



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

**Twelfth Session
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12 – 16 March 2018**

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (INCLUDING JECFA)

1. This document provides information on FAO and WHO activities in the area of provision of scientific advice to Codex and Member countries, as well as other activities, which are of interest to the Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

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

2. Since the last session of CCCF (March 2017), two JECFA meetings (i.e. JECFA 84th and 85th) have been convened. These meeting addressed food additives (JECFA84), and residue of veterinary drugs in foods (JECFA85). The summary reports of these meetings have been published and full reports and detailed monographs from these meetings are/will be available at the relevant FAO and WHO sites:

FAO: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/jecfa/en/

WHO: www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/jecfa/en/

3. Future meetings:

The 86th meeting of JECFA will be held on 12-21 June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting is dedicated to the evaluation of a number of food additives. In order to timely address the request made at the 11th session of CCCF, FAO and WHO are planning for an expert meeting dedicated to the assessment of Ciguatoxins. Subject to the availability of funds, this expert meeting will be held in the fourth quarter of 2018 (date and venue to be confirmed).

The call for data and draft agenda for the 86th JECFA are available, the calls for data and for experts for the meeting on Ciguatoxins will be made available in time on the respective FAO and WHO websites:

FAO: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en/

WHO: <http://www.who.int/entity/foodsafety/call-data-expert/en/index.html>

Requests for scientific advice

4. Both organizations continue to jointly prioritise the requests for scientific advice taking into consideration the criteria proposed by Codex as well as the requests for advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources.
5. In scheduling the JECFA meetings and developing the agenda, the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat has to take into account the priorities requested by the Committees on Food Additives, Contaminants in Foods and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods. Due to the increasing requests for scientific advice to JECFA, not all requests can be addressed in the subsequent meeting.
6. To facilitate provision of extra-budgetary resources for scientific advice activities, please contact Dr Markus Lipp, FAO Food Safety and Quality Unit (jecfa@fao.org) and Dr Angelika Tritscher, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, WHO (jecfa@who.int).

GEMS/Food programme

Global Food Consumption Databases and ongoing activities to support countries to generate and to use data for risk analysis purposes

7. Reliable information on food consumption, collected at individual level, is needed to estimate dietary exposure to chemicals and biological agents in the general population and in vulnerable population groups. To address the issue of insufficient access to such data, FAO and WHO have continued the work on the two following tools (initiated in 2014), to develop global food consumption databases.

- CIFOCCOs (FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption Data summary statistics) has been further implemented with data from additional countries and available summary statistics are published at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>
 - FAO/WHO GIFT (FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool) is the name given to the comprehensive database collating individual quantitative food consumption data for the production of food-based indicators in the field of nutrition, dietary exposure and environmental impact. The dissemination platform was developed based on four datasets. The food categorization system is FoodEx2; it was developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and was implemented for use at global level. FAO/WHO GIFT also provides an up-to-date inventory of individual quantitative food consumption surveys conducted and ongoing in low- and middle-income countries, with detailed information on identified studies. The platform is available at <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>
8. As part of the ongoing efforts to build national capacity and to populate these databases, a study to improve and harmonize food consumption data in ASEAN countries will be conducted over 2 years starting in May 2016. The project, funded by the EU through the Codex Trust Fund, and technically supported by FAO and WHO, consists of: i) conducting individual food consumption survey in Lao PDR and ii) harmonizing existing data from individual food consumption data in other ASEAN countries in a consistent format. This harmonization activity will consist of:
- Training national teams to perform preliminary categorizing based on the classification of foods using the global categorization system (FoodEx2) developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA);
 - The preparation of data in the format needed (variable types, standard codifications, etc.); and
9. The ultimate aim is to improve the assessment of nutrient intake and dietary exposure to chemical and biological agents in food (supporting national and international Codex standard-setting).

Risk Assessment Methods and Principles

10. In addition to the scientific advice requested directly, the FAO/WHO Secretariats are working to update risk assessment methodologies, taking into account recommendations from expert meetings and the latest scientific developments. This is critical to assure that the scientific advice provided is based on up-to-date methodology and scientific knowledge.

In this context, several activities are planned or are under way, to address the following areas:

Chemical risk assessment methodology

- Harmonization of chronic dietary exposure assessment for different food chemicals and combined exposure from dual uses compounds (pesticides and veterinary drugs)
- Threshold of toxicological concern principle and application to the evaluation of flavourings
- Guidance on the evaluation and interpretation of genotoxicity tests
- Update of guidance on dose-response modelling including application of benchmark dose modelling.