



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

38th Session, CICG

Geneva, Switzerland, 6-11 July 2015

OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE 38TH SESSION (2015) OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION¹

The relationship between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Codex is particularly important because risks to human health and food safety may arise at the farm and any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Therefore, risk management must be tailored to detect and address risks at the appropriate stage(s). The OIE is responsible for setting standards in the domains of animal health and veterinary public health, including animal production food safety, to manage risks arising from the farm level through to primary processing, and the Codex from primary processing through to consumption. The standard setting activities of the OIE and the Codex for food safety and international trade are therefore interdependent, and the relevant standards produced by both organisations must be complementary.

Regular participation in each other's standard setting work improves the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum in the standards and guidelines of the two organisations. This is particularly evident in the recent work by both organisations on *Salmonella* in poultry (chicken meat), and the current work on *Trichinella*, and *Salmonella* in pigs (pork) and cattle (beef) where a whole food chain approach is being taken.

The OIE appreciates the opportunity to participate in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Committees and expert groups during the past year and contribute to its standard development process. Since the 37th CAC Session, OIE representatives have contributed to, or attended the following Codex meetings:

- 46th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (November 2014);
- 21st Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (October 2014);
- 22nd Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (April, 2015);
- CCFH electronic working group on draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* (2014/2015);
- CCFH electronic and physical working group on proposed draft Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal *Salmonella* spp. in Beef and Pork (2014/2015);
- CCFICS electronic working group on the Proposed Draft Revised Principles and Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Safety Emergency Situations (2015);
- CCFH electronic working group on the Proposed Draft Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of Foodborne Parasites (2014/2015);
- Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Risk-based Examples for Control of *Trichinella* spp. (September 2014).

Harmonisation of OIE and Codex approaches to standard setting in the food production continuum

The OIE established the Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) Working Group in 2002, with the view of improving the coordination and harmonisation of standard setting activities of the OIE and Codex. The Codex Secretary or representatives and, on an observer basis, the Chair of the Codex, regularly attend the annual meeting of the APFS Working Group. Through this mechanism and through participation in each other's standard setting procedures, the OIE and Codex collaborate closely in the development of standards

¹ This document has been prepared by and under the responsibility of OIE.

relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps, duplications and contradictions. OIE Members strongly support this collaboration.

Regular participation in each other's standard setting work has helped to improve the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum. A good example of this approach in action was the development of our respective standards on salmonellosis in poultry, which are aligned and address all recognised risks to human health and food safety in the farm to fork food production continuum.

The OIE encourages its national Delegates to coordinate their national position with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach to standards developed by the OIE and Codex (e.g. each organisation's respective texts on *Salmonella*).

Collaboration

In addition to collaboration at the international level the OIE is taking steps to support collaboration at the national level, consistent with discussions within the SPS Committee. To this end, the OIE has invited the participation of Codex representatives in seminars for OIE National Focal Points in animal production food safety. Coordination at the regional and sub-regional level is also encouraged.

The list of OIE Permanent Delegates is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/our-members/delegates/>. Contact details of OIE National Focal Points for animal production food safety and veterinary products are available on the Regional Representatives websites at: <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/wo/regional-representations/>

Another example of further strengthening of cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation at national and global levels was the recommendation from the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite annual meeting that the OIE encourage its Delegates to designate the national OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety as the INFOSAN Focal Point or, depending on national administrative arrangements, as the INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point. In response to this request the INFOSAN membership now includes OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety in more than 50 countries.

OIE work programme on animal production food safety

The OIE Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) Working Group functions as a steering committee for the OIE's work programme on standards to protect consumers from food-borne hazards arising at the production phase of the food chain. Membership includes high level experts from the FAO, WHO and CAC, and internationally recognised experts in animal production food safety from around the globe. The Working Group held its 14th meeting in October 2014. The report of this meeting is available on the OIE website at:

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Food_Safety/docs/pdf/A_APFSWG_October_2014.pdf

At the OIE 83rd General Session in May 2015, the World Assembly of Delegates unanimously adopted Resolution No. 27 on APFS work priorities of the OIE (<http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/resolutions-and-recommendations/resolutions-adopted-by-the-oie-international-committee/>)

In May 2015, new Chapter 15.3. Infection with *Taenia solium* was adopted for inclusion in the 2015 edition of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. The aim of this chapter is to reduce the risk of infection of humans and animals with *T. solium* and to minimise the international spread of *T. solium*. The chapter provides recommendations for the prevention, control and surveillance of infection with *T. solium* in pigs along with recommendations for the importation of pig meat.

The OIE, through the APFS Working Group, has recognised Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) as an important pathogen for international standard development which will require a coordinated approach by the OIE and Codex to ensure an integrated food chain approach to its control. The OIE will undertake work on STEC once Codex starts new work on this pathogen.

With reference to Codex's work in the field of biotechnology, it may be of interest to Codex to note that Chapter 1.1.6. '*Principles of veterinary vaccine production*' of the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* was revised and adopted in May 2015; the newly adopted version integrates information on benefit-risk assessment of veterinary vaccines, including biotechnology-derived vaccines, and on the safety of such vaccines.

The OIE continues to collaborate with WHO and FAO in their work on antimicrobial resistance. Since 2010, the OIE has been updating existing chapters in the *OIE Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* related to antimicrobial resistance and the use of antimicrobial agents in animals. Representatives from WHO, FAO and from the Codex secretariat attended relevant meetings to ensure consistency with the most recent work done by CAC. The updated versions of the *Terrestrial Code* chapters 6.7. 'Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes' and 6.8. 'Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food producing animals' as well as the *Terrestrial Manual*

Guideline 3.1. 'Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing' were adopted in 2012. Chapter 6.9. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine' was adopted at the General Session in May 2013. Chapter 6.10. 'Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals' was adopted in 2014.

The revised OIE List of antimicrobial agents of veterinary importance, which is published on the OIE website, was updated taking into account the WHO lists of critically important antimicrobials for human medicine, and was adopted in May 2013.

As a follow-up from the OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals, "International Solidarity to Fight against Antimicrobial Resistance", held in Paris, France, from 13 to 15 March 2013 (recommendations available at: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AMR2013/presentations.htm), an OIE *ad hoc* Group was convened to set up a global database on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, and met for the first time in January 2014. The Group developed an approach to the collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals, initially by collecting sales and import data. This approach forms part of an OIE resolution on antimicrobial resistance that was adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 83rd OIE General Session in May 2015 in support of the global efforts to curb antimicrobial resistance and the WHO-led development of a Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. The OIE closely collaborated with WHO on the development of this plan and will continue to strengthen its Tripartite collaboration on Antimicrobial Resistance with WHO and FAO.

The OIE's scientific work is supported by its worldwide network of 296 OIE Reference Centres. In the area of veterinary medicinal products, the OIE collaborates with a growing number of Reference Centres. For further information refer to: <http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/overview/>.

The OIE continues to be active in assisting Member Countries to build and implement effective legislation to assure the quality, safety and efficiency of veterinary medicinal products. The OIE is an associate Member of VICH (the International Co-operation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products). The OIE supported the formation of a VICH Outreach Forum for non-VICH countries in November 2011. Since then, this Forum has met regularly, back to back with each VICH Steering Committee meeting. In 2015, there is an opportunity for countries to learn more about the work of VICH, the role of its guidelines in the regulation of veterinary medicines and the VICH Outreach Forum at the public VICH 5 Conference that will take place in Tokyo from 27 to 29 October 2015 (see <http://vich5.com>) under the theme 'Reaching out to the world'.

SPS Capacity Building for OIE Members

The OIE PVS Pathway

As part of the OIE global initiative for Good Governance of National Veterinary Services, and at specific Member's request, the OIE conducts assessments of the quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services using the OIE *PVS Tool*. Subsequent steps in the PVS Pathway include PVS Gap Analysis, Veterinary Legislation missions and PVS follow up missions, to help improve compliance of the veterinary infrastructure with the OIE quality standards set out in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*.

To date the OIE has received 133 national requests and 122 missions have been completed for the evaluation of the terrestrial sector and 11 national requests and 6 missions have been completed for the evaluation of the aquatic sector. In addition, the OIE has received 60 official requests for veterinary legislation missions and 39 have been completed. Relevant information may be found at: <http://www.oie.int/support-to-oie-members/pvs-pathway/>

National focal points

The OIE encourages all Member countries to nominate National Focal Points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate, for eight strategic topics, including animal production food safety (APFS) and veterinary products. The creation of OIE National Focal Points for animal production food safety and veterinary products aims to improve communication between the OIE, Delegates and all agencies responsible for food safety, veterinary products, and SPS matters at the national level.

A series of specific training workshops for OIE Focal Points continues to be conducted worldwide, on a region by region basis. To date, APFS Focal Point seminars have been held in all OIE regions of the world (Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Americas, and Asia the Far East and Oceania).

Since November 2012, all seminars for APFS Focal Points have included a session on OIE/Codex cooperation and have often included speakers from the Codex Secretary or FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees who have made presentations on the Codex, current issues, standard setting and the importance of coordination at the national level to ensure alignment of their national approach to standards developed by the OIE and Codex.

The OIE is also actively promoting the need for harmonisation in the approval and registration process for veterinary medicinal products, and has implemented a global programme for capacity building for OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products to enhance awareness and to improve the governance related to veterinary medicinal products covering registration, production, distribution, use and control methods, adapted to the needs of Member Countries. Training workshops for Focal Points on veterinary products have been held in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia the Far East and Oceania and also devote a considerable part of the training to the topic of antimicrobial resistance. In line with the 'One Health' concept, WHO and FAO representatives were invited to participate in these training activities. The third cycle of training was completed in late 2015.

The Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP)

The OIE has been engaged in the new Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP), a World Bank initiative, which is a Public-Private Partnership for capacity building to support better food safety practices across the global agri-food sector. Of particular interest is the key objective to help both public and private sectors at country level meet international standards. The OIE, together with our Tripartite partners WHO and FAO, has contributed to the recent updating of the GFSP Strategic Plan, and we expect to contribute to the consequential revision of the Action Plan.

The World Health Day 2015

The OIE Director General alongside the Director General of the WHO, representatives of the FAO, and the French Ministers of Health and Agriculture, launched the 2015 World Health Day on food safety at the Rungis International Market, near Paris. This event provided an excellent opportunity to emphasise the importance of the animal health and public health services working together at national level to ensure food safety throughout the food chain.