

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

### Eleventh Session

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, 3-7 April 2017

### SIDE EVENT ON RADIONUCLIDES IN FOOD: – STANDARDS, NEW NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Date: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 During Lunch Break

#### Background

Most consumers are not aware that all foods contain radioactive substances to some degree. These radioactive substances are generally referred to as 'radionuclides' and may be natural or man-made in origin. A system of radiological protection is used world-wide to protect people from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. It is supported by internationally agreed safety standards. However, it isn't always clear where and how food is covered in international standards.

#### Relevance to CCCF

The General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995) contains the main principles for dealing with radionuclides in foods destined for human consumption and traded internationally, which have been contaminated following a nuclear or radiological emergency. However, there is less consensus on the approach to the control of food containing radionuclides of natural origin, or when food is not traded internationally.

#### Who should attend?

Delegates who are involved in food controls, and all those interested in radioactivity in food, the criteria in international standards and continuing developments in this area. Those who would like to know more and those who would like to share their experiences are also welcome.

#### Programme

- Report of the International Workshop on Post-Accident Food Safety Science; Japan, Nov 2016. (Ted Lazo OECD/NEA)
- Radiation Safety Standards and Food (Tony Colgan, IAEA);
- Joint FAO/IAEA/WHO Criteria for Radionuclide Concentrations in Food (Carl Blackburn, Joint FAO/IAEA)
- Q&A and Discussion Session (all)

#### Presenters:

**Ted Lazo**, Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

**Tony Colgan**, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

**Carl Blackburn**, Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture.