

## 5.2 ROLE OF CODEX INDIA

In India, Codex standards are implemented and managed by the Codex Alimentarius Contact Point (Codex India) within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Codex India serves as the national focal point for coordinating activities related to Codex standards, facilitating communication with CAC, and ensuring India's compliance with international food safety norms.

### i.Functions of Codex India:

**Standard Adoption:** Codex India participates in the adoption and implementation of Codex standards at the national level. It assesses the relevance of Codex standards to India's food safety and regulatory framework.

**Capacity Building:** Codex India organizes workshops, training programs, and capacity-building activities to enhance awareness and understanding of Codex standards among stakeholders, including government officials, food industry professionals, and academia.

**Coordination:** Codex India coordinates with relevant ministries, agencies, and stakeholders to harmonize national regulations with Codex standards, ensuring consistency and alignment with international food safety requirements.

### ii.Implementation of Codex Standards:

India incorporates Codex standards into its national food safety regulations and standards through the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

FSSAI is responsible for enforcing Codex-based regulations, conducting inspections, and ensuring compliance with food safety requirements across the food supply chain.

### **iii.Participation in Codex Meetings:**

India actively participates in Codex meetings, expert committees, and working groups where decisions on food standards and guidelines are made.

Participation allows India to contribute its expertise, perspectives, and concerns on global food safety issues, influencing the development of Codex standards that reflect diverse national interests and priorities.

### **iv.Benefits and Significance:**

**Consumer Protection:** Codex standards help ensure the safety and quality of food products consumed in India, protecting public health and reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses.

**Facilitation of Trade:** Harmonized Codex standards facilitate smooth and fair international trade by providing a common basis for food safety regulations and certification.

**Global Recognition:** Compliance with Codex standards enhances India's reputation as a responsible trading partner in the global food market, promoting trust and confidence in Indian food exports.

**Scientific Basis:** Codex standards are based on scientific evidence and risk assessment principles, providing a rigorous framework for food safety management and regulatory decision-making.

### **v.Challenges and Considerations:**

**Capacity Building:** Ensuring adequate resources, expertise, and infrastructure to effectively implement and enforce Codex standards across diverse sectors and regions in India.

**Industry Compliance:** Encouraging compliance with Codex standards among food manufacturers, processors, and exporters to meet international requirements and maintain market access.

**Adaptation to Local Contexts:** Balancing the adoption of Codex standards with India's unique food safety challenges, cultural practices, and agricultural diversity.

### 5.2.1 Role of Codex Contact point

**Information Exchange:** The CCP facilitates communication and information exchange between Codex member countries regarding food safety standards, guidelines, and regulations. This helps in harmonizing approaches to food safety and ensures that countries are aware of international standards and developments.

**Coordination:** It coordinates activities related to Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) standards within a country. This includes organizing meetings, seminars, and workshops to discuss and implement Codex standards at the national level.

**Implementation Support:** The CCP assists countries in implementing Codex standards into their national regulatory frameworks. This involves providing technical assistance, training, and capacity building to ensure that countries have the necessary infrastructure and knowledge to comply with international food safety standards.

**Point of Contact:** It serves as the primary point of contact for inquiries related to Codex standards and activities within a country. This includes responding to queries from stakeholders such as government agencies, industry representatives, and consumers regarding Codex standards and their application.

**Facilitation of Trade:** By promoting adherence to Codex standards, the CCP helps facilitate international trade in food products. Consistency in food safety standards reduces trade barriers and enhances consumer confidence in food products traded across borders.