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**CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK PRIORITIES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT AND REVISION OF ASEAN STANDARDS FOR
HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE AND OTHER FOOD CROPS**
(Adapted from the Codex Procedural Manual)

**ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON CROPS
2018**

INTRODUCTION:

During the 12th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Standards for Horticultural and Other Food Crops (TF-MASHP), the ASEAN Member States agreed on the need to establish criteria to establish work priorities for new work and revision of adopted ASEAN standards. This ASEAN document that will facilitate the work of the Task Force was adapted from the Codex Procedural Manual, where minor revisions were made to take into consideration the work of the Task Force MASHP.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

When an ASEAN Member State (AMS) proposes to elaborate a standard or related text within the terms of reference of the Task Force or to revise an existing ASEAN standard, the following should be taken into consideration prior to proceeding with the proposed work:

- priorities established by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Crops (ASWGC) and its subsidiary bodies or other relevant ASEAN bodies ,
- any specific relevant strategic project currently being undertaken by the sector; and
- completion of proposed work within a reasonable period of time.

If the proposal falls area outside of the Task Force's Terms of Reference (TOR), the Task Force should refer the matter to ASWGC for guidance or referral to other relevant ASEAN body.

Aside from the general considerations enumerated above, the proposal should also be evaluated against these criteria.

Criteria applicable to commodities

(Section II: Elaboration of Texts, page 44-46)

(a) Consumer protection from the point of view of health and fraudulent practices.

Information should be provided on the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries. Quantitative and qualitative data may be used.

(b) Volume of production and consumption in individual countries and volume and pattern of intra & extra regional trade.

Information should be provided on:

- volume of production and consumption in individual countries expressed in monetary terms, tons, proportion of GDP, etc.
- volume and patterns of trade, including trends in trade volume and patterns, expressed in monetary terms, tons, proportion of GDP, etc.:
 - in intra-regional trade, i.e., between or among countries of a region,
 - in extra-regional trade, i.e., between or among regions.
- Credible sources or citations of information and/or references in order to support credibility of the above information, if possible.

(c) Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to intra & extra regional trade.

Information should be provided on existence of diverse national legislation that may lead to potential or actual impediments to international trade. Evidence of impediments may be provided as quantitative information on volume and/or frequency of rejection of consignments, as expressed, for example, as absolute numbers or as rates of rejection.

(d) International or regional market potential.

Information should be provided on:

- international and/or regional market potential; and where necessary;
- potential of regional products to enter international trade, including an analysis of current production trends as well as market potential in the foreseeable future.

(e) Amenability of the commodity to standardization.

Information should be provided on:

- which quality factors are essential for the identity of the product e.g. definition, composition, etc.;
- characteristics of the commodity (e.g. differences in definition, composition, and other quality factors that may vary across countries and regions) that would have to be accommodated in the standard.

(f) Number of commodities which would need separate standards.

Commodity standards should preferably be developed in a generic manner to cover the relevant products concerned. Information should be provided on the rationale for the need to develop separate standards.

(g) Work already undertaken by other international organizations in this field.

Information should be provided on activities that have been already undertaken by other relevant international organizations, including an analysis of areas of

potential complementarities, gaps, duplication, or conflict with the above activities.

(h) where Codex standards are not available the development of ASEAN standards shall be considered on the first priority.

Even when Codex standard does not exist, a rationale for new work establishment should be provided, based on the information presented in the above criteria.

CRITICAL REVIEW*

***From the Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, "Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts, Part 2".**

Proposals to Undertake New Work or to Revise a Standard

1. Prior to approval for development, each proposal for new work or revision of a standard shall be accompanied by a project document, prepared by the ASEAN Member State proposing new work or revision of a standard, detailing:

- the purposes and the scope of the standard;
- its relevance and timeliness;
- the main aspects to be covered;
- an assessment against the *Criteria for the establishment of work priorities of TF-MASHP*;
- relevance to the Task Force's terms of reference;
- information on the relation between the proposal and existing international standards (i.e. Codex documents, UN ECE standard);
- identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice;
- identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies so that this can be planned for;
- the proposed time-line for completion of the new work, including the start date, the proposed date for guidance to ASWGC and SOM-AMAF for adoption; the time frame for developing a standard should not normally exceed five years.

2. The critical review includes examination of proposals for development/revision of standards, taking into account the *"Criteria for the Establishment of Work Priorities"*; the POA of the Task Force or the SPA of the ASWGC identifying the standard setting needs of ASEAN Member States; and the advice on the need for coordination of work between the TF-MASHP and relevant ASEAN bodies.

3. The results of the critical review to undertake of the new work and/or revise standards shall be proposed in accordance with the protocols of the Task Force.