Are International Food Standards Coping with our Needs?

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Outline

- Current Drivers of Change in Food Safety and Nutrition Landscape
- Impact on International Food Standard Setting
- Opportunities to Re-Shape International Food Safety and Nutrition Standards Development Agenda to Address Current and Future Needs
Food Security: An On-going Challenge

By 2050 the World Population will reach an estimated 9.6 Billion individuals

UN report 2013: World population prospects: the 2013 Revision – Highlights and advance tables, Working paper NO ESA/P/WP228, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, NY
Areas of Population Growth =

Areas Suffering from Food Security Issues

- Current 7.2 Billion will grow by one third (1/3)
  - Highest areas of growth will be witnessed in developing nations
    - e.g. Sub-Saharan Africa has one of the highest levels of fertility
  - Same areas currently suffering from malnutrition and hunger will be subject to highest population growth
  - Added Food Security Challenge

Food Safety is Responsible for Food Waste

- Currently about 30% of food production is wasted worldwide – some estimates put this at 50%

- Inefficiencies in the Food Value Chain, resulting in food safety concerns from production to availability, result in major food waste and losses

- Eliminating food loss and waste is expected to feed 870 million undernourished people worldwide
  - *Da Silva, JG. (2013), Food Losses mean hunger, the Think-Eat-Save Reduce your footprint campaign of the save food initiative, partnership between UNEP – FAO and Messe Dusseldorf*

- Reduction and/or Elimination of Food Waste can be an opportunity to support Food Security
Why Do Food Standards Matter in This Case?
Importance of International Food Standards

- World Food Program relies on compliance with (international) food standards
- Prevention/Reduction of food waste could be supported by Enhanced Food Safety Standards
- Novel sources of Protein require new standards to be accepted
- Novel processes of food production to address Climate Challenges require acceptance
Drivers of the Food Standards Development Environment

- Food Production (and Trade) continues to be an important sector of World Economies
- Ever more Complex Supply Chains = We have never been more interdependent
- Demanding Consumers
- Suffering from Food Insecurity and Obesity at the same time
- Emerging Issues:
  - New “Contaminant / Food Vehicle” pair
  - Anti-Microbial Resistance linked to aspects of food production
  - Climate Change
Witnessing Changing Food Regulatory Environments

- Preventive measures enshrined in several food safety regulatory measures:
  - “Food Hygiene Package” adopted in Europe in Mid 2000s
  - FSMA in 2011
  - Safe Food for Canadians Act in 2012 in Canada

- Stronger Emphasis on Nutrition Rules
  - e.g. labelling rules
International Standards : Leadership for Change

- Served the international community for over 5 decades:
  - Leveling the playing field between nations
  - Addressing emerging issues
  - Supporting consumer protection and removing undue impediments to trade

- Led the way in transforming food regulatory measures:
  - Developing and Adopting Risk Analysis Principles
  - Leading role in:
    - Allergen management
    - GMO assessment
    - Nutrition labeling requirements
  - Addressing Emerging issues:
    - Assessment of radionuclides
    - Addressing Melamine incident, etc.
International Food Standards Development has Witnessed Challenges over the Years...
Challenges Identified by Food Stakeholders

- International Standard development tends to move slowly when there are differences in cultural acceptance
  - E.g. Veterinary applications, certain food additive application

- Resources for (international) Assessment tend to be limited

- Difficulty to get consensus when International work is attempted last
  - Each jurisdiction is defending its risk management approach
What happens when the International Standards Development Process is Marginalized ? ....
... Different Approaches ... Multiple Rules ... CONFUSION

Illustration

- Multiple countries embarked on “Nutrition-related” risk management measures through labelling

- Front of Pack labeling used as a way to inform or deter consumers from products with high fat, sugar and sodium

- Multiple Experiences lacking
  - Common Methodology: Approaches based on composition (for total ingredients), others on added ingredients
  - Impact Assessment Approaches: Methodologies to assess possible effectiveness
Complicated Situations...Including in Neighbouring Markets

Chilean Law 20606 – Nutritional Composition of Foods and its Advertisement – From Dr. Susana Socolovsky, Pentachem consulting

Ecuador traffic light

One of the Canadian Proposals – FOP
Key Question?

- Are we addressing the issue with the right tool(s)?
  - How effective are food labels in a “technology age”, when issues being managed are associated with consumption behaviors
Need for a Common Approach ....

- Evidence-based decisions in managing risks
- Common Principles to address the same / similar risks
- Leveling the playing field between countries
- Avoiding technical barriers between countries
Proposed Future Directions...

1. Respond to Challenges in Need of Guidance from Food Standards: Innovation of Food Products and Processes

2. Review Standards Development Process to prevent/mitigate process
Opportunities in Food Standards Development

1. Address Innovation in food production with Timely Guidance:
   - New sources of nutrients and proteins require Guidance in Safety Assessments and Conditions of Access to the market
     - Insects, Algae, Seaweed, Rapeseed, etc. have the slowest rate in moving through approval Process
       - Safety of Novel Protein Sources (Insects, Microalgae, Seaweed, Duckweed, and Rapeseed) and Legislative Aspects for Their Application in Food and Feed Production M. van der Spiegel, M.Y. Noordam, H.J. van der Fels-Klerx, Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety, Volume 12, Issue 6, November 2013 662–678
     - Attempt to Harmonize Approach for Novel Food Risk Management
2. Level the Playing Field in Adopting Preventive Food Regulatory Measures

- Several Regulatory Measures in Developing Nations are applied with a strong Emphasis on end product testing
- Impact of Applying FSMA and FSMA-like rules still not understood
- Propagate “outcome-based” approaches in regulating food safety

Capacity Building is a MUST
3. Re-think approaches for processes managing development of some international standards that may be impacted by cultural differences

- **Standard under Consideration**
  - > 95% of Cases
    - Regular step-based system
  - < 5% of Cases
    - New stream for standards likely to pose challenges for cultural differences “based on an early endorsement approach” which exempt non endorsers from obligation of the standard due to a different level of protection *

* Would exempt non endorsers from obligation of the standard due to a different level of protection
Novel International Food Standards Development

- Approach for “Specified Cases” – discussed amongst CCEXEC members between 2010-2014

- Standard triage
  - 95% Regular Approach
  - 5% Seek Endorsement

Seek Endorsement
- Approach = opt out option (that does not prevent from supporting standard)

Scientific Assessment
- Seek Endorsement
  - Another opportunity for consideration of endorsement to proceed with standards development

Proceed with regular step approach 3 – 8.
- Standard has same value as regional standard (only for countries that endorsed its development)
Easier Said than Done

- These measures require support with adequate resourcing, in particular for scientific assessments.

- Measures require leadership and commitment to move towards a new direction from Codex Membership.
ILSI and its Membership Can Drive Change
Various Areas Warrant Attention....

To address Drivers of Change

- Antimicrobial Resistance: Moving from Risk Assessment to Risk Management options (in relation with food uses)
- Food Fraud: Early Detection, Prevention and Mitigation
- Labeling Approaches to Profile “Food” based on Nutrient Content
- Addressing Allergen Management: Existing Allergens and Possible new allergens associated with Novel Foods / Ingredients
- Assessment and Management of New sources of Nutrients (Proteins)
- Assessment and Management of Bio-fortification: Foods to address targeted areas of malnutrition
- Assessment of Novel Processes to support a more resilient agriculture and food sector (to climate and other considerations)
Food Standards (or the lack thereof) should not be an impediment ....
ILSI Membership can Drive:

- Issues to the Forefront of International Standards Development Process:
  - Discussion of Priorities for Codex Committees (Intervention with relevant governments / Codex members)
  - Proposal of New Work Projects relevant to constituency
  - Providing Data and Support to Resourcing International Assessments
  - Support Codex leadership to implement change
Collaboration is everything