



TRIP REPORT

Name/Title: Kent Sisson Executive Director, FAEA **Activity #:** 10
Activity: FAEA GBI **Begin date:** January 12, 2020
Destination: Washington, DC **End date:** January 13, 2020

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL:

The purpose of this travel was to:

1. meet with staff from the USDA Codex Office
2. meet with FAS staff from the Trade & Regulatory Capacity Building Division (TRCBD)
3. apply for a visa at the Bangladesh Embassy

OBSERVATIONS:

1. USDA Codex Office meeting: I met with the USDA Codex office to strengthen my relationship with the staff and explain one element of FAEA activities, that is, to sponsor foreign delegates to relevant Codex committee meetings and other Codex events. Historically FAEA has sponsored delegates that are supportive of U.S. positions on various SPS issues and/or Codex standards. Typically, these are delegates from countries covered in the GBI such as Nigeria. Several members of FAEA, including the U.S. Dairy Export Council, Merck, and Elanco in particular, are very interested in this element of the FAEA strategy and strongly recommended that the Executive Director work closely with the Codex Office to identify specific individuals supportive of U.S. positions for FAEA sponsorship to relevant Codex committees meetings.

I met with Rita Kishore and Doreen Chen-Moulec and they identified several of the Codex Committee meetings for 2020 that would be of interest including:

- **Food Additives** Lanzhou/China March
- **Contaminants in Food** Netherlands April
- **Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods** San Diego May
- **Food Labeling** Canada October
- **Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses** Germany November

They also recommended that I use their website to keep up-to-speed on Codex issues by signing up to receive Codex News and Announcements (done) and reading the United States Codex Program reports ([U.S. Codex Delegation Reports](#)) on outcomes of each session from a United States perspective.

We also discussed how FAEA should coordinate with the Codex office when sponsoring teams coming to the U.S. FAEA should request meetings through FAS who will take the lead in making interagency arrangements and developing the meeting schedule. I also mentioned that FAEA Board members were interested in meeting with regulatory agencies and others in the DC area in the spring of 2020. I should contact Mary Francis Low in requesting meetings with Under Secretary McKinney.



2. **TRCBD meeting:** The main purpose of this meeting was to introduce myself and FAEA to the FAS staff responsible for trade capacity building. In particular, I wanted to do this as part of my preparations in traveling to Bangladesh since some of the staff have been managing programs in Bangladesh and could brief me on their activities there. Approximately 12 staff members from TRCBD participated in the meeting, introduced themselves and explained their responsibilities.

Emanuela Stephens was my POC in setting up this meeting due to her responsibilities for covering Bangladesh. She explained that the Bangladesh Parliament passed the Food Safety Act in October 2013. The Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) was established under this law in 2015. The BFSA is tasked with coordinating official food controls across the food chain; working in collaboration with government agencies responsible for food inspection; setting food standards; and providing scientific and technical advice to strengthen food safety policy. As of now, Emanuela said that food safety regulations have been developed and are now being implemented. However, they are still developing their regulations for feed. USAID and various U.S. Universities are working with Bangladesh, focusing on Food Safety *policy*, so it might make sense for FAEA to assist with *regulatory* training. Cornell and Purdue are currently exploring the development of a Food Safety Innovation Lab in Bangladesh. She also mentioned that a Bangladesh Cochran team is coming to the U.S. in July or August of this year (I will get more info on this when I meet with FAS in Dhaka). Emanuela recommended that I meet with Alcumus when in Dhaka and consider hiring them as an in-country consultant if FAEA plans to engage and commit more resources to the country.

It was also explained that under the recent FAS reorganization, Market Development *and* Capacity Building programs are now all under the Deputy Administrator for Global Programs, Mark Slupek. Any FAS responsibilities that require management of program funding now fall under Mark.

Andrew Roberts, Deputy Executive Director for the ILSI Research Foundation also participated in this meeting at the suggestion of Tyler Babcock, Bangladesh Attache'. Andrew has been covering India and Bangladesh since 2005 and travels to Bangladesh 3-4 times per year, focusing exclusively on biotech issues. Regarding the BFSA, he says they are not fully staffed at this time. ILSI opened an office in Dhaka in the last year and it is staffed by one person.

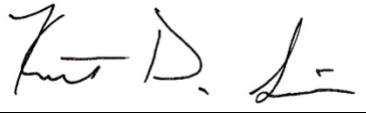
3. **Bangladesh Embassy:** After my meetings at USDA I traveled to the Bangladesh Embassy to submit a visa application for my upcoming (January 29-February 5) FAEA trip to Dhaka. I submitted the application and subsequently received my passport with the visa via overnight mail a few days later.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Request an FAS and TRCBD organization chart
- Send TRCBD the UES list of capacity building that FAEA has conducted over the past years
- Provide info to Erika Johnston on what FAEA has done in Nigeria and Ghana
- Request SPS assessment on Ethiopia from Erika
- Send them our industry priorities for each industry from the Board meeting
- Send this report to Anthony Jones
- Note: Emanuela just left FAS and took a job at USTR

Signature:



Date:

1/24/2020



ITINERARY

- January 13, 2020** **USDA South Building**
09:40-10:30 Meeting with Codex Office
10:30-13:00 Meeting with TRCBD Staff
- Bangladesh Embassy**
14:00-14:30 Prepare visa application and submit to Bangladesh Embassy
- 15:30-19:00 **Travel by POV to residence in Delaware**

DAILY ACTIVITY

See "Observations" above.

KEY CONTACTS

U.S. Codex Office, Room 4861-S, (202) 205-7760

- Rita Kishore, Deputy Manager Rita.kishore@usda.gov (202) 692-0170
- Doreen Chen-Moulec, Specialist doreen.chenmoulec@usda.gov

FAS Trade & Regulatory Capacity Building Division, Room 3241, (202) 649-3873

- Mary Parish, Director of TRCBD, Bilateral Programs mary.parrish@usda.gov
 - Frederick Johnston, Branch Director, TRCBD, Global Programs
 - Jill Luxenberg, SPS Trade Capacity Building Coordinator, TRCBD, Global Programs
 - Emanuela Stephens, Bangladesh and Former Soviet Union, TRCBD
 - Mary Enschede (Cambodia), Kelly Scupka (SPS), Kelly March (International Food Standards, Africa and Latin America), Lee Gross (Food Safety Network), Mary Lou Carlson (Food Safety), Erika Johnston (Africa), Brook Chastine (Africa), and Jenny Cho (Africa)

International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Research Foundation

- Andrew F. Roberts, Ph.D, Deputy Executive Director

Bangladesh Embassy

- Ms. Proga Ahmed (was very helpful)



FOOD & AGRICULTURE EXPORT ALLIANCE

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