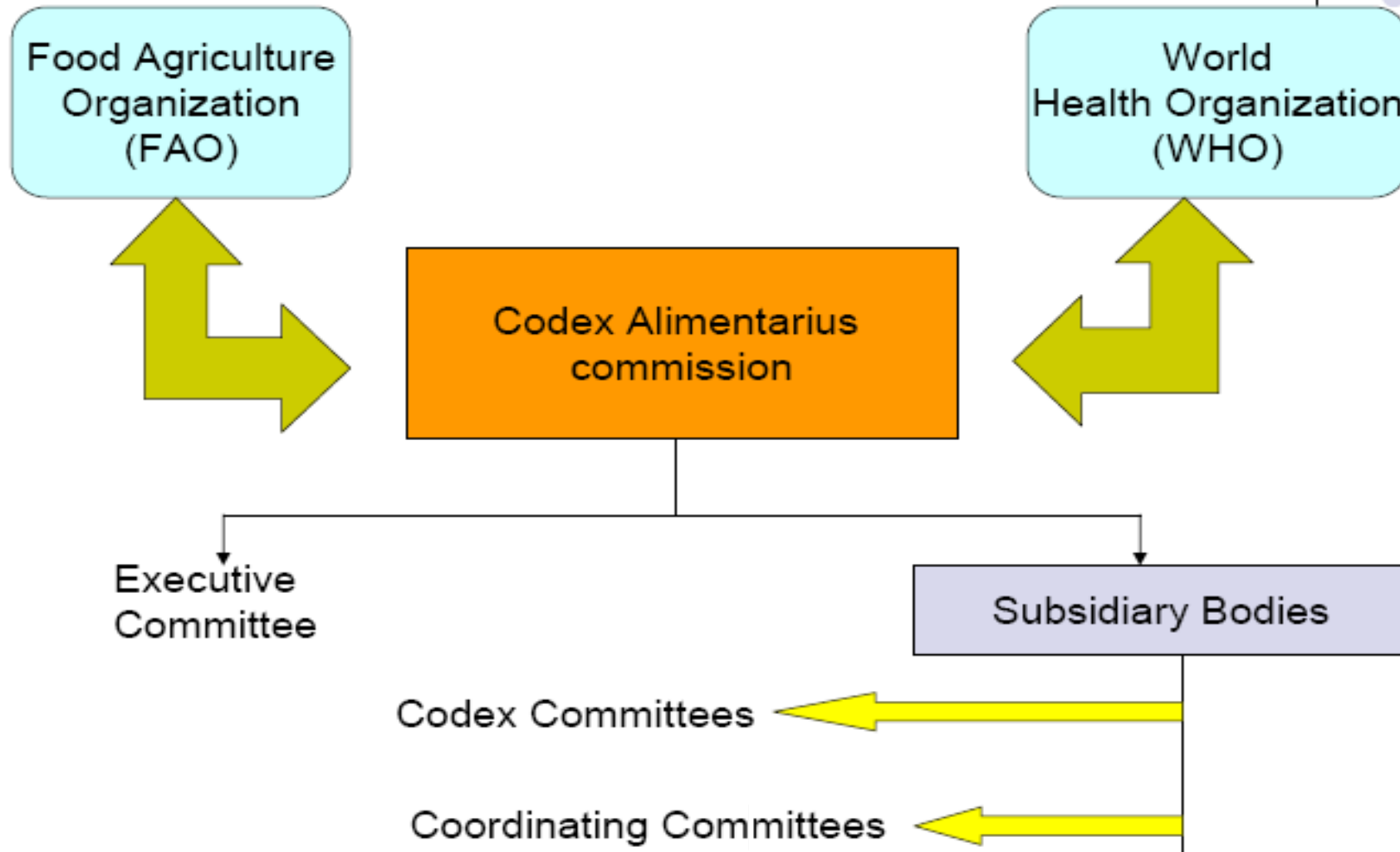
The primary mandate of the Codex Commission is to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

stakeholders. In the first edition of the E-Newsletter, we take the opportunity to apprise about the work done by the NCCP and the various Codex Committee meetings that have been attended by India during 2012-13.

It was a matter of great pride that Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare was invited to the special inaugural session of the 36th Session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) marking its 50th Anniversary. Also, with great pleasure we announce the decision taken in the 36th Session of the CAC to set up a new Subsidiary Body viz., Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) and the host country is India.

NCCP of India would also be organising a workshop on **Codex Alimentarius: Principles and Procedures** on 2nd August 2013 at Delhi to create awareness about the Codex activities. It is sincerely hoped that this E Newsletter would generate interest amongst the stakeholders and we look forward to receiving comments and feedback at codex-india@nic.in. Happy reading.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC): Organization



36th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission

50 years of Codex

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 36th session of CAC, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare observed that Codex Alimentarius becomes all the more important and assumes greater significance in today's globalized and inter-connected world. He also noted that over the years, Codex Alimentarius Commission has succeeded in its endeavor to address the food safety issues and to formulate science-based standards. Such standards have helped everyone in relentless pursuit to meet the global food safety and security needs. Hence, Codex Alimentarius was vital in the standard setting process as this balances

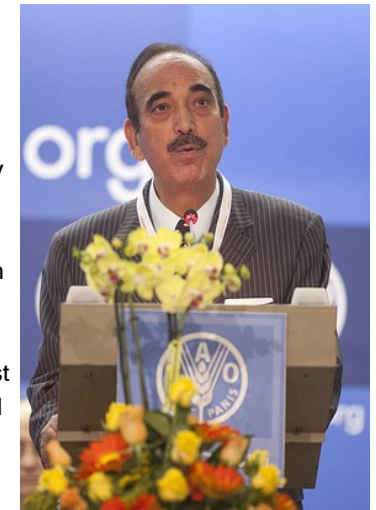
food security and food safety issues.

The 50th Anniversary of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was marked by the launch of FAO GM Foods Platform.

India had proposed to set-up a new subsidiary body i.e. Codex Committee on Spices and Herbs in the last session of the Commission in July 2012 and the same came before the Commission again for a decision in the 36th session of CAC.

For India, the crowning glory in the 50th Anniversary of CAC was acceptance of the proposal to establish a subsidiary

body, i.e., Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH). With this, India has joined the select club of few countries which play host to the Codex Committees. India is looking towards hosting the first plenary session of CCSCH in February, 2014.



National Codex Contact Point (NCCP)

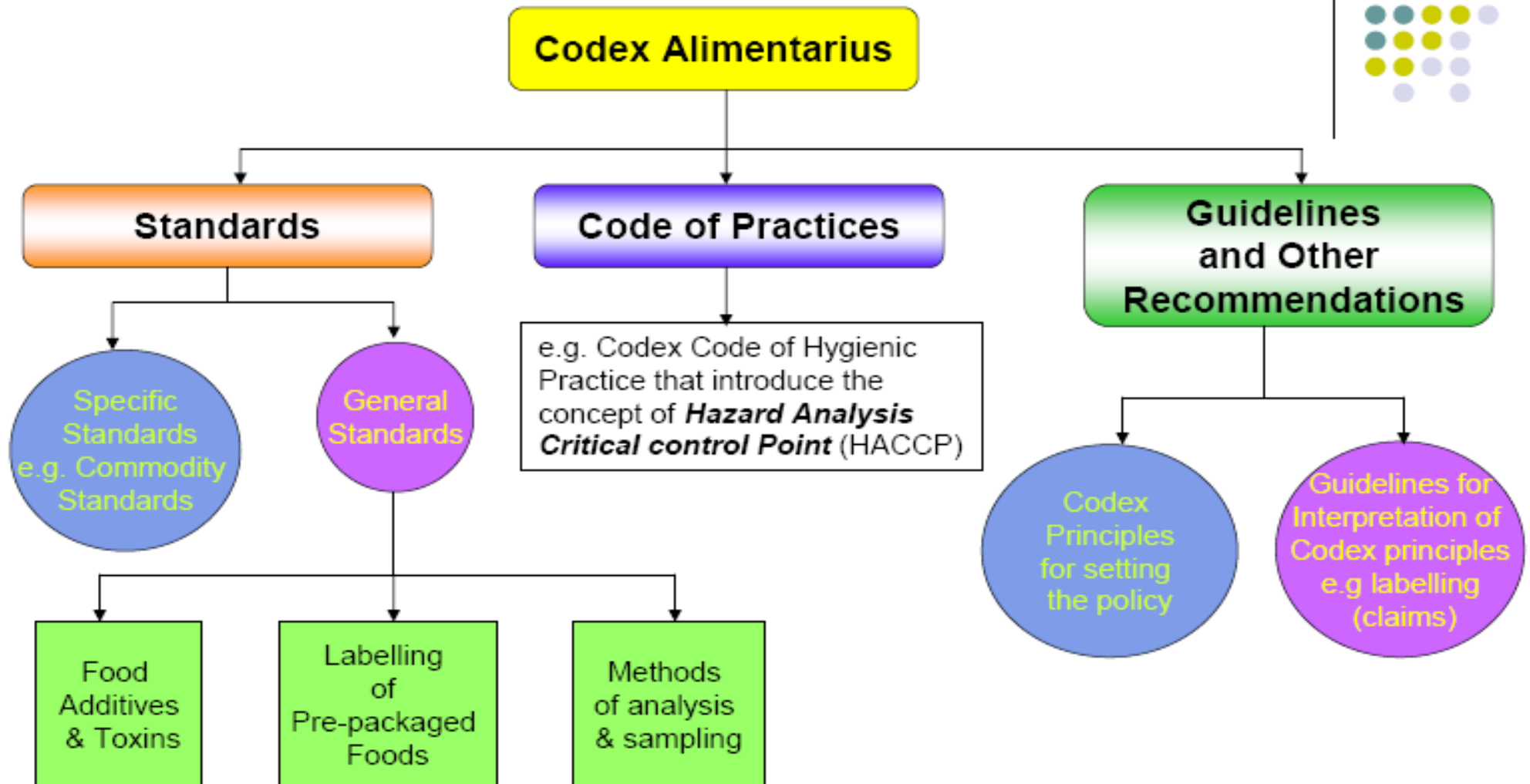
FSSAI — India

"**Codex India**" the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) India, was established in the year 1971. Earlier, the NCCP was located in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, with the formation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2008, FSSAI is now the National Codex Contact Point (NCCP) for maintaining contact with the CAC, exchange of information, responding to queries, participation in meetings etc.

The NCCP shall perform the following core functions:

- Act as a link between the Codex Secretariat, National Codex Committee and Shadow Committee;
- Coordinate all relevant Codex activities within India;
- Receive all Codex final texts (standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other advisory texts) and working documents of Codex Sessions and ensure that these are circulated to those concerned;
- Send comments on Codex documents or proposals to the CAC or its subsidiary bodies and /or the Codex Secretariat within the time frame;
- Work in close cooperation with the National Codex Committee and its Shadow Committees;
- Act as a channel for the exchange of information and coordination of activities with other Codex Members;
- Receive invitations to Codex Sessions and inform the relevant Chairpersons and the Codex Secretariat of the names of participants representing India;
- Maintain a library of Codex standards, Code of Practice, Guidelines and any other documents and publications on or related to Codex; and
- Promote Codex Activities throughout India
- Build capacity in country to effectively take up Codex work.

Codex Alimentarius: Structure

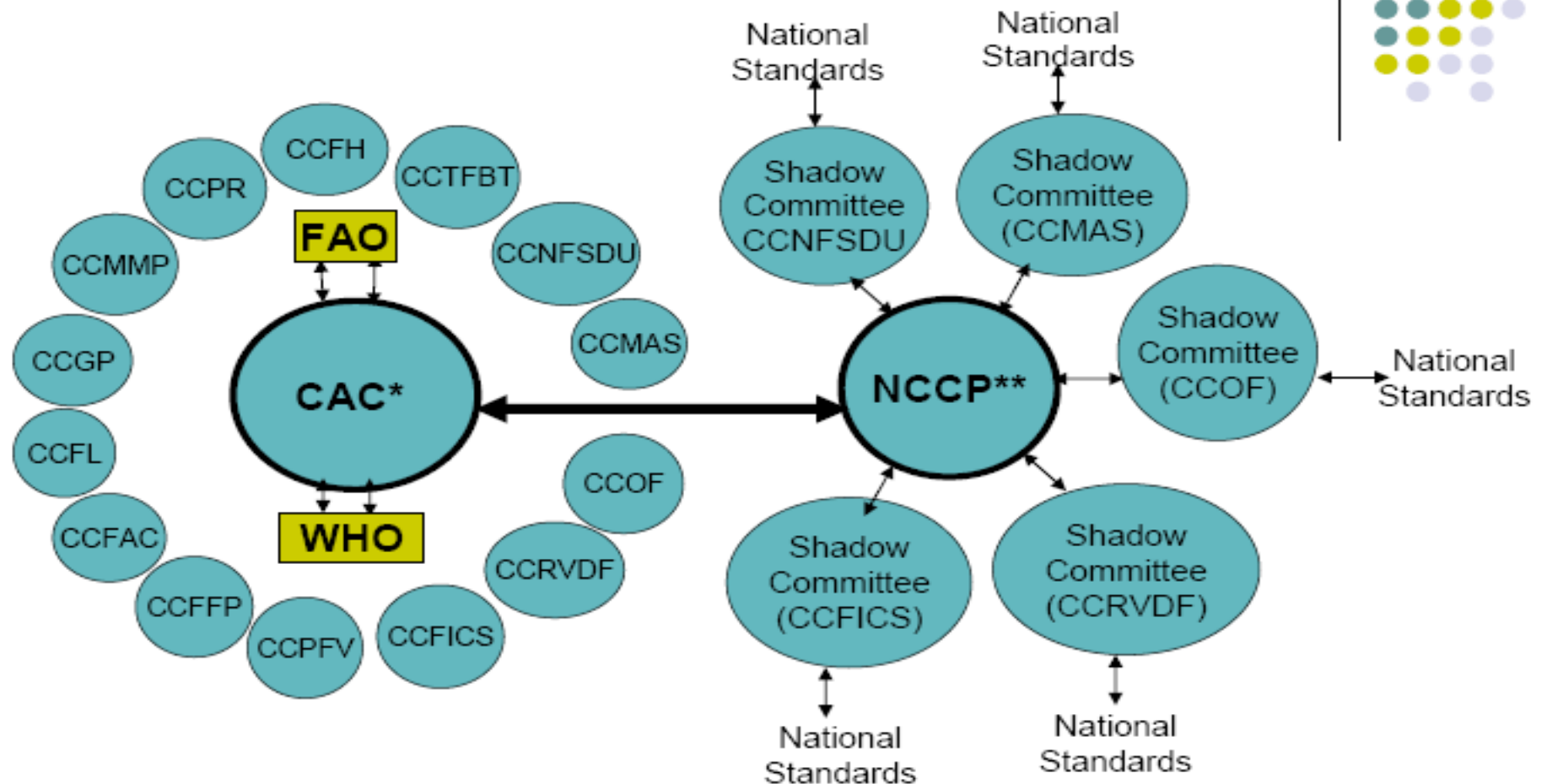


List of Shadow Codex Committees And the Ministry/Department/Agency which coordinates their work

There are 21 active Codex Committees under CAC working on various subject groups. Each Committee meets once in a year or once in 18/24 Months depending upon its nature. For each Codex Committee, a parallel Shadow Committee has been constituted in India that works for that particular Codex Committee for wider consultation and participation from various stakeholders.

Codex Committee	Nodal Agency for Shadow Committee
Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)	FSSAI
Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC)	
FAO/WHO Co-ordinating Committees	
Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP)	
Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL)	
Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables (CCPFV)	
Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA)	
Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods (CCCF)	
Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH)	
Codex Committee on methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS)	
Codex Committee on Fats and Oils (CCFO)	
Codex Committee on Food Import & Export Certification System (CCFICS)	Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industries
Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.
Codex Committee on Residues of veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)	Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture.
Codex Committee on Fish and fishery Products (CCFFP)	Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture.
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV)	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.
Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU)	Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Codex Alimentarius: Network



*CAC: Codex Alimentarius Commission

**NCCP: National Codex Contact Point of each member countries working individually

India's participation in Codex Committee meetings, 2012-13

S. No.	Codex Committee	Participants
1.	44 th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, 23 - 28 April 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of CIB&RC, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Ministry of Agriculture. • National Tea Research Foundation
2.	40 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, 15 - 18 May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
3.	35 th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission, 2-7 July 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • National Dairy Development Board • Spices Board of India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry • Representative from Industry.
4.	17 th session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, 3 - 7 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India • Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture • APEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
5.	12 th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific, 19 - 22 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
6.	28 th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe, 25 - 28 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
7.	32 nd session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, 1 - 5 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Institute of Fisheries Post Harvest Technology and Training • Seafood Exporters Association of India • Export Inspection Council of India

8.	26th session of the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables, 15 - 19 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable (PVT) LTD
9.	18 th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia, 5 - 9 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Spices Board India
10.	44 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, 12 - 16 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • National Dairy Development Board • Spices Board
11.	18 th session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, 19 - 23 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spices Board India
12.	34 th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses, 3 - 7 December 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Ministry of Women and Child Development
13.	7 th session FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for the Near East, 21 - 25 January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spices Board India
14.	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, 20 th session, 29 January- 1 February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spices Board India
15.	Codex Committee on Food import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, 20 th session, 18 - 22 February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export Inspection Council • Quality Council of India • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Department of Commerce, GOI
16.	Codex Committee on Fats and Oils, 23 rd session, 25 February - 1 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Participant from the Industry
17.	Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, 34 th session, 4 - 8 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Participant from Private Industry • Export Council of India • Quality Council of India
18.	Codex Committee on Food Additives, 45 th session, 18 - 22 March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Representatives from the Industry.
19.	Codex Committee on Contaminants on Food, 7 th session, 8 - 12 April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • National Dairy Development Board • Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export • Export Inspection Council of India • Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council

20.	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residue, 45 th session, 6 - 11 May, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Indian Agricultural Research Institute • Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation • Ministry of Commerce & Industry • Spices Board India
21.	Codex Committee on Food Labelling, 41 st session, 14 - 17 May, 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • National Dairy Development Board
22.	36 th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), 1 st - 5 th July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) • Spices Board India • Export Inspection Council of India • National Dairy Development Board

India proposed the following New Work Proposals during 2012-13

- Standards for Okra & Potato ware were considered in the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV), 2012. The Committee referred them to the 36th Session of CAC, 2013. New work proposal on Okra was approved by the CAC and the project document on Potato ware has been referred back to CCFFV for re-scoping.
- Discussion Paper on the Development of Code of Hygienic Practices for the Street-Vended Foods was considered in the 18th Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia, 2012. The Committee agreed to send the Discussion paper for approval as new work to 36th Session of CAC and it was approved there.
- Code of Hygienic Practice for the Storage of Cereals was considered in the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene and will be considered as part of the work on "Low Moisture Food".
- Project Document on Development of a General Standard for Labelling of Wholesale Packages was considered in the 41st Session of CCFL, 2013. A discussion paper prepared by India will now be considered in the next session of CCFL, 2014.
- Proposal for new work on the establishment of a maximum level for total Aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts and associated sampling plan was considered in the 7th Session of CCCF, 2013. An EWG, chaired by India has been established to prepare a discussion paper for consideration at the next session that defines the issue, identifies the available data and specifies data requirements for establishing the ML for Aflatoxins in ready-to-eat peanuts.



Image source: Alexandre Marchand Flickr stream

India participated in the following Electronic Working Groups 2012-13

1. **Codex Committee on Food Additives:** Alignment of the food additive provisions of the commodity standards and relevant provisions of the GSFA.
2. **Codex Committee on Food Additives:** On the General Standards for Food Additives (GSFA).
3. **Codex Committee on Food Additives CCFA:** Development of criteria for the entry of substances into the database for processing aids.
4. **Codex Committee on Food Labelling:** EWG on use of Ethylene in ripening of organically produced fruits.
5. **Codex Committee on Contaminants In Food:** To develop a Code of practice for the Prevention & Reduction of Arsenic Contamination in Rice.
6. **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene:** Code of Hygienic Practice for spices and dried aromatic herbs-co-chair with USA.
7. **Codex Committee on Nutrition and Food for Special Dietary Use:** Review the Codex Standard for follow up formula.
8. **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables:** Conversion of the Regional Standard for Ginseng Products.
9. **Regional Coordinating Committee for CASIA:** Draft Strategic Plan for CCASIA 2015-2020.
10. **Codex Committee on General Principles:** Criteria for guidance documents.
11. **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables:** Standard for certain canned fruits.
12. **Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables:** Standard for certain quick frozen vegetables.
13. **Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery products:** Code of Practice for Processing of Fish Sauce.
14. **Codex Committee on Food Hygiene:** Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites.

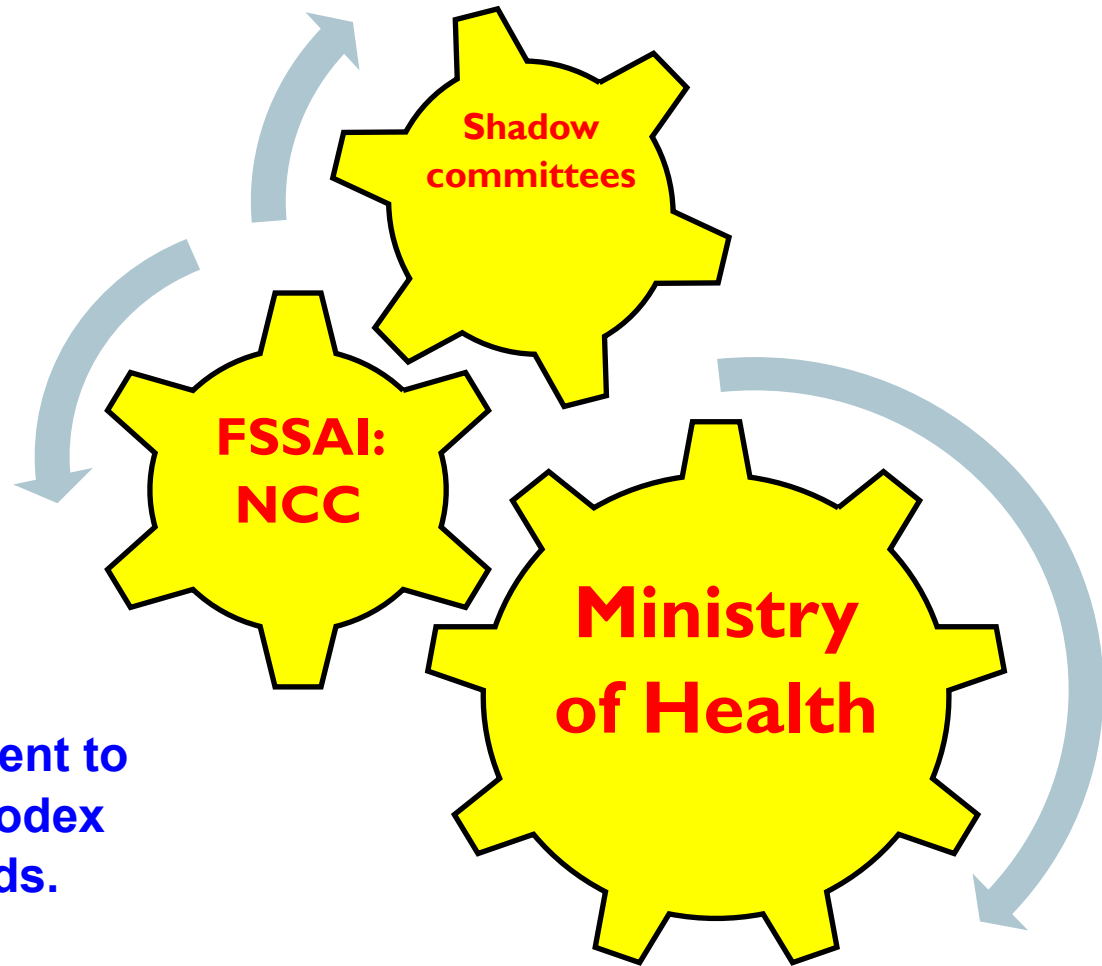
India participated in the following Physical Working Groups 2012-13

1. **CCFICS:** Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems
2. **CCFH:** Principles for the Establishment and Application of Microbiological Criteria for food
3. **CCFA:** General Standard for Food Additives



Image source: CIMMYT Flickr stream

CODEX INDIA WORKING



Help and Guide Central government to promote consistency between codex standards and domestic standards.

Scientific Basis of Standard Setting in Codex Alimentarius

Dr. Himanshu Gupta

The Codex Alimentarius Commission develops science-based standards taking into account the scientific advice provided by FAO/WHO expert bodies and ad hoc consultations and meetings.

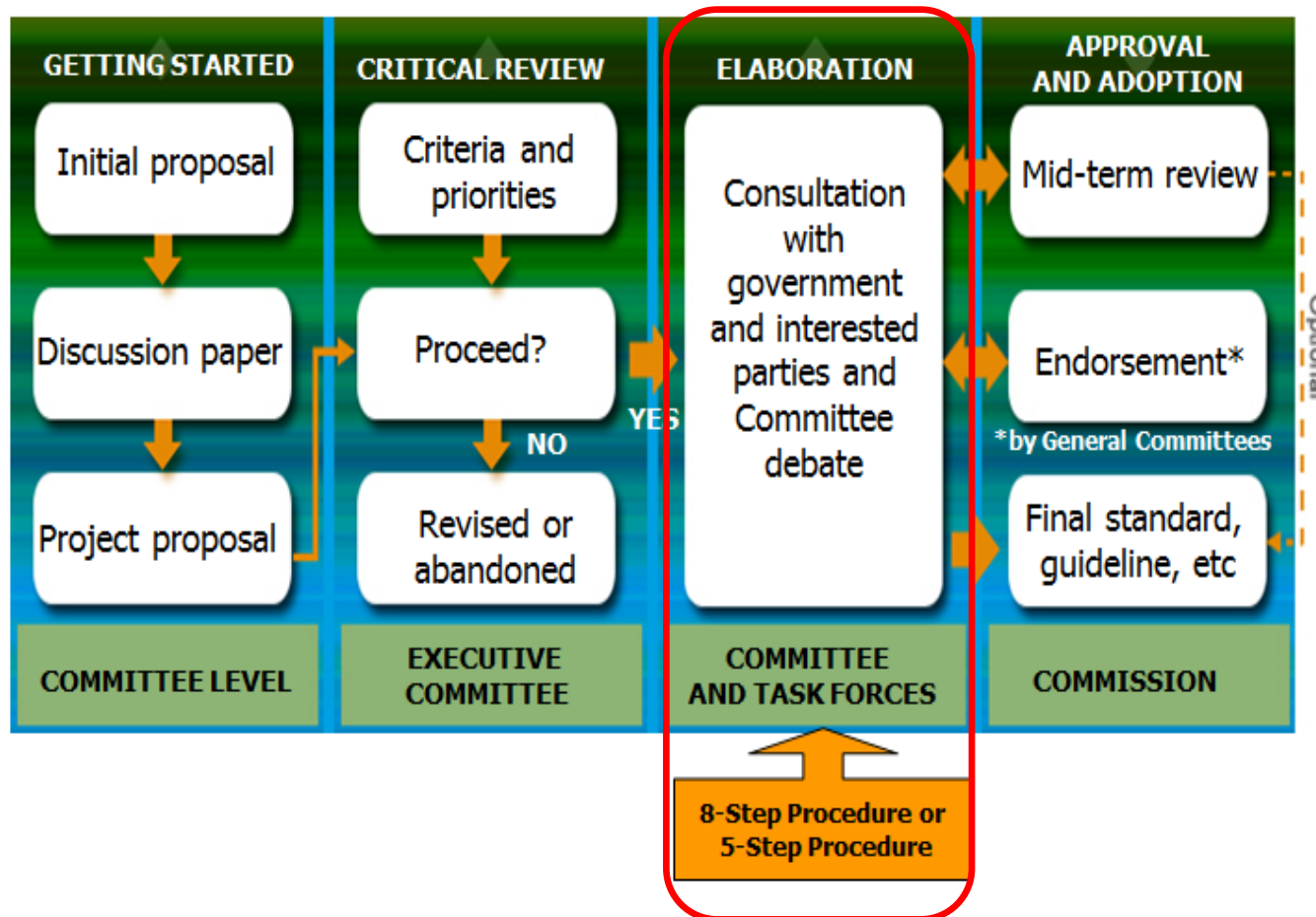
The first Statement of Principle Concerning *the Role of Science In the Codex Decision-Making Process and the Extent to Which Other Factors are Taken Into Account* says: "The

food standards, guidelines and other recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius shall be based on the principle of sound scientific analysis "

Codex committees, when developing standards, apply risk analysis and rely on the independent scientific advice from those FAO/WHO expert committees. Risk analysis is fundamental to the scientific basis of Codex food safety standards. Risk analysis within Codex is a structured, systematic process that examines the potential adverse health effect consequential to a hazard or condition of a food, and develops options for mitigating that risk. This also includes interactive communication among all interested parties involved in the process. Within Codex Alimentarius Commission and its procedures, the responsibility for providing advice on risk management lies with the Commission and its subsidiary bodies (risk managers), while the responsibility for risk assessment lies primarily with the joint FAO/WHO expert bodies and consultations (risk assessors).

The three independent international risk assessment FAO/WHO expert committees are:

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA): performs toxicological evaluation for food additives, contaminants, naturally occurring toxicants and residues of veterinary drugs in food.



International Risk Assessment



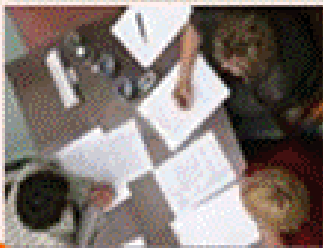
- JECFA (food additives, veterinary drug residues, contaminants in food)



- JMPR (pesticide residues in food)



- JEMRA (microbiological hazards in food)



- ad hoc expert consultations

Scientific
advice

Request

for advice,
risk
assessment

International Risk Manager

CODEX
ALIMENTARIUS
COMMISSION



Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR):

reviews toxicological data for residues and considers analytical aspects of the pesticides including data on their metabolism, fate in the environment, and use patterns, and for estimating the maximum residue levels that might occur as a result of the use of the pesticides according to good agricultural practices.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk

Assessment (JEMRA): provides scientific advice on microbiological issues and address specific microbiological risk assessment question from Codex committees.

It is due to its scientific basis that Codex texts are considered by World Trade Organization (WTO) as international reference for food safety. Countries that are Members of WTO and therefore are signatories to the Application of sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreements are expected to participate to the extent possible in the standard-setting work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. **India has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995.**

The SPS Agreement does, however, encourage governments to "harmonize" or base their national measures on the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by WTO member governments in other international organizations. **For food safety, this organization is, the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.**

Conclusion: The standard setting procedure of Codex is an open, transparent and inclusive process. This transparency in standard elaboration procedure along with scientific basis in the whole procedure is what makes Codex unique and the involvement of governments in this standard setting procedure is what makes the standards reliable.

With the wide knowledge & expertise which Codex has at its disposal, harmonization of Indian regulations with Codex will enable India with the following:



- **International risk assessments** already carried out by FAO/WHO expert bodies and by this virtue, science, would become an integral part of standard setting and this will be thus in line with the preamble of Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006, which states - "*An Act to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food....*"
- **International Trade** as international best practices would be used for standard setting process India. This will thus facilitate food import & export and will also help in fulfillment of our commitment to WTO.
- Provide safe and quality products to the consumer and will also facilitate innovation.



Upcoming Events

1. Codex Committee on Residues of veterinary Drugs in foods- 21st Session, 26-30th August, 2013, USA.
2. Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses- 35th Session, 4-8th November, 2013, Germany.
3. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene-45th Session, 11-15th November 2013, Vietnam.



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Address: National Codex Contact Point
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India,
FDA Bhawan, near Bal Bhawan,
Kotla Road,
New Delhi—110002
Website: fssai.gov.in

For any comments/suggestions/observations, or if you would like to contribute articles
for future issues, kindly contact codex-india@nic.in