

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 16

ALINORM 07/30/9G

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirtieth Session
FAO Headquarters, Rome, 2-7 July 2007

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO **Prepared by FAO and WHO**

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N.B. This paper does not include information on capacity building activities carried out by FAO and WHO. Such information is provided in a separate paper (ALINORM 07/30/9G–Add.1).

NOTE: In an effort to improve dissemination of information, the webpage of the Food Quality and Standards Service (AGNS) is currently being upgraded. We expect the new webpage to be published in early May 2007, at which time the weblinks in this paper will be re-directed to the new website. Please ensure that you keep the new website address in your records in due course

PART I: OUTCOMES OF RECENT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS

The scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO through JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and *ad hoc* expert meetings remains a high priority for FAO and WHO and continues to cover the broad range of relevant issues.

The results of meetings held since the 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are summarized below.

Summary of scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO from May 2006 to April 2007

<p>Activity</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>Outputs</p>	<p>67TH Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives (JECFA) (Rome, 20–29 June, 2006)</p> <p>Dedicated to the evaluation of the safety of food additives and contaminants, this session evaluated 17 food additives, 12 of them for specifications only, and 4 contaminants</p> <p>JECFA recommended changes to existing ADIs and/or established new or temporary ADIs or gave other toxicological recommendations for food additives and ingredients. They included annatto extracts, lycopene (synthetic), lycopene form <i>Blakeslea trispora</i>, natamycin (aka pimaricin), propyl paraben, acetylated oxidised starch, annatto extracts (oil processed bixin), butyl p-hydroxybenzoate (butyl paraben), carob bean gum, carob bean gum (clarified), ethylene oxide, guar gum, guar gum (clarified), DL-Malic acid and its calcium and sodium salts, maltitol, titanium dioxide, zeaxanthin (synthetic). These results were presented to the 39th session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The conclusion of the JECFA evaluations on the contaminants aluminium, 3-chloro-1,2-propanediol (3-MCPD), 1,3-dichloro-2-propanol (DCP) and methylmercury were presented to the 1st session of the Codex Committee for Contaminants in Food. The overall conclusions were also presented to the WHO Executive Board meeting 121.</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions are available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/jecfa67_final.pdf</p> <p>The report is available at: http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jecfa/reports/trs940.pdf</p> <p>Specifications and toxicological monographs are in preparation.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>Outputs</p>	<p>FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Consultation on Antimicrobial Use in Aquaculture and Antimicrobial Resistance, (Seoul, Republic of Korea. 13-16 June 2006)</p> <p>To assess the patterns of use of antimicrobials in aquaculture - in terms of quantities and classes of antimicrobials - as well as the public health risk associated to such a use, and to propose management strategies to minimize the risk.</p> <p>The meeting report is available at: http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/en/</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>Purpose</p> <p>Outputs</p>	<p>Joint FAO/WHO meeting on Enterohaemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i> (EHEC) in raw meat and meat products: approaches for the provision of scientific advice (Dublin, Ireland, 4–7 September 2006)</p> <p>To provide guidance to FAO, WHO, member countries and Codex on approaches for the provision of scientific advice to enhance risk management to address the ongoing public health problem of EHEC, the impact of this pathogen on meat trade and facilitate decision making by Codex on the need for a risk assessment on this issue.</p> <p>A review of existing risk assessments and their application, a summary of key risk management issues and proposed approaches for risk assessment and the provision of scientific advice on this issue.</p> <p>The meeting report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/ecoli_en.stm and at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/2005/en</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p>Purpose</p>	<p>Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group (JMPR) (Rome, Italy, 3–12 October 2006)</p> <p>On-going programme on the risk assessment of pesticides residues in food, feed and drinking water and the identification of maximum residue levels when used according to good agricultural practice.</p>

Outputs	<p>The Joint Meeting assessed 30 pesticides, as requested by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, and by the WHO drinking water guidelines programme. The outcome was presented and discussed at the 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food. The pesticides assessed were acephate, aldicarb, aminopyralid, bifentazate, boscalid, chlorpyrifos, cyfluthrin and beta-cyfluthrin, cypermethrins (including alpha- and zeta-cypermethrin, cyromazine, diazinon, dimethoate, disulfoton, endosulfan, fenamiphos, fenpropathrin, fludioxonil, haloxyfop, imidacloprid, methoxyfenozide, primicarb, pirimiphos-methyl, propoamocarb, proparfite, propiconazole, pyraclostrobin, quinoxifen, temephos, thiabendazole, thiacloprid, thiophanate-methyl.</p> <p>The meeting report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/JMPR/JMPRreports.htm</p>
Activity	FAO/WHO Technical meeting on the Development of criteria for acceptable previous cargoes for fats and oils (Bilthoven, the Netherlands, 7–9 November 2006)
Purpose	To respond to a request from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), to convene a technical meeting, to establish criteria for substances to be included in the Codex List of Acceptable Previous Cargoes.
Outputs	<p>A set of four criteria were developed for consideration by CCFO in determining acceptable previous cargoes for edible fats and oils transported as bulk liquids. The supporting justification for the derivation of these criteria is documented in the report. The output of the meeting was presented to the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils.</p> <p>The final report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_criteria_en.stm</p>
Activity	Workshop on re-examination of performance objectives as related to quantitative microbiological risk assessment, RIVM, Bilthoven, the Netherlands (27 November–1 December 2006)
Purpose	The workshop was a follow-up to the FAO/WHO meeting on “The Use of Microbiological Risk Assessment Outputs to Develop Practical Risk Management Strategies: Metrics to Improve Food Safety” held in Kiel, Germany (3-7 April 2006) which recommended that further work be carried out on the use of quantitative microbiological risk assessment in the development of “targets” at various points along the food chain to determine what is technically feasible.
Outputs	<p>The workshop identified several options that may allow risk managers to evaluate the performance of a food safety system at a specified step and these identified approaches are being further developed based on existing risk assessments.</p> <p>The workshop report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/index_en.stm and at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/2005/en</p>
Activity	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Safety Assessment of Food Derived from recombinant-DNA Animals (Geneva, Switzerland 26 February-2 March 2007)
Purpose	To provide scientific advice on two sets of questions regarding: i) marker and reporter genes; and ii) non-heritable applications as specifically requested by the Codex <i>Ad Hoc</i> Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology had specifically requested advice on these questions. This Consultation built upon the conclusions and recommendations from a joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Genetically Modified Animals, including Fish (FAO/WHO 2004).
Outputs	The final report will be published and distributed widely. In particular, it will be made available to the 7 th Session of the Codex Task Force, which will take it into consideration in their ongoing work on this issue.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information described above and provide comments about the usefulness of the advice provided through these meetings. FAO and WHO would like to thank all those who supported the programme of work to provide the above mentioned scientific advice and in particular the various subject experts from around the world.

Other activities related to the provision of scientific advice

In addition to the above FAO and WHO are continuously working on a range of activities which support, expand on and follow-up on specific expert meetings. Such activities include:

JECFA expert rosters 2007–2011: In response to the call for chemical/technical and exposure experts issued by FAO and WHO in 2006, the JECFA Secretariat has received and examined over 60 applications for the fields of expertise in chemistry and analysis of food additives and contaminants. The composition of the roster will be communicated on the JECFA website, once a final decision has been taken.

Total Diet Studies: The World Health Organization (WHO), through its Global Environment Monitoring System - Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme (GEMS/Food), has encouraged countries to undertake total diet studies as the most cost-effective approach for assessing chemical contaminants in diet. In this regard, a series of workshops have been implemented, the most recent being the Fourth International Workshop on Total Diet Studies in Beijing from 23 to 27 October 2006 implemented by WHO, in collaboration with the Institute for Nutrition and Food Safety of the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). A TDS Training Course for qualified persons from developing countries was held 16 to 20 October 2006. More details on the workshop are available at:

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/TDS_Beijing_2006_en.pdf

GEMS/Food maintains various databases to allow the assessment of exposure to chemicals in food, including databases on chemicals in specific foods and the total diet. With regard to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which came into force in May 2004, GEMS/Food in cooperation with UNEP has revised its guidelines for developing a national protocol to assess levels of POPs in human milks. More details on GEMS/Food, including the revised guidelines are available at :

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem./gems/en/index.html>.

Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment. The Joint JECFA/JMPR project to update its risk assessment methods had now developed a draft document on updated principles and methods of risk assessment for chemicals in foods to replace EHC 70 and 104. Following a final consultation process (public and peer-review) this project is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

JEMRA publications: In the Microbiological Risk Assessment Series: Volume 8 (Risk assessment of *Vibrio vulnificus* in raw oysters), Volume 9 (Risk assessment of choleraenic *Vibrio cholerae* O1 and O139 in warm water shrimp in international trade) and Volume 10 (*Enterobacter sakazakii* and *Salmonella* in powdered infant formula) have recently been published. For more information please see http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/index_en.stm or:

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/assessment/en/index.html>

The report of the FAO/WHO meeting on the Benefits and Potential Risks of the Lactoperoxidase System of Raw Milk Preservation has been published. For more information please see: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_lacto_en.stm

As follow-up to its risk assessment work on pathogens in powdered infant formula JEMRA has developed a web-based model for risk assessment of *Enterobacter sakazakii* in powdered infant formula. This includes a user-friendly interface which allows risk managers to directly use the risk assessment to evaluate potential management interventions.

WHO in collaboration with FAO have developed guidelines for the safe preparation, storage and handling of powdered infant formula. These were developed in response to a request from the World Health Assembly and were based on the outcome of the risk assessment work undertaken by JEMRA. The guidelines are available at : <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/micro/pif2007/en>

JECFA Publications:

<http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jecfa/en/>

http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/works_en.stm

Report of the 66th JECFA - Evaluation of certain veterinary drug residues in food. WHO TRS 939, WHO 2006.

Toxicological monographs of the 65th JECFA meeting: Safety evaluation of certain food additives. WHO Food Additives Series No. 56, 2006.

Toxicological monographs of the 66th JECFA - Toxicological evaluation of certain veterinary drug residues in food. WHO FAS 57, 2006.

Report of the 67th JECFA - Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants in food. WHO TRS 940, WHO 2006.

[Compendium of food additive specifications](#), sixty-seventh meeting. FAO JECFA Monographs 3, 2006

[Residue evaluation of certain veterinary drugs](#), sixty-sixth meeting. FAO JECFA Monographs 2, 2006

JMPR Publications:

<http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jmpr/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/Default.htm>

Toxicological monographs of the 2005 JMPR: Pesticide residues in food – 2005 Evaluations 2005, Part II – Toxicological, 2006.

Report of the 2006 JMPR: Pesticide residues in food 2006 – Report 2006. Evaluations Part I- Residues 2005 and 2006.

Forthcoming meetings

FAO and WHO in collaboration with RIVM (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) and VWA (Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority) in the Netherlands will implement an expert meeting on 21-24 May 2007¹ to review the current state of knowledge on **viruses in food** and their public health and trade impact. The objective is to provide advice and guidance to the CCFH on the virus: commodity combinations of particular concern, the issues that need to be addressed by risk managers and the options available to them. Additional background information is available at:

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/virus/en/index.html> or:

http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/viruses_en.stm

The 68th JECFA¹ will be convened from 19–28 June 2007 in Rome to evaluate and re-evaluate the safety of a number of **food additives and contaminants**. The call for data and details of the substances to be evaluated is available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/whatisnew_en.stm.

FAO, WHO and OIE will organize from 17 to 21 September 2007 in Rome, Italy a joint expert meeting on **critically Important antimicrobials**. The objectives of the meeting will be to consider the two lists of critically important antimicrobials developed by WHO and OIE and while allowing the necessary balance to

¹ The present document was prepared before these meetings were implemented, hence the lack of information on their outcome.

be struck between animal health needs and public health considerations, to define, where feasible, current and potential risks to public health from the use in animals of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine, to identify the combination: human-pathogen-antimicrobial use and animal species - that could be considered by risk managers as the priority combinations in terms of risk-benefit assessment for future consideration and to review current management strategies and options for maintaining the efficacy of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals. FAO, WHO and OIE are currently seeking experts and data to facilitate the implementation of the meeting. More information available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_antimicrobial_en.stm

The 2007 JMPR will be convened 18-27 September 2007 to evaluate the safety of 30 **pesticides**. The tentative agenda and request for data can be accessed under: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jmpr/jmpr_2007_call_final.pdf.

FAO and WHO have initiated work to address the request from the CAC to address the **safety of use of 'active chlorine' in the food industry** with the aim of holding an international expert consultation by the end of 2007. A call for data and a call for experts have been published on the FAO and WHO websites, together with a clearly defined scope of the project. Further details are available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_chlorine_en.stm and WHO: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/active_chlorine/en/index.html.

In response to the request made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 29th Session, to organize an FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the **health risks and health benefits associated with the consumption of fish and other seafood** FAO and WHO have commenced work and internal FAO and WHO working groups have been established. The request is challenging as principles and methodology for the assessment of nutritional and health benefits and risks of consumption of such an essential and broad category of food items have yet to be developed. Therefore, it has been decided to take a step-wise approach. As a first step, FAO/WHO will host a meeting with a small core group of experts, to seek their advice on the approach to be used to respond to CCFAC request and define possible next steps and the scope of the work that needs to be carried out, considering the terms of reference prepared by the CCFAC (ALINORM 06/29/12) at its 38th session. A meeting of this expert group be held in Rome on 28–30 May 2007¹. The chairs of the CCCF and CCFPP will be invited to participate at this meeting.

FAO/WHO/OIE have initiated work to implement and expert meeting on **the safety of animal feed** towards the end of 2007. This meeting will review the status of the science related to the safety aspects of animal feeding. A call for experts and data will be posted the the webpages of each of the organizations in the near future.

Direct advice to developing countries

In order to increase awareness and strengthen the possibilities for countries in South East Asia to undertake risk assessment and contribute to the international process for the provision of scientific advice FAO are supporting the development of a network on microbiological risk assessment in South East Asia.

In the Latin America and Caribbean Region, FAO in collaboration with PAHO is supporting the establishment of a database on scientific studies related to *Vibrio cholerae*, *V. vulnificus* and *V. parahaemolyticus* in seafood products in order to facilitate work on the risk assessment of these product-pathogen combinations within the Region.

PART II: REPORT OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE FAO/WHO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX AND MEMBER COUNTRIES

The final conclusions to the FAO/WHO Consultative Process on the Provision of Scientific Advice (hereinafter termed "Consultative Process") are presented below. It includes a description of the purpose, the process and activities of the consultative process, significant outcomes, and future follow-up activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations made to FAO and WHO.

Purpose of “Consultative Process”

The “Consultative Process” was initiated at the request of the 24th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in July 2001, which recommended that FAO and WHO carry out "a review of the status and procedures of the expert bodies in order to improve the quality, quantity and timeliness of scientific advice" (ALINORM 01/41, para 61). The “Consultative Process” began in earnest in 2003 when FAO and WHO reaffirmed their commitment to undertaking this consultative process at the 25th (Extraordinary) Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, February 2003 (ALINORM 03/25/5) and at the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in Rome, 30 June - 7 July 2003 (ALINORM 03/41). By which time, the results of the 'FAO/WHO evaluation of Codex Alimentarius work and other FAO and WHO work on food standards' conducted in 2002 were also available.

“Consultative Process” Activities

The “Consultative Process” was overseen and managed by a joint FAO/WHO Secretariat.

Specific activities implemented between 2003 and 2007 include:

- FAO/WHO Planning Meeting for the Consultative Process to Review the Provision of FAO/WHO Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 29–30 May 2003;
- FAO/WHO Electronic Forum to promote discussion and an exchange of views between all interested parties on the provision of scientific advice, 1 October – 14 November 2003;
- Joint FAO/WHO Workshop on the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and member countries, WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland, 27–29 January 2004;
- Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Enhancing Developing Country Participation in FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Activities, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, 12–15 December 2005.

These activities brought together a range of stakeholders involved in the scientific advice activities of FAO/WHO, including representatives from government, industry, academia and consumer groups. They included direct users of the advice as well as experts involved in the development of the scientific advice. Detailed information and reports on these activities are available at:

http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_en.asp.

Regular reporting on the progress made by FAO/WHO in undertaking the consultative review of the provision of scientific advice have been made to CAC and CCEXEC. Comments and feedback from member countries provided important guidance.

Outputs of the “Consultative Process”

The conclusions and recommendations of the “Consultative Process” have lead to three main outputs which are key to further enhance the FAO/WHO work on scientific advice by assuring independence, transparency, timeliness, efficiency, integrity, and sustainability.

a) FAO/WHO Framework on the Provision of Scientific Advice

FAO/WHO management of the overall system for the provision of scientific advice has been enhanced through the harmonization of scientific approaches and operating procedures followed by both organizations in the provision of advice requested by Codex and FAO/WHO Member Countries.

To continue strengthening the independence, transparency and quality of FAO/WHO scientific advice, the Framework was developed to document the principles, practices and procedures currently applied by FAO and WHO for the provision of scientific advice. As procedures are updated, the Framework will be revised periodically.

The Framework has been subject to public comments and the final version is now available in electronic version and hard copy in English: (http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_en.asp); French (http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_fr.asp) and Spanish (http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_es.asp). Arabic and Chinese versions will be available soon.

b) Clear identification of needs (from Codex and member countries) for FAO/WHO scientific advice and criteria for the prioritization of the requests

Based on the results and discussions of the CAC and CCEXEC, FAO and WHO produce a table annually which contains a description of the requests for scientific advice posed to FAO and WHO by Codex and by FAO/WHO Member countries (see Part III of this document).

Both organizations jointly prioritise the requests taking in consideration the criteria proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para. 75) as well as the requests of advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources.²

c) Definition of new approaches to enhance the participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of international scientific advice

The meeting, *Enhancing developing country participation in FAO/WHO scientific advice activities* provided a range of recommendations to FAO and WHO in three main areas: to continue for enhancing: greater inclusion of data from developing countries; enhancement of the potential for experts from developing countries to be selected as members and have an effective participation in these meetings; and means to enhance the enabling environment at national, regional and international levels. The meeting suggested mechanisms and processes to enable FAO/WHO and Member countries to better communicate with experts and institutions. FAO and WHO are in the process of enhancing mechanisms and exploring possible partnerships to put this into action. Possible activities may include enhancement of regional databases related to available experts, and data on priority themes, preparation of training tools/leaflets and information dissemination, technical meetings at regional level on provisions of scientific advice activities, twinning programmes.

d) Establishment of the Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA)

In an attempt to meet the growing demand for scientific advice as challenges in the fields of food safety and nutrition continue to emerge, FAO and WHO are establishing a Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA). The purpose of GIFSA is to strengthen activities at the WHO and FAO related to risk assessments and providing advice for risk reduction for chemical, microbiological and other potential health hazards in foods to Member States and to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies by ensuring the availability of adequate financial and other essential resources.

Through this initiative FAO and WHO will aim to build awareness in member countries on the provision of scientific advice, actively seek financial and in-kind contributions from member countries strengthen collaborations in order to ensure the availability of national experts to contribute to scientific meetings, facilitate the secondment of qualified experts to work directly on scientific advice issues, and submit relevant scientific data to FAO and WHO as a basis for risk assessments and scientific opinion. It is considered to be an important tool to promote the timeliness and efficiency, while ensuring the continuation of the highest level of integrity and quality.

A side event on conclusions of the consultative process will be convened by FAO and WHO during the 30th Session of CAC to which all members are invited.

² The 5th CCEXEC (ALINORM 05/28/3, para. 75) agreed the following set of criteria for the prioritization of requests from Codex for scientific advice:

- Relevance in relation to the strategic objectives and priorities as defined in the Strategic Plan;
- Clear definition of the scope and objective of the request as well as clear indication of the way in which the advice will be used in the work of Codex;
- Significance and urgency to the development or advancement of Codex texts taking into account public health and/or food trade relevance of the issue and the needs of developing countries;
- Availability of scientific knowledge and data required to conduct the risk assessment or to elaborate the scientific advice;
- High priority assigned by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

After the “Consultative Process”

FAO and WHO express their appreciation to all those who have collaborated in the consultative process and the Commission is invited to consider the outputs of the FAO/WHO Consultative process on the provision of scientific advice.

While the consultative process has been finalized, FAO and WHO will continue to strengthen joint activities within the programme, in particular to ensure adequate resources are available to meet the requests of Codex and Member countries, and to endeavour to enhance input from all regions.

Direct contribution from Codex members and observers to support GIFSA and the activities to be implemented from the fund would be highly appreciated.

PART III: STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

1. In prioritizing the requests for scientific advice to be addressed, FAO and WHO continue considering the set of criteria for the prioritisation proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para 75) as well as the requests of advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources. The attached Annex shows the requests received directly from Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies as well as meeting being planned by FAO and WHO in response to request from member countries. It presents the overall status of pending requests for scientific advice received by FAO/WHO as of **April 2007**.

PART III

STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (April 2007) ³

TABLE 1

In prioritizing the requests for scientific advice to be addressed, FAO and WHO continue considering the set of criteria for the prioritization proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para 75) as well as the requests of advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources. The table below presents the overall status of pending requests for scientific advice received by FAO/WHO as of **March 2007**.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Expected Output by Codex
1	Safety evaluation of food additives, flavouring agents and contaminants.	CCFAC	38 th Session ALINORM 06/29/12, para. 199-209 and Appendix XXXII.	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned for 68 th JECFA (Rome, Italy, 19–28 June 2007)	300, 000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate.
2	Assessment of benefits and risks of the use of “active chlorine” in food processing.	CCFAC CCFH CAC	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 108 and Appendix XV 36 th Session ALINORM 04/27/13, para. 158 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/13 paras 170–174 29 th Session requested FAO/WHO for scientific advice, ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 225.	TOR of expert consultation specified by 37 th CCFH and 37 th CCFAC. 29 th CAC supported this request asking for scientific advice accordingly.	Preparations for an expert meeting in late 2007 underway. Call for data and experts issued in March 2007.	300, 000	Recommendations regarding the safe use of active chlorine.

³ FAO and WHO express appreciation to those governments who have contributed to support FAO/WHO scientific advice activities, either through direct financial support, facilitation of meeting at national institutes, and technical input by national experts.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Expected Output by Codex
3	Risk assessment on <i>Campylobacter</i> in broilers	CCFH	34 th Session ALINORM 03/13; 35 th Session ALINORM 03/13A, paras 49-54 and para. 57 38 th Session ALINORM 07/30/13 noted that at present additional scientific advice on <i>Salmonella</i> or <i>Campylobacter</i> is not required.	Risk assessments	Final report in print and translation.	15, 000	Revision of relevant Codes of Practice and Development of guidelines for the control of <i>Campylobacter</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in broiler (young bird) chicken meat.
4	Risk assessments on <i>Vibrio spp.</i> in seafood.	CCFH	34 th Session ALINORM 03/13; 35 th Session ALINORM 03/13A, paras 49-54 and para. 57 38 th Session ALINORM 07/30/13, paras 196	Completion of the risk assessments	Risk assessment of <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> in warm water shrimp and <i>Vibrio vulnificus</i> in raw oysters completed and published. Risk assessment of <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> being peer reviewed and final printing to be completed.	15, 000	Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs.
5	Specific request on <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> in seafood.	CCFH	38 th Session, ALINORM 07/30/13, para. 213-214	Additional risk management issue to be considered when finalizing the risk assessment of <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> in seafood.	Ongoing	None required	CCFFP - Proposed Draft Standard for Live and Raw Bivalve Molluscs.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Expected Output by Codex
6	Risk assessment of enterohaemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i> .	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras. 12-20	<i>Ad hoc</i> expert meeting organized	Expert meeting held 4 – 8 September 2006, FSAI, Dublin, Ireland to assess current information available. Report in final stages.	15, 000	Management options for risk associated with enterohaemorrhagic strains of <i>Escherichia coli</i> .
7	Risk assessment of viruses in food.	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras 12-20 38 th Session 07/30/13, paras 209–212.	Implementation of meeting on Foodborne Viruses with the agreed TORs jointly with the Netherlands.	Meeting to be implemented from 21 – 25 May 2007, in RIVM, Bilthoven, the Netherlands. Call for data and experts issued.	80 000	Decision on risk management options for viruses in food.
8	Fresh produce – Control of microbial hazards.	CCFH	38 th Session ALINORM 07/30/13 paras 224–231, Appendix VI.	Request scientific advice to support future work according to the proposed TORs.	Circular Letter in preparation. Planning of a methodology to provide the advice requested is under discussion.	250, 000 Extra-budgetary resources being sought.	Development of commodity-specific annexes for the “Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables”.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Expected Output by Codex
9	Establishment of criteria for the evaluation of safety of acceptable previous cargoes (transport of fats and oils in bulk).	CCFO CAC	18 th Session ALINORM 03/17, paras 78-79. 19 th Session ALINORM 05/28/17 paras 57-61. 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/41 para. 206.	FAO/WHO to develop a proposed criteria for use by CCFO (completed).	Technical meeting held, 7–9 November 2006 in collaboration with RIVM, the Netherlands. Report presented to the 20 th Session of CCFO. Report being printed and translated.	15,000	Criteria for the elaboration of the list of acceptable previous cargoes when transporting fats and oils in bulk.
10	Evaluation of residues and toxicology of pesticides for the establishment of acceptable intake levels and of MRLs.	CCPR	38 th Session ALINORM 06/29/24, paras 54, 56, 61,81, 84, 86, 88, 90, 104, 123, 211–221 and Appendix VIII.	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues.	Next JMPR Meeting in preparation for September 2007 to evaluate 30 pesticides. Report to 40 th CCPR in 2008.	325, 000	Proposed Draft Maximum Residues for Pesticides.
11	Joint JECFA/JMPR Project Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment	Melbourne Conference CCPR	Melbourne Conference Report 35 th Session ALINORM 03/24A paras 20–31.	Develop draft document on updated principles and methods of risk assessment for chemicals in foods to replace EHC 70 and 104.	Several workshop reports are published on the web. Due to finalize in early 2008. The need for a final consultation step is dependent on identification of funds.	80, 000	None required, will be used within the scientific advice programme.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Expected Output by Codex
12	Safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals	CTFBT	5 th Session ALINORM 06/29/34.	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant DNA animals held 26 February-2 March 2007.	15, 000	Guideline for Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals
13	Risks and Benefits of consumption of fish and other seafood	38 th CCFAC, paras 191–193 CAC	29 th Session ALINORM 06/29/41, para 195.	FAO/WHO advice on the health risks and health benefits associated with the consumption of fish and other seafood	A preliminary meeting 28–30 May 2007, is being organized to agree nexts steps and scope of the work	80, 000	Develop methodology for risk and benefit assessment. Guidance document on the safe consumption of fish and seafood taking sensitive subpopulations into account.

^[1] Total costs for FAO/WHO, including publication of reports, but excluding staff costs.

TABLE 2

FAO/WHO Expert Meetings not directly requested by Codex Alimentarius

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ¹¹	Expected Output
1	Antimicrobial Resistance	Follow-up of Joint FAO/WHO/ OIE Expert Consultations on this matter	http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_antimicrobial_en.stm	Implementation of FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance from 17– 21 September 2007.	Planning of meeting in progress Call for experts and data in preparation	70, 000	Scientific Advice on critically important antimicrobials to Codex, FAO, OIE and WHO
2	Animal Feeding	FAO/WHO		FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Safety and its Impact on Food Safety.	Meeting preparations underway, tentative dates for 8–12 October 2007.	70, 000	Status of science related to safety aspects of animal feeding
3	Nanotechnology	FAO		FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Food Safety Assessment of the Use of Nanotechnology Techniques	TORs under discussion Meeting most likely to be in 2008.	70, 000 (initial step)	Scientific advice on safety assessment of nanotechnology techniques used in food production
4	Pesticide Specifications	FAO/WHO	Memorandum of understanding between FAO and WHO http://www.fao.org/AG/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/ and public health	Meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS)	Next 6 th JMPS to be held near Durban, South Africa	120, 000	FAO and WHO Specifications for pesticides to be used in agriculture and public health

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ¹¹	Expected Output
5	Food safety issues raised by recombinant-DNA vaccines	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant DNA Animals held 26 February - 2 March 2007.		Pending decision by CTFBT	To be discussed at the next CTFBT		

PART IV: OTHER MATTERS FROM FAO AND WHO***The management of food safety emergency events under the International Health Regulations (2005)***

As noted during the Twenty-ninth session of CAC, the International Health Regulations (IHR(2005)) have been revised and will include agents causing serious health risks connected to food in international trade. The revised IHR(2005) came in to effect June 2007. The International Health Regulations are an international legal instrument which binds all WHO Member States who have not expressed rejection to them, (or, subject to the procedure foreseen in the IHR, who have made reservations) and on all Non-Member States of WHO that have agreed to be bound in compliance with the IHR(2005). To date, one Member State has expressed reservations and no rejections have been expressed.

Information on the management of food safety events under IHR(2005) has been provided by way of an International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) Information Note (available on the INFOSAN web site at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan_archives/en/index.html).

Outlined in this INFOSAN Information Note is that INFOSAN will manage food safety related events which require notification under IHR(2005). Therefore, at a Member State level, it is critical that the National IHR focal point and the INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point have a close working relationship to ensure effective assessment and management of food safety emergency events with international implications.

The Commission is invited to note the information above and to undertake the following:

- a) For delegates of countries who are not yet members of INFOSAN, it is suggested that you promote INFOSAN to the relevant authority or authorities in your country.
- b) For delegates of countries who are members of INFOSAN, it is suggested that you remind your INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points and Focal Points of the need inform the INFOSAN Secretariat (infosan@who.int) of any changes in contact details.

Delegates are also reminded of the requirements under CAC/GL 19-1995, Rev.1-2004, 'Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations' with regard to the designation of an official contact point for information exchange during food safety emergency situations. INFOSAN is utilized by WHO to meet their requirements under CAC/GL 19-1995, Rev.1-2004.