

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

Call for Experts on Food Additives, Contaminants and toxins; and Residues of Veterinary Drugs

Issued on 2 June 2016

Application Deadline: 30 October 2016

Background

The [Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#) is an international expert scientific committee that is administered jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It has been meeting since 1956, initially to evaluate the safety of food additives. Its work now also includes the evaluation of contaminants, naturally occurring toxicants and residues of veterinary drugs in food.

To date, JECFA has evaluated more than 500 food additives, more than 2,000 flavourings approximately 50 contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, and residues of approximately 100 veterinary drugs. Furthermore, the Committee has developed principles for the safety assessment of chemicals in food that are consistent with current thinking on risk assessment and take account of recent developments in toxicology and other relevant scientific areas such as microbiology, biotechnology, exposure assessment, food chemistry including analytical chemistry, and assessment of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs.

According to the procedure described in the [FAO/WHO framework for the provision of scientific advice on food safety and nutrition](#) regarding the call for experts the FAO Joint Secretariat establishes a list of experts (appointments are for a period of five years). Experts are selected from the list, referred to as the *roster* of experts, for each meeting of JECFA to serve as members of the Committee or to assist the Secretariat with preparatory work.

Expertise required by the FAO Joint Secretariat

For food additives (including enzymes, processing aids and flavouring agents), Experts are expected to

- (i.) assess critically data on the chemical and biotechnological manufacturing, quality, and analytical control of chemicals which are added directly to human food;
- (ii.) draft purity specifications for food additives and flavouring agents which are manufactured by chemical synthesis, biosynthesis, or collected/extracted from natural sources;
- (iii.) draft analytical methods to be used for the control of food additives in compliance with the specifications, including quality assurance systems; and

- (iv.) draft chemical and technical assessments of food additives, on chemical characterization food additives, functional use and reactions and fate in foods.

For residues of veterinary drugs in food; Experts are expected to

- (i.) evaluate data on the physical-chemical properties of veterinary drugs and their metabolism, kinetics and tissue distribution in target animals and compare to data in experimental animals assessed in the toxicological evaluation, in collaboration with toxicological experts;
- (ii.) assess studies on depletion of veterinary drug residues in animal tissues and foods of animal origin;
- (iii.) derive from such evaluation draft maximum residue limits (MRLs) for target tissues;
- (iv.) determine appropriate criteria for and evaluate methods of analysis for detecting and/or quantifying residues in food; and
- (v.) provide advise on the appropriate use of veterinary drugs and questions related to Good Veterinary Drug Practice (GVDP).

For contaminants and natural toxins occurring in food; Experts are expected to

- (i.) analyse and evaluate factors responsible for the occurrence of contaminants and natural toxins in food products including effects of processing on their levels in food;
- (ii.) evaluate quantitative analytical methods as well as reliable screening tests with appropriate validation, method performance characteristics and quality assurance systems; and
- (iii.) develop and apply sampling protocols and study the influence of the sampling protocols on the analytical results.

Basic and essential qualifications of experts

FAO places great value to the technical qualification and independence of the participating experts as well as to the transparency of its selection process. Therefore, FAO has developed procedures for selecting experts assuring that transparency, excellence and independence of opinions is provided.

Candidates should fulfil the following basic and essential qualifications:

- advanced university/college degree in chemistry, biology, pharmacology, food science and technology or other relevant biosciences;
- at least five years experience in food safety risk assessment and/or equivalent area mentioned above with respect to food additives, residues of veterinary drugs in foods, contaminants and natural toxins;
- scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, in particular, relevant publications within the last ten years, or proven experience in delivering scientific opinions on food safety/risk assessments at national, regional or international level; and
- participation in national or international scientific bodies, committees, etc., pertinent to the above disciplines and described tasks.

Criteria and process for selection of experts

The criteria for the selection of experts are the basic and essential qualifications together with the proven competence and expertise in the various areas of risk assessment of the different types of chemical substances in food as described above. The *curriculum vitae* of the applicants will be reviewed on the basis of the criteria listed above by a selection panel of three or more individuals including at least one independent, internationally recognised expert appointed by FAO. The purpose of the panel review is to determine whether the applicants meet all the essential requirements. The highly qualified individuals selected from the applicants will be used by FAO to invite experts to JECFA meetings and/or expert consultations.

In selecting experts FAO will consider, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarities of scientific backgrounds, representation from all geographic regions including developing and developed countries as well as gender.

Appointment of experts

The Basic Texts of the Organization (GRO XXXVI) require experts to be “selected in their individual capacity on the basis of their expert knowledge to give advice on specific topics..”. The term "personal capacity" means that the expert is expressly expected to serve in his/her capacity as an independent expert rather than a representative of his or her employer. The views of the independent expert would not necessarily be reflective of any views and positions of his or her employer. The experts designated to participate in such meetings will not receive any remuneration, however, travel costs, subsistence allowance and other related expenses will be the exclusive responsibility of FAO.

Application

Interested applicants should submit (please see contact details below) their *curriculum vitae* including a description of their education, work experience including reference to two persons with knowledge of the professional qualifications and a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to the factors indicated above. No reprints should be included in your submission unless specifically requested by FAO at a later date. Applicants must have a good working knowledge of English as meetings and correspondence will be in English only and translation service is not provided. In addition, the experts should be able to prepare documents and spreadsheets in electronic format and be able to work in an international environment with scientists from various disciplines.

Before participating in meetings, invited experts will be required to declare any potential interests associated with the substances that will be evaluated through completion of a standard form adopted by FAO. They will be asked to indicate in writing any potential conflict of interest on their part or their spouse that may affect their scientific independence as experts including one or more of the following conditions: employment (past or present) by any commercial enterprise or private or civil sector association; a recipient of research or other study grants from such enterprises or associations; or shareholdings in commercial enterprises active in fields related to food safety. In addition, a confidentiality undertaking is also to be signed to ensure proper handling of dossiers and proprietary information. These declarations will be retained by the Joint Secretariat. Names of individuals selected for the roster will be posted on the FAO and WHO web sites, including their affiliation.

Deadline

In order to be considered for the expert roster 2017-2022, applications, indicating the main area of expertise for the application, should be sent electronically or post-marked by **30 October 2016** to

the address below. Applications received after that date will be evaluated following the same procedure as described above and added to the roster on an individual basis.

Dr. Markus Lipp
FAO Secretary to JECFA
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00189 Rome Italy
Email: jecfa@fao.org
Tel: +39 06 57053283
Fax: +39 06 57054593