



HARMONISATION OF BANGLADESH'S FOOD STANDARDS WITH CODEX ALIMENTARIUS



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FAO

STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- ◉ What is harmonization and why harmonize ?
- ◉ Why harmonization by BFSA ?
- ◉ BFSA Strategy (*team-work and time-frame*)
- ◉ Process to be followed (*vertical and horizontal*)
- ◉ Criteria to come on WGs (*submit nominations*)
- ◉ How to participate in the WGs
- ◉ Q & A

WHAT IS HARMONISATION ?



- ◉ To bring into consonance or accord.
- ◉ Adjustment of differences and inconsistencies among different measurements, methods, procedures, schedules, specifications, or systems to make them uniform or mutually compatible.

NEED FOR HARMONISATION ?

- To be at par with international standards
- Ensure availability of safe food to our citizens
- To enhance exports
- Comply with international commitments (Art. 3.1)
- Improve production practices

WHY BFSA ?

- Bangladesh became Codex member in 1975 and BFSA was set up in 2015
- Section 13(1) of Food Safety Act, 2013, BFSA :
*"to **regulate and monitor** the activities related to manufacture, import, processing, storage, distribution and sale of food so as to ensure access of safe food through exercise of appropriate of scientific methods,"*
- Section 13(3): BFSA shall take steps to inter alia provide scientific advice and technical support to the Government in formulating food and nutrition policy or rules, ... or regulations; analyse scientific and technical information concerning the risks to human health; develop methods of risk assessment and to co-operate with international organizations in relation to food safety, quality and testing; **harmonize safety and quality standards between domestic and international food articles.**
- Section 13(4): BFSA to make Regulations to carry out the purposes of Section 13.

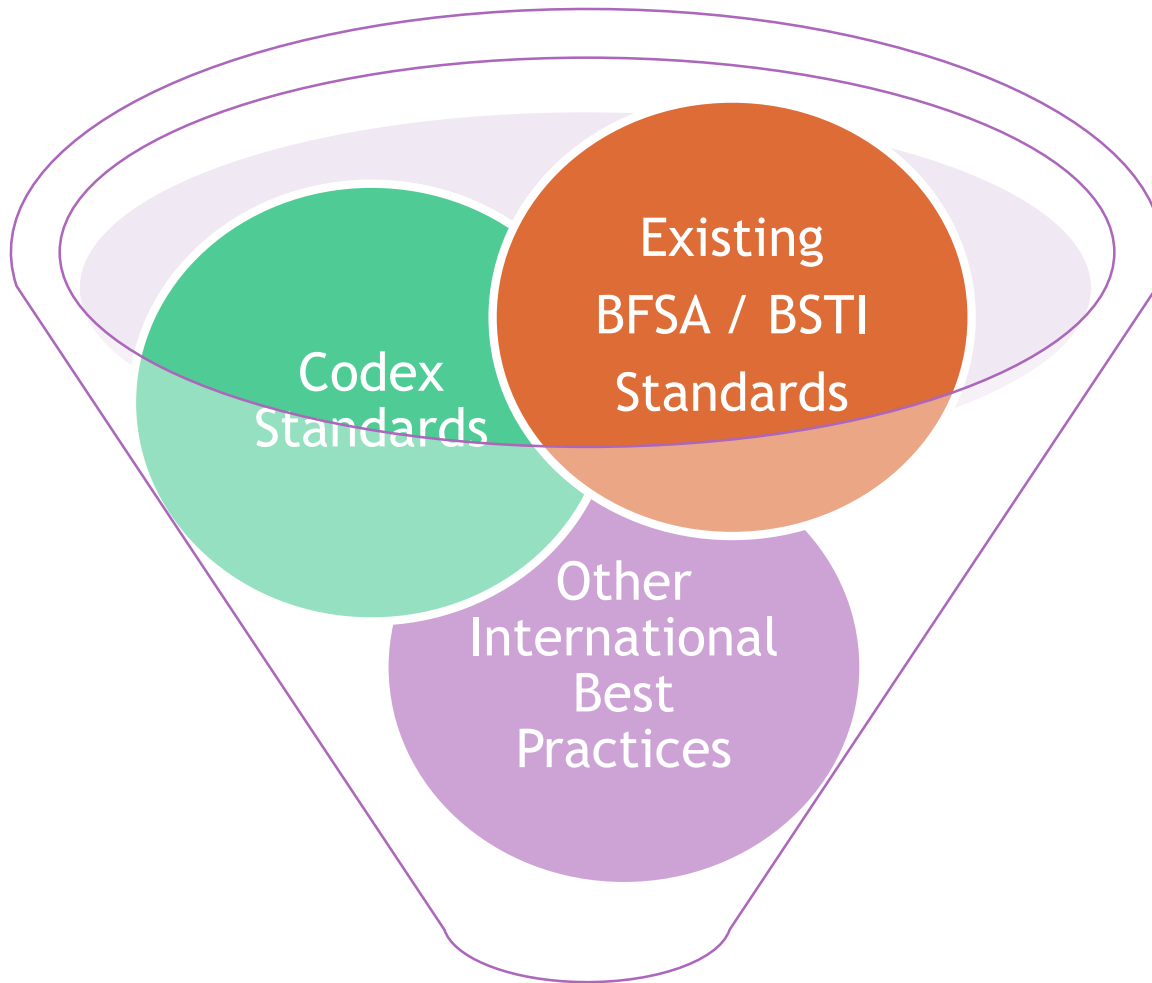
Continued...

WHY BFSA ?

- Section 17(1): BFSA may form required number of **Technical Committees** consisting of subject matter experts to assist and advise the BFSA in conducting its functions.
- Section 17(3): Technical Committees may, if necessary, **invite the relevant industry and consumer representatives and experts** in the meeting.
- Section 19(1): *“issue directives related to food safety and quality to any authority, organization or person concerned directly or indirectly with food safety management, and such authority, organization or person shall be bound to comply with such directives.”*
- Section 19(2): *“require any authority, organization or person to render necessary assistance, and such authority, organization or person **shall be bound to comply...**”*

STRATEGY





**Revised Bangladesh's
Food Standards**

VERTICAL STANDARDS

Review BFSA / BSTI standards and initiate revision process

Identify products where we have no BFSA / BSTI but there are Codex/other international standards

Identify products where we have BSTI standards but there are no Codex standards

HORIZONTAL STANDARDS

Review standards for additives, contaminants, etc. for harmonisation with GSFA/GSCTFF

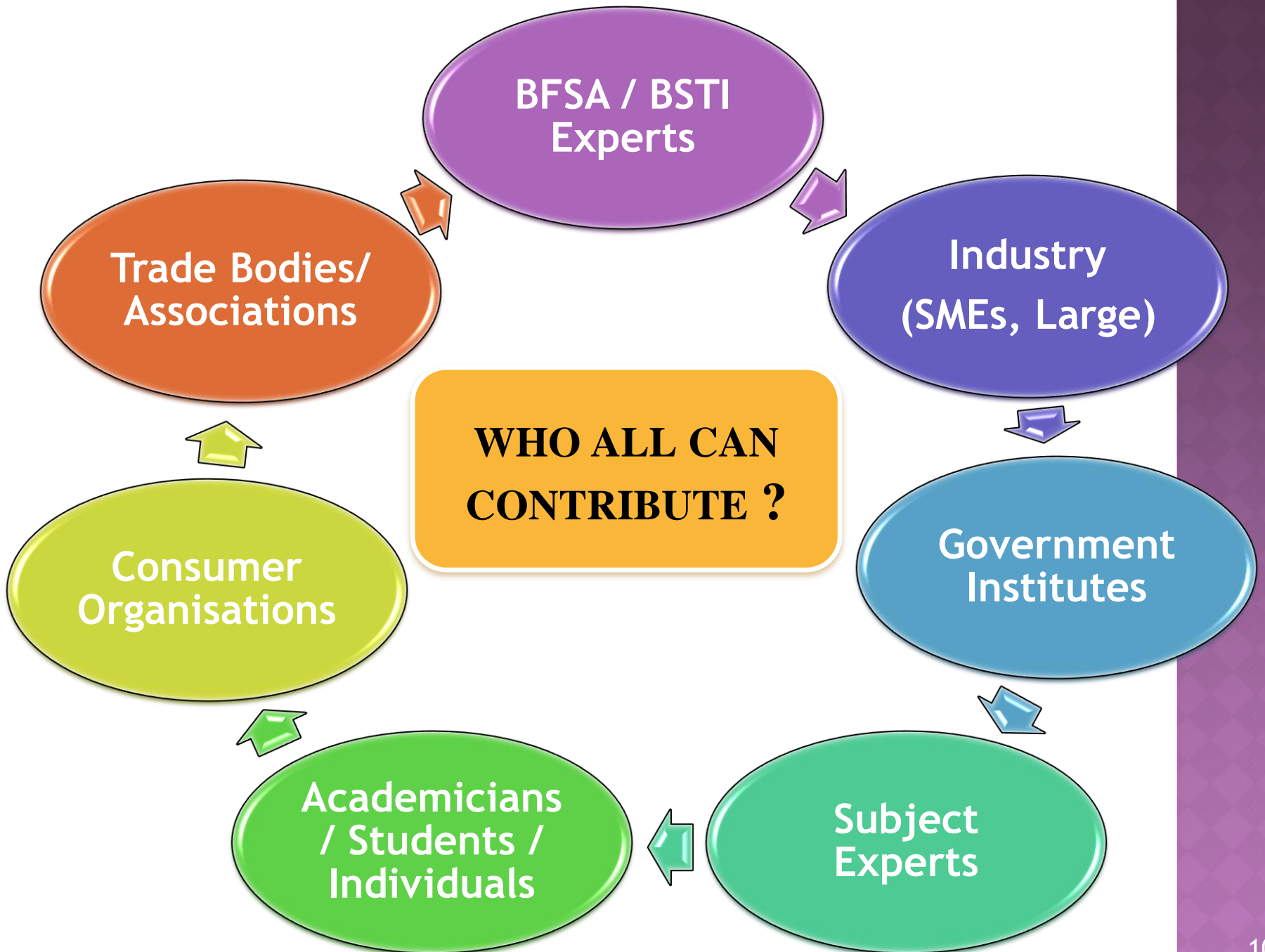
Review Microbiological standards, particularly, in High Risk Products

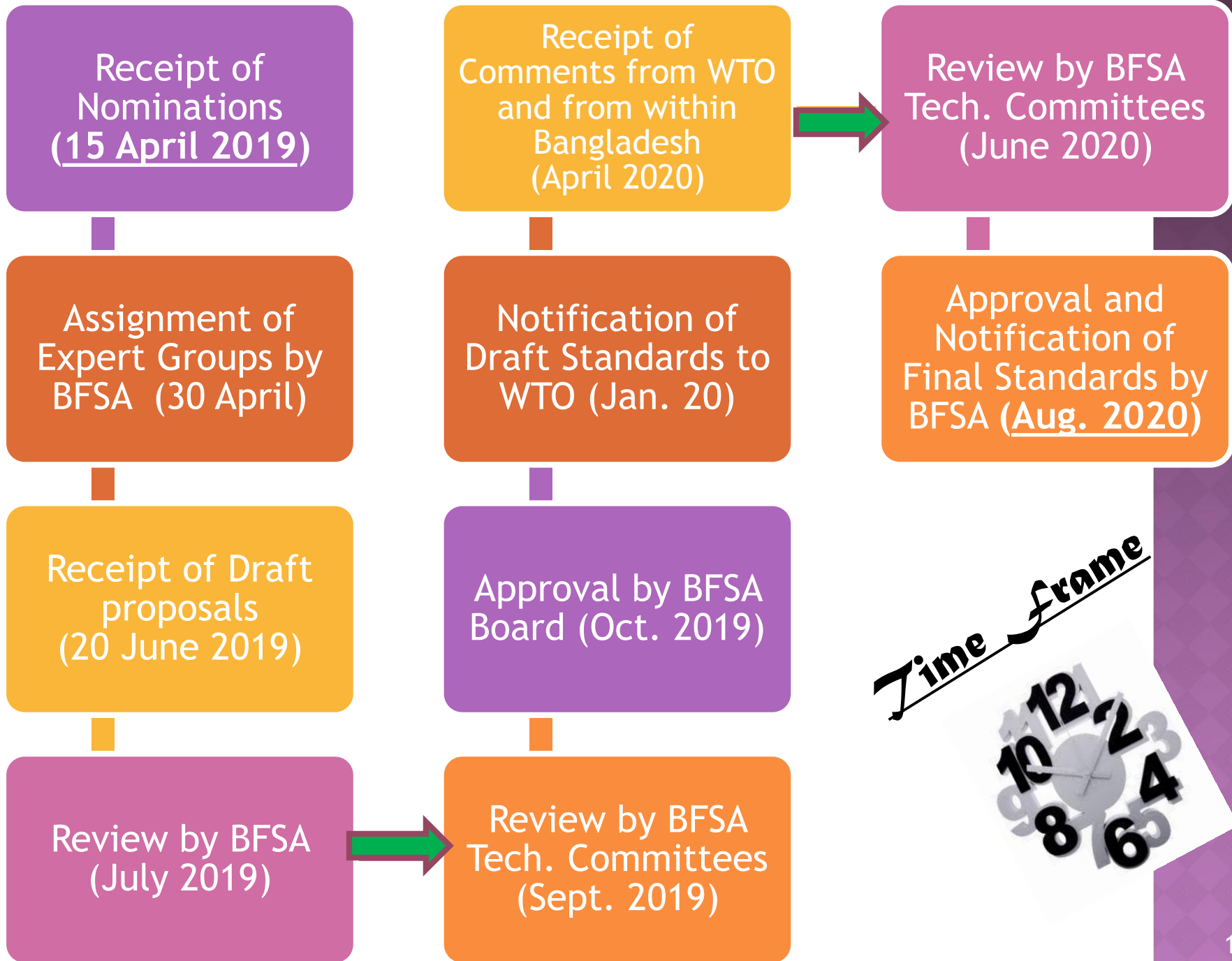
Develop Codes of Practice for uniform application across vertical standards

It's a mammoth task

LET'S' DO IT TOGETHER..!!







PROCESS PROPOSED...

AGREE ON A LIST OF BANGLADESH FOOD CATEGORIES

- BFC 1: Cereals, pulses and their Products (incl. bakery products)
- BFC 2: Oilseeds, Fats and their products (including fat emulsions)
- BFC 3: Milk and Milk products and their analogues
- BFC 4: Fish and Fishery products (including molluscs, crustaceans etc.)
- BFC 5: Meat and Poultry (including eggs) and their products
- BFC 6: Salts, Spices and condiments, Soups, Sauces, Salads and Protein Products
- BFC 7: Tea and Coffee
- BFC 8: Sugar/Sugar products (incl. confectionery & sweets), Sweeteners, Honey
- BFC 9: Fruits & Vegetables, roots, tubers, sea-weeds, dry fruits/nuts
- BFC 10: Processed Fruits and Vegetables
- BFC 11: Starch derivatives etc.
- BFC 12: Soft drinks and Beverages (excluding dairy and juices)
- BFC 13: Edible ices and sorbet
- BFC 14: Ready-to-Eat Food Products
- BFC 15: Foodstuff for Nutrition and Special Dietary Purposes
- BFC 16: Miscellaneous (including traditional foods)

BFC = Bangladesh Food Categories (BFSA)

Non-Food Item: animal / bird feed

?

LET US UNDERSTAND THE
DOCUMENT ON BFSA WEBSITE

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- **BFSA Strategy for Harmonization**
(provisions of the Act, scope of work, procedure, TOR of WGs, criteria to come on WGs)
- **Detailed guidance to implement strategy**
- **Attachments (15) to the guidance for WGs**
 - List of Codex Standards, Guidelines (*Attachment 1*)
 - Food Additives (*Attachments 2 - 4, 5, 6, 7*)
 - Contaminants and Residues (*Attachments 8 - 10*)
 - Packaging, Labeling and Claims (*Attachments 11 - 14*)
 - Examples of BSTI standards that may require review (*Attachment 15*)
- **Nomination Form to participate in WGs**

VERTICAL STANDARDS

➔ List of Codex ‘Vertical Standards’, ‘Guidelines’ and Codes of Practice (**Attachment 1**)

Format for Standards:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Name of the Standard2. Scope3. Description4. Composition and Quality Factors | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Hygiene8. Packaging, Labeling and Claims (Attach. 11 to 14)9. Methods of Analysis and Sampling10. Processing Aids |
|--|--|
5. Food Additives (**Attachment 2 to 7**)
 6. Contaminants, and Residues (**Attach. 8 to 10**)

➔ List of ‘Vertical Standards’ currently available under BSTI but may need harmonization (**Attachment 15**)

HORIZONTAL STANDARDS

Food Additives

Table 1 - Specific
Conditions - functions

Attachment 2 - guidance for work on food additives
(Table 2 - Max. Use Levels; Table 3 - GMP)

Attachment 3 - compile list of Codex FA as per BFC
and recommend Max. Use Level

Attachment 4 - make comparative chart of FA MLs

Attachment 5 - pdf. of GSFA Table 2 (*max. use levels*)

Attachment 6 - two parts: make list of FA --

- As per GMP (Table 3)

- As per Annex to Table 3 - Food Cat. & Items
excluded from Gen. Conditions of Table 3

Milk, butter milk, cheese,
fresh fruits, vegetables

Attachment 7 - pdf. of GSFA Table 3 (*GMP*)

HORIZONTAL STANDARDS

Food Contaminants (Mycotoxins, NOTS, Heavy Metals, Vet. Drugs, Pesticides, Microbiological, Proc. Aids, Others)

Attachment 8 - make list of MLs as per BFSA / BSTI and recommend new MLs

Attachment 9 - make comparative chart of MLs

Attachment 10 - **pdf.** of GSCTFF

Packaging, Labeling and Claims

Attachment 11 - **pdf.** of General Standards of Labeling of Pre-packaged Foods

Attachment 12 - **pdf.** on Nutrition Labeling

Attachment 13 - **pdf.** on Gen. Guidelines on Claims

Attachment 14 - **pdf.** on Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATIONS

- Have clear **understanding** of the BFSA Strategy;
- Should have relevant **experience** in handling matters related to BFSA / BSTI standards and regulations;
- Have adequate **exposure** to food safety, quality and standards issues;
- Willing to work **collaboratively** as a member of a Working Group as assigned;
- Be **available, willing** and **capable** of working with BFSA for **at least one year** for successful execution, and will be available for subsequent consultations;
- Be **aware** of the relevant international food standards, laws, rules and regulations, like those of CODEX, USFDA, EU, India, Malaysia, China, etc.; *and*
- Have **permission** from employers to submit their nomination to BFSA.

EXPECTATION FROM EXPERT GROUPS

- To work electronically and prepare a complete draft standard for food products using the formats
- Can use an alternate template if found more suitable, but reason should be explained
- If need to re-write a standard, this can be done provided there is justification



AND FINALLY, SOME ADVICE TO NOMINEES



- Study and identify changes required in BFSA / BSTI standards
- Use facts, data and available information to draft new National Standards / COPs for discussion by BFSA Tech. Committees
- Review the internationally followed best practices and standards
- To work in collaboration with other members
- To draft the allotted **vertical** and **horizontal** Standards / **Codes of Practice**
- To provide inputs in the given format



SUBMISSION OF NOMINATION

Download Nomination Form from BFSA website:

www.bfsa.gov.bd

Submit electronically to:

harmonisation@bfsa.gov.bd

Personally to:

Mr. Samir Kumar Biswas

Deputy Secretary

Bangladesh Food Safety Authority,

71-72 Eskaton Garden,

Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (12th Floor)

Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh



BEST OF LUCK...

TO ALL TEAMS...