



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety

**Rome, Italy
8 to 12 October 2007**

Call for experts and call for data

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted the Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004)¹ in 2004². Whereas several members considered that the work of the Codex *Ad Hoc* Task Force on Animal Feeding was complete and that countries should be given time to implement the Codex Code of Good Animal Feeding before embarking on new work in this area, several other members called for further work particularly in the area of specific standards relating to animal feed as opposed to human food. In particular, they called for good practices in minimizing undesirable substances and maximum limits, where appropriate, to be established with respect to animal feed for mycotoxins, heavy metals and for residues of antibiotics and of pesticides.

It may be added that several other Codex standards, relating to hygiene, labelling, inspection and certification need to be adapted to animal feeds, as well as general risk assessment and risk management procedures such as HACCP and the development of detailed rules dealing with feed contamination emergency situations.

The CAC decided in 2006³ that consideration of future work on animal feeding should be deferred until 2008 in order to allow more time to study the need for new work. The Commission further agreed that a Circular Letter should be sent to ask for proposals for future work in Codex and information on national experience on implementation to allow further consideration of the issues at its 31st session in 2008.

¹ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/standards/10080/CXC_054_2004e.pdf

² http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/621/al04_41e.pdf.

³ http://www.codexalimentarius.net/download/report/662/al29_41e.pdf.

FAO and WHO have therefore considered appropriate to call for an Expert Meeting to review the current knowledge on animal feed and its impact on food safety, and provide some orientation advice on this matter to Member Countries and to international organizations.

Objectives of the expert meeting

Within the overall aim of securing food safety and ensuring fair trade practices in the food trade, the objectives of the meeting are:

1. to review the current state of knowledge on animal feed, its impact on public health and on international trade;
2. to analyze the current situation of international standards addressing animal feed;
3. to identify relevant areas for the development of specific standards for animal feed, on the basis of scientific evidence relevant to ensure the safety of foods of animal origin and fair practices in international trade; and
4. to provide guidance on further action required at international level to address them in the most appropriate way and recommend specific activities needed.

Call for experts

(Deadline for submission: not later than 30 July 2007)

FAO/WHO are seeking candidates to participate in this meeting. The Call will request experts in the following areas:

- Composition, production, storage, use and trade feed practices
- Chemical and microbiological hazards in animal feed and feed ingredients related to public health
- Pesticide use and secondary residues in animal feeds and foods of animal origin
- Veterinary drug use and residues in animal feeds and public health consequences
- Risk Management including GMP and HACCP in the feed industry
- Standards for labelling and traceability in the international grain and feed trade
- Methods of sampling and analysis used in the animal feed industry at national and international level
- Risk assessment and control of animal feed.

The selected candidates may either be invited to participate physically in the expert meeting and/or contribute to the preparation or the review of background papers as members of the drafting/review group.

The expert meeting will be held in English and all meeting documentation and correspondence will be in English.

Applicants are kindly requested to submit their curriculum vitae including a description of their work experience and if applicable a list of peer-reviewed publications, particularly those related to

the subject of the Expert meeting. Applications should be sent, by email or by regular mail, to the contact persons indicated at the end of this document, postmarked **not later than 30 July 2007**.

Applicants should clearly mention for which activity(ies) they would like to be considered, i.e. Member of the Expert Meeting; Member of the Drafting Group; Member of the Review Team.

Selection of experts

FAO and WHO have developed procedures for selecting and designating experts that assure transparency, excellence and independence of the opinion expressed. In selecting experts, FAO and WHO will consider, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarity of backgrounds and balanced representation from geographic regions and gender as well as representation of the various stakeholders in the feed and food chain.

Selection process

All submitted applications shall be reviewed by a panel composed of one technical officer from each of the sponsoring agencies (FAO and WHO) and at least one independent, internationally recognized expert agreed by FAO and WHO. The purpose of the panel's review is to determine whether the applicants meet the following essential criteria:

Selection criteria

- Advanced university degree and professional experience in the areas indicated above (see under Call for Experts);
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals in areas related to the subject of the Expert Meeting and/or practical experience in these topics;
- Leadership of or invited presentations in national or international scientific committees pertinent to the subjects described above;
- Working knowledge of the English language.

Appointment of experts

FAO and WHO will appoint experts from the pool of qualified applicants to participate in the expert meeting and/or to be member of the drafting/review group. Applicants will be informed of the final decision.

Call for data and information

(Deadline for submission: not later than 30 July 2007)

To ensure that the expert meeting has at its disposal all available and relevant information FAO and WHO invite all interested parties to provide to the two organizations any relevant information/data and particularly information that may not be readily available in the public domain.

Data on the following subjects are therefore needed:

- Type of feed products:
 - Composition; function and use
 - Production, storage, use and trade feed practices (including GMP and HACCP)
 - Labelling and traceability
 - Methods of sampling and analysis in the animal feed industry and national food monitoring and control systems (indicate purpose, quality assurance system used).

- Problems associated to human health:

In order to establish the contaminants/feed combinations of particular concern, data are specifically required in the following areas:

 - Type and incidence of public health problems associated to animal feed
 - Frequency and level of contamination
 - Sources and routes of contamination
 - Details and outputs of monitoring programs
 - Impact of the environment on occurrence of contaminants in animal feed
 - Impact of conditions during food processing/preparation or characteristics of the feed in the growing or survival of contaminants.

- Risk assessments implemented in this field
 - Feed type and hazard combination
 - Methodology to assess the risk/uncertainties

- Risk Management:
 - Policies, strategies and systems to control the impact of animal feed on food safety, scientific basis for its use.
 - Legislation
 - Prevention and control of hazards associated with public health
 - Principles and guidelines for animal feed import and export inspection and certification including parameters to estimate equivalency
 - Systems for exchange of information between countries on rejections of imported animal feed
 - Feed control on emergency situations.

Important notes:

- a) It is important to gain an understanding as to whether there are differences in the impact of animal feed on food safety in different parts of the world as well as possible differences in the sources of contamination. Therefore, we are seeking the aforementioned data from all countries and regions
- b) FAO and WHO are requesting governments, interested organizations, academia, laboratories and individuals to submit any available data on the specific areas indicated above. This data may be published or unpublished. Reference should be made to related published studies, where applicable.
- c) Confidential and/or unpublished information: FAO and WHO recognize that some of information and relevant data which is now required may be unpublished or of a confidential nature. With regard to unpublished information and data, this remains the property of the author for subsequent publication by the owner as original material. Unpublished confidential studies that are submitted will be safeguarded in so far as it is possible to do so without compromising the work of FAO and WHO. Specific issues relating to confidentiality should be discussed directly between the information and data owners and FAO/WHO. For these and other issues please contact FAO and WHO at the contacts provided below.

Please submit applications, data and relevant information (electronic and / or hard copies) to either of the following contact persons, not later than 30 July 2007.

Contact persons:

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