



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

## **FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on fats and fatty acids in human nutrition**

### **Call for Experts**

**Deadline for applications: 22 February 2008**

#### **Background**

FAO and WHO are planning to hold an expert consultation on fats and fatty acids in human nutrition in the last quarter of 2008. The first expert consultation on Fats and Oils in Human Nutrition was held in 1977. A second expert consultation on the subject was held in 1993, with the subsequent report of the consultation being published in 1994. There have been many developments in the field in the intervening fourteen years, and the 1994 report and recommendations need to be critically reviewed and updated where necessary.

The primary purpose of all expert meetings is to advise the Directors-General of FAO and WHO on scientific issues related to the topic and to update the scientific body of evidence for establishing requirements for individual nutrients. Governments and other organizations routinely rely on these reports to plan, monitor and evaluate health and nutrition programmes and policies. The recommendations have implications not only for health and nutrition, but also for agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

The main purpose of the expert consultation will be to review the scientific data in order to update human nutrient intake values for fat and fatty acids and provide internationally valid recommendations.

The specific objectives of the expert consultation are to:

- Review the scientific evidence to determine, based on a set of agreed upon criterion, nutrient requirements for total fat and fatty acids for different life stages (infants, children, adolescents, adults, elderly and during pregnancy and lactation)
- Assess the risk to adequate growth, development and maintenance of health of insufficient intake of total fat and fatty acids
- Assess the risks and health effects of excessive intakes of fat and fatty acids, in particular, total fats, saturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids
- Assess the risks and benefits associated with particular aspects of dietary fat and provide recommendations based on a review of this body of scientific evidence

**Venue:** Rome, Italy

**Date:** October 2008

#### **Expertise required**

FAO/WHO are seeking experts in one or more of the following areas:

- Assessment of criteria for establishing nutrient requirements for fat and fatty acids;
- Evaluation of epidemiological data related to risk and benefits of insufficient and excessive fat and fatty acid intake in different life stages;

- Evaluation of the risks and benefits to adequate growth, development and maintenance of health based on results from clinical, experimental and genomic studies;
- Methods of chemical analysis of fats, fatty acids and other lipids
- Aspects of fat digestion and metabolism throughout the human lifecycle
- Manufacturing, processing and regulatory aspects related to fats and fatty acids

### **Application**

Interested applicants should complete the application form and the declaration of interests form, and submit these forms with their *curriculum vitae* including a description of their education, work experience and references to two persons with knowledge of their professional qualifications, along with a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to fats and fatty acids. Do not submit copies of your publications with your application; you may be requested to do so at a later date, but you will be contacted specifically about this matter.

### **Deadline:**

***In order to be considered for this consultation applications must be submitted before 22 February 2008.*** Please submit your application by **email**, with the Subject heading **Expert Consultation on Fats and Fatty acids**, to this address: [nutrition@fao.org](mailto:nutrition@fao.org)

Should e-mail not be possible, please mail your application to:

Dr Barbara Burlingame  
 Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00189 Rome Italy

### **Process for selection of experts**

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of individuals (one from FAO, one from WHO and one to two independent, internationally recognized experts agreed by both FAO and WHO) to determine whether applicants meet the following criteria:

- Significant scientific focus on fat and fatty acids in human nutrition;
- Have scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals in the specified areas listed above;
- Experience with establishing national or international nutrient requirements and/or participation in national or international scientific bodies, committees, and other expert advisory bodies pertinent to establishment of nutrient requirements and/or role of fat and fatty acids in human nutrition is desirable;
- Ability to participate in group discussions;
- Ability to draft clear and concise reports.

The meeting and all related correspondence will be in English. Applicants should have a good working knowledge and the ability to write in English.

All applicants meeting these criteria will be considered in the selection of experts for the consultation.

In doing so FAO/WHO will consider the following:

- Diversity of experience and scientific background
- Conflicts of interest
- Representation from different geographic and economic regions and gender balance

### **Appointment of Experts**

FAO and WHO place great value on the technical qualification and independence of the participating experts as well as to the transparency of its selection process. Both organisations have developed well-defined procedures for selecting experts that promote the excellence and independence of opinions provided.

The experts shall be selected to participate in the expert consultation in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their country or of the institution for which they may be employed.

The experts designated to participate in the expert consultation will not receive any remuneration; however, travel costs, subsistence allowance and other related expenses will be covered by FAO and WHO.

Names of selected individuals will be listed in documents of the expert consultation.

As an expert consultation convened at FAO, the rules and regulations of FAO related to expert consultations will apply.

### **Time Commitment**

Experts should plan to devote approximately one month of time to the expert consultation. This may be divided between preparatory work and review of background papers and other documentation, attendance of the expert consultation, which will be convened for an estimated period of 5-10 days and review, rewrite and approval of the final report.

### **Contact Information**

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