



Adopting Codex standards as national standards: opportunities and challenges

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Food Safety and Quality Control Framework in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, there are some 15 ministries and their some 20 agencies, are responsible for food safety and quality control activities, led by the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA)-the Apex body

Of them, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) under the Ministry of Industries, is the mandated Institute for Food Standard Formulation along with standards for other non food items.

BSTI is the National Codex Contact Point for Bangladesh

Food Standards Formulation: Laws and Regulations

- Bangladesh Food Safety Act 2013
- Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Act 2018
- Standards of Weights and Measures Act 2018
- Food safety (Chemical contaminants, Toxins, Harmful residues) Rules, 2017
- Use of Food Additives Rules, 2017
- Food Packaging and Labelling Rules, 2017
- Bangladesh Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2007 (amended 2012)
- Bangladesh Pure Food Rules, 1967 (gradually being replaced)
- Regulation of Trans Fats in Food, 2021 (Draft)
- Food Safety (Microbial Contaminants Regulation) Rules, 2021 (Draft)

Food Standards in Bangladesh

Standards	No.	Adoption/Authority
Bangladesh Standards (BDS)	305	Developed by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)
Codex –Standards, Guidelines, Codes of Practices	137	Adopted as BDS from Codex by the BSTI
ISO-Standards, Guidelines, Method of Tests	169	Adopted as BDS from ISO by the BSTI
Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC)	3	Adopted by as BDS from SMIIC by the BSTI
Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) of Heavy metals, PAH, insecticides, mycotoxin, vet drug residue etc.	Over 149	Adopted from Codex by Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA), across hundreds of food items
Bangladesh Pure Food Rules, 1967	107	These are being replaced by the BDS or adopted from the Codex

OPPORTUNITIES: Adoption of Codex in Bangladesh

- Codex adoption facilitates international trades/exporting food and food products;
- Codex adoption facilitates importation of not only safe but also healthy food, protecting the consumers' health including prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCD) in the country;
- Development of standards, guidelines, code of practices require times and other resources. So, Codex adoption saves resources of the country;

OPPORTUNITIES: contd.

- To adopt Codex: Bangladesh having:
 - More than 7 Technical Committees with Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) , constituted, and functioning under the Food Safety (Technical Committee) Rules, 2017;
 - With BSTI, one Divisional Committee on Agriculture and Food Products, and its 20 Section Committees on different Food Categories are functional for formulation of BDS, and adoption of international/Codex standards;

Each Committee comprised of multidisciplinary experts- from academia, research institutions, regulatory bodies, industries, trade bodies, consumers group and others

CHALLENGES: Adoption of Codex in Bangladesh

- Limited resources for risk assessment in context of the country in adopting the Codex;
- Limited participation in codex activities/meetings, aimed to contribute to and benefit from the works of the CAC;
- Limited capacity building programme on standard formulation or adoption of Codex

CHALLENGES: contd.

- No hosting of the Codex Committee meeting by Bangladesh yet . Some meeting may be hosted in Bangladesh with the support of CAC. So, many members of the technical committee can participate or attend as observer;
- Sometimes some standards or parameter of the Codex standard could not be adopted, in context of the country;
- Codex standards of many food items in context of Bangladesh are not available

Conclusion

Despite the challenges, adopting the Codex as National Standards (Bangladesh Standards-BDS), have been facilitating international food trades, which significantly contributes in achieving SDGs and eventually for Bangladesh to be a developed country in 2041

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Thank You