**Presentation Outline**

- Relevant ILSI SEAR scientific activities
- Differences and similarities in nutrition labeling and claims regulations
- Harmonization Opportunity and Efforts
- Future Plans

**ILSI SEA Region’s Scientific Activities to Address Nutrition Labeling and Claims**

- **Meetings**
  - ILSI SEA Region has organized a series of expert consultations, seminars and workshops on nutrition labeling, claims and functional foods since 2001
    - A total of 9 seminars and 10 workshops on NL and claims, 4 workshops and 2 expert consultations on functional foods
    - Participated by regulators and government officials from ASEAN and Asian countries, Australia, Europe, & US, experts and researchers, industry stakeholders
Relevant Activities Supported by ILSI SEA Region - Development of Guidelines

• A total of 3 sets of Guidelines were developed related to nutrition labelling, nutrition and health claims
  • Regulatory Framework for Nutrition Labeling and Claims for Foods
  • Guidelines for Evaluation of Safety /Nutritional Safety of Functional Foods
  • Guidelines for the Scientific Substantiation of Nutrition and Health Claims for Foods/Functional Foods
• Published in the Y2018 Functional Food Monograph

Relevant Activities Supported by ILSI SEA Region - Publications

• The first Monograph on Functional Foods in Asia (Tee, 2004) was also published by ILSI SEA Region
• Updated second edition of Monograph on Functional Foods published in 2018
  • Regulatory status of the various types of health claims permitted in the key SEA countries
  • Permitted health claims list for countries with available positive lists
  • Regulatory framework for application and review of new claim applications, as well as the scientific substantiation requirement
  • Case studies on Functional Foods
    - Mushroom and turmeric/courcumin

Survey on Status of Nutrition Labeling and Claims Regulations in Southeast Asia

• Prior to each NL and claims workshop, structured surveys were conducted, with the latest one done prior to this Seminar/Workshop
• Information gathered from SEA regulators which covers
  • Different aspects of nutrition labeling
    • Mandatory vs voluntary, nutrients to be declared, NIP formats, expressions against reference, presence of tolerance levels. etc
  • Nutrition and health claims
    • Definition, availability of positive list
    • Regulatory framework
    • Scientific substantiation etc.

Summary of Nutrition Labeling Regulations

• No harmonized nutrition labeling regulations in the ASEAN countries
• Mandatory vs voluntary
  • Only mandatory in Malaysia and the Philippines for a wide variety of foods
  • Other countries: only specified categories
• Nutrients to be declared and NIP formats are also different
  • Number of nutrients declared and declared formats differ from country to country
    • Eg. Per 100g/ml vs per serving
  • Some countries require expression of nutrients against reference values (eg NRVs, RDAs, etc)
Summary of Nutrition and Health Claims Status in SEA

- All allow nutrition claims but conditions/criteria are different
  - Malaysia uses NRVs while the rest use national reference values
- Different types of health claims are permitted in various SEA countries
  - No harmonized nutrition and health claims regulations in SEA countries
- Significant differences in the permitted health claims
  - Nutrient function claims permitted in
    - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines (no list), Singapore and Thailand
  - Other function claims permitted in the following countries
    - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines (no list), Singapore, Thailand (no list)
  - Disease risk reduction claims permitted in following countries
    - Indonesia (no approved claim), Philippines (no list), Singapore, Thailand (no list)

Why is Harmonization Needed?

- These labeling and claims differences:
  - Cause confusions among consumers
  - Technical barriers to commercial distribution of foods
- ILSI SEAR works with national authorities and key stakeholders to facilitate the harmonization process since 2001 by providing platform to
  - Update on regional and international developments of nutrition labeling and claims
  - Discuss various issues such as scientific substantiation, communication and education using labels and claims, explore harmonization approaches and opportunities

Facilitation of Harmonization by ILSI SEA Region

- At Nov 2013’s 8th Workshop, it was agreed that some areas under NIP/Nutrient Declaration could be harmonized
- Discussion continued at 9th Workshop in Aug 2015 and 7 areas were identified for potential harmonization, using Codex as reference
Outcome from May 2016 Workshop

- A workshop was held to discuss the 7 potential areas for harmonization in May 2016
  - Surveys were conducted among ASEAN countries for comments and feedback on 7 potential areas for harmonization prior to workshop discussion
  - Positive response on some of the areas including nutrient function claims

Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group

- The Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group (PFPWG) was established in 2003 under ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards & Quality (ACCSQ) with one of the key responsibilities to identify areas for possible harmonization
  - Official platform for discussion of harmonization issues including nutrition labeling and claims

Outcome from May 2016 Workshop

- More discussion needed both within and among national regulatory agencies
- Suggestion to report and inform ACCSQ’s PFPWG
  - Main ASEAN body for regulatory harmonization in the food sector

Upcoming and Future Plans

- Continue discussion on 7 potential areas of harmonization of NL and claims at 10th Workshop
- Support PFPWG in facilitating the harmonization of NL and claims in ASEAN
  - Share and report discussion outcome at next PFPWG meeting
  - Continue to provide platform for generating and sharing of information, and discussion
Thank You

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