

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

13th Session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 29 April – 3 May 2019

PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA

Comments submitted by Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, United States of America

Australia

Australia would like to respond to the request for comments on contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants already included in the priority list (Annex 1 of the circular letter 2019/11-CF).

Australia has the following comments to make on ciguatoxins:

- Ciguatoxins should remain part of this priority list.
- SafeFish has established a national working group on ciguatoxins in Australia. This group has collated and submitted available Australian data to the FAO/WHO following the recent JECFA call for information and data on ciguatera fish poisoning.
- An Australian meeting on ciguatera fish poisoning was coordinated by SafeFish on 27 and 28 March 2019. The aim of the meeting was focused on coordinating a national approach to improving management of ciguatera fish poisoning. The meeting participants included members of the national working group, seafood industry representatives, public health agencies, food safety regulators, research scientists and invited international experts (Dr Mireille Chinain and Dr Clémence Gatti – French Polynesia, Alison Robertson - USA and Dr Tim Harwood – New Zealand). The priorities and future directions identified from this meeting will be included a report that will be submitted to the FAO/WHO.
- Risk management of ciguatoxins is complex. The implementation of maximum limits for ciguatoxins in seafood is highly dependent on improving testing capabilities. While there have been some advances in research, standardised and efficient routine testing capabilities are not currently available.

Canada

Canada would like to indicate its agreement and support for the current list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants recommended for evaluation by JECFA. In addition, as well as being able to provide occurrence data for ergot alkaloids, Canada also has available data on the fate of ergot alkaloids during processing of raw cereal grains.

Costa Rica

Costa Rica agradece la oportunidad de emitir comentarios. En ese sentido, quisiera plantear la siguiente propuesta:

Anexo I	Contaminantes y sustancias tóxicas naturalmente presentes	Propuesta	Disponibilidad de datos (cuándo, qué)
LISTA DE PRIORIDADES DE CONTAMINANTES Y SUSTANCIAS TÓXICAS NATURALES PARA SU EVALUACIÓN POR EL JECFA	Arsénico inorgánico	Arsénico total (orgánico e inorgánico) Costa Rica propone que el estudio considere evaluar, además del arsénico inorgánico, el arsénico orgánico en productos de origen animal: pesqueros y de origen terrestre. Justificación: Es fundamental establecer niveles máximos de referencia que permitan tomar medidas sanitarias cuando corresponda.	Costa Rica, puede obtener datos de Arsénico total para finales de 2020, los cuales podría contribuir en la evidencia que se requiere para este estudio. Cabe mencionar que, de ser necesario, Costa Rica estaría presentando el formulario que figura en el Anexo II en el 2020.
	Tricotecenos-T2	Costa Rica, puede aportar datos de presencia de Tricotecenos-T2 en frijol, arroz, maní y maíz.	A partir de julio de 2019.

United States

The updates pertain to inorganic arsenic and include the following:

- The United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) published results of a pilot neurodevelopmental study in rats that assesses impact of inorganic arsenic on rodent behavior (Moore et al. 2019). Results from a follow-up study are expected in 2020.
- The U.S. FDA published four toxicokinetic studies that examine metabolism and disposition of inorganic arsenic and its metabolites in mice, across various life stages, to support dose-response assessment (Twaddle et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2018c; Twaddle et al. 2019).
- The U.S. FDA published results of a developmental toxicity test in *C. elegans* exposed to inorganic arsenic (Hunt et al. 2018). A 20-compound validation study to determine the utility of this test for predictive toxicology is expected to be completed in 2020.
- We have also been alerted to the following report commissioned by a U.S. stakeholder: Abt Associates, Effects of Inorganic Arsenic in Infant Rice Cereal on Children's Neurodevelopment (Abt Associates 2017). This report estimates IQ loss associated with increased inorganic arsenic exposure.

REFERENCES

Abt Associates. 2017. Effects of inorganic arsenic in infant rice cereal on children's neurodevelopment.

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https://www.abtassociates.com/sites/default/files/files/Insights/2017_Effects-of-Inorganic-Arsenic-in-Infant-Rice-Cereal-on-Children-s-Neurodevelopment.pdf.

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Moore, C.L., T.J. Flanigan, C.D. Law, L. Loukotková, K.A. Woodling, G. Gamboa da Costa, S.C. Fitzpatrick, S.A. Ferguson. 2019. Developmental neurotoxicity of inorganic arsenic exposure in Sprague-Dawley rats. Neurotoxicology and Teratology. 72:49-57.

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