

# codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3

CX/AFRICA 09/18/3-PART II  
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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**18<sup>th</sup> Session  
Accra, Ghana, 24 – 27 February 2009**

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF  
THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION (PART II)**

**(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 (CX/AFRICA 09/18/4 – Part I).

**SECTION I: OUTCOMES OF RECENT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS**

1. 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 a broad range of relevant issues.
2. The results of meetings held since the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are summarized below.

**Summary of scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO from October 2007 to December 2008**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety (Rome, Italy, 8-12 October 2007)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of the meeting was to review the current knowledge on animal feed and its impact on food safety and international food and feed trade and to provide orientation and advice on this matter to FAO/WHO member countries and to international organizations.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The meeting addressed the large and evolving list of hazards that present human health risks and disrupt trade in the context of expanding global trade of food and feed as well as the need to improve the efficiency of animal production to provide better access to affordable protein. The continuing occurrence of trade problems as a result of countries establishing different national tolerances for residues, the lack of harmonization with international standards, and sometimes the lack of international standards and differences between countries' capabilities to conduct analyses were identified as contributing to trade problems. Economics and technological advances are driving the development of new feed products which may challenge established regulatory approaches to feed and food safety. The meeting identified potential measures to ensure safe feed and made a number of recommendations in relation to reducing the risk to food safety from feed.</p> <p>The report of the meeting in English, French and Spanish is available at:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_food.html">http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_food.html</a>.</p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Joint FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials (Rome, Italy, 26-30 November 2007)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The objectives of the meeting were to find an appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health considerations with regard to critically important antimicrobials; to identify current and potential hazards to public health; identify priority combinations of human-pathogen-antimicrobial species, review current management strategies and options for maintaining the efficacy of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals and provide recommendations on future FAO, WHO and OIE activities.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The expert meeting compared the WHO and OIE lists of critically important antimicrobials for human and veterinary use respectively noting that these lists should be considered when establishing priorities for risk assessment and management. The need for access to antimicrobials in both human and veterinary medicine was acknowledged. Key principles for the establishment of a prioritization scheme for the risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance resulting from the use of antimicrobials in food animals were identified. The meeting identified and characterized preliminary risk management activities for antimicrobial resistance associated with food animals and made recommendations to FAO, WHO, OIE and national governments on addressing the risks.</p> <p>Further information and the report of this Expert Meeting can be obtained from:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/micro_antimicrobial_en.asp">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/micro_antimicrobial_en.asp</a> and  <a href="http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/en/index.html">http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/en/index.html</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Hazards in Fresh Leafy Vegetables and Herbs (Bangkok, Thailand, 5–9 May 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The objective of the meeting was to address the request for scientific advice received from the 39 <sup>th</sup> CCFH on the microbiological hazards associated with leafy vegetables and herbs to provide scientific advice to facilitate the development of an annex specifically addressing these vegetables to the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables.
<b>Outputs</b>	The diversity of production systems around the world made it difficult to provide very specific recommendations, therefore the meeting sought to use the available science to identify the specific issues that need to be considered when developing guidance in this area. Nevertheless, the meeting sought to highlight the critical importance of knowing and

	<p>understanding the production and processing system of concern and to marry that with information on possible hazards and risks. Thus, for example, the need to undertake an assessment of a production site in terms of the potential of factors such as wildlife, domestic animals, human activity, proximity to urban areas, climate, topology, weather, hydrology, prior land use and geographical features to contribute to an increased risk of microbiological contamination of leafy vegetables and herbs during the growing phase was emphasised. Similarly, the differences in post harvest practices were highlighted in terms of risks and mitigations. The meeting reemphasised the importance of implementing existing recommendations and highlighting the value and utility of the existing knowledge in identifying and implementing further measures to minimize pathogens on leafy vegetables and herbs to the extent possible. The results of the meeting will be presented to the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the CCFH.</p> <p>Further information and the report of this Expert Meeting can be obtained from:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_freshproduce_en.asp">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_freshproduce_en.asp</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Joint FAO/WHO Expert meeting on chlorine-containing disinfectants used in the food production and food processing (Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America, 27-30 May 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The meeting was organized to provide scientific advice in response to a request made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission <sup>1</sup> based on proposed terms of reference prepared by the 37 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants (CCFAC) <sup>2</sup> and the 37 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) <sup>3</sup> , on the safety and benefits of the use of 'active chlorine' in food processing.
<b>Outputs</b>	The expert meeting drew from the experience of 20 experts from 13 countries and was devoted to assessing the benefits of the reduction and control of contamination of food with pathogenic microorganisms, and thereby the reduced risk of foodborne disease, by direct treatment of food with disinfectants in various steps of food production and processing and to compare these benefits with the potential health risks from ingestion of chlorine and non-chlorine chemical disinfectants and their reaction by-products. The predominating world-wide treatment scenarios for poultry, red meat, fish and fishery products, fresh produce (fresh fruit and vegetables, including sprouts and hydroponics) and food contact surfaces were used in the assessment of the benefits and risks in a step-wise qualitative approach and conclusions and recommendations were agreed. Several disinfectant use scenarios were defined where there were no health concerns identified but for which there was a benefit. The level of evidence in some areas was recorded in the report. As further extensive drafting and editing of the report is necessary, a prepublication issue of the report is only foreseen by mid 2009.
<b>Activity</b>	<b>69<sup>th</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Food Additives (Rome, Italy, 17–26 June 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The meeting was devoted to the evaluation of the safety of food additives and flavourings. This session evaluated 5 food additives, 153 flavourings in several different chemical groups, 2 processing aids and several products for use as a source of phytosterols/phytostanols. In addition, 14 food additives were evaluated for specifications only. A dietary exposure assessment of sulfites was also undertaken.
<b>Outputs</b>	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 ethyl-N <sup>α</sup> -lauroyl-L-arginate, calcium lignosulfonate (40-65), asparaginase from <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and phospholipase C from <i>Pichia pastoris</i> , extracts from paprika for use as a colour, phytosterols, phytostanols and their esters, polydimethyl siloxane and steviol

<sup>1</sup> ALINORM 06/29/41, paragraph 225

<sup>2</sup> ALINORM 05/28/12, appendix XV

<sup>3</sup> ALINORM 05/28/13, appendix VI

	<p>glycosides. For two of the food additives, the specifications were withdrawn (carbohydrase from <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and estragole) and the other revised. In addition, the discussion on a procedure for an additional use-level based evaluation of dietary intake of flavourings was finalised and the revised procedure for assessment of flavourings will be implemented for all future evaluations of flavourings. The results of the meeting will be presented to the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the reports will be published by FAO and WHO.</p> <p>Summary and conclusions are available at:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/jecfa69_final.pdf">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/jecfa69_final.pdf</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> (<i>Cronobacter</i> spp.) in powdered follow-up formulae (Washington DC, USA, 15–18 July 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The meeting was implemented to specifically address the request of the 39 <sup>th</sup> Session of the CCFH to provide scientific information and advice and to inform of the decision making process on the development of microbiological criteria for <i>E. sakazakii</i> ( <i>Cronobacter</i> spp.) for powdered follow-up formulae for infants and young children.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The meeting reviewed the available information on the production and consumption of powdered follow-up formula (FUF) and cases of <i>E. sakazakii</i> illness in infants &gt;6 months of age to young children &lt; 36 months. In addition, any available information on contamination of FUF and that on the immune status of the population of concern was considered. Variations in the definition and the intended use of FUF from country to country presented difficulties in both data comparability and data availability. Nevertheless the meeting addressed the specific questions posed by the CCFH and presented the available evidence for consideration by the committee.</p> <p>Further information and the report of this Expert Meeting can be obtained from:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_enterobacter_en.asp">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_enterobacter_en.asp</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>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, 9-18 September 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	On-going programme on the risk assessment of pesticide residues in food, feed and drinking water and the identification of maximum residue levels when used according to good agricultural practice
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The Joint Meeting assessed 28 pesticides, as requested by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. The meeting allocated ADIs and ARfDs, estimated MRLs and recommended them for use by the CCOR, and estimated STMR and highest residue (HR) level as a basis for estimating dietary intakes. The outcome will be presented and discussed at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food.</p> <p>The summary report of the meeting is available at:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/a.htm">http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/a.htm</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Food Additives (Geneva, Switzerland, 21–29 October 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	The meeting was implemented to evaluate the safety of eight veterinary drugs and one substance, which had been used as a veterinary drug but which may also be a contaminant in food.
<b>Outputs</b>	JECFA established new ADIs and recommended MRLs for several species for the following veterinary drugs: avilamycin (pigs, chicken, turkey and rabbits), monensin (cattle, sheep, goats, chicken, turkey, quail), narasin (cattle, chicken, pigs) and tylosin (cattle pigs, chicken

	<p>including eggs) and confirmed the previously established ADI and MRLs for melengestrol acetate. Data on analytical methods for dexamethasone were reviewed and revised MRLs for dexamethasone for cattle, pig and horse tissues were proposed. The Committee also reviewed residue data for tilmicosin and triclabendazole and proposed new MRLs for tilmicosin in chicken and turkey tissues and revised MRLs for triclabendazole for cattle and sheep tissues.</p> <p>JECFA evaluated information on the toxicity of malachite green and its metabolites and performed exposure assessment using various scenarios and data sets. The Committee considered, based on the evaluation, that the use of malachite green in food-producing animals could not be supported. Finally, considered several general issues that relate to the risk assessment of residues of veterinary drugs in foods, including a first discussion on the development of a hypothesis driven decision tree approach for the safety evaluation of residues of veterinary drugs; residues of veterinary drugs in honey; and the expression of toxicological endpoints as NOEL or NOAEL depending on the nature of the effect.</p> <p>The results of the meeting will be presented to the 18th session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food and the reports will be published by FAO and WHO.</p> <p>Summary and conclusions available at:  <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/JECFA70summaryreportEfinal.pdf">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/JECFA70summaryreportEfinal.pdf</a></p>
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expert meeting to review toxicological aspects of melamine and cyanuric acid (Ottawa Canada, 1 - 4 December 2008)</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	This meeting was implemented in light of the recent events relating to melamine contamination of foods produced in China. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the potential health impacts and provide recommendations on further needs for data information and research.
<b>Outputs</b>	<p>The expert meeting divided the sources of melamine into "baseline" levels, which refer to levels in food that do not result from adulteration or misuse, and "adulteration" levels, which refer to levels in food that result from the intentional addition of melamine to food or the unapproved use or misuse of melamine or substances that can degrade to form melamine. The baseline exposure was estimated from (limited) data on concentration levels in different food groups and food consumption data based on the WHO regional diets and other national data. However, the very limited availability of data seriously hampered the ability of the Expert Meeting to estimate exposure. Because of insufficient human data, it was necessary to rely on toxicological studies in laboratory animals to characterize the human health risk related to melamine in food. The meeting established a tolerable daily intake (TDI) of 0.2 mg/kg body weight for melamine was established. The TDI is applicable to the whole population including infants. This TDI is applicable to exposure to melamine alone. Although data were inadequate to develop TDIs for compounds that are structurally related to melamine, such as ammeline and ammelide, a TDI of 1.5 mg/kg body weight for cyanuric acid has previously been derived by WHO, suggesting that these analogues would be no more toxic than melamine. Available data indicate that simultaneous exposure to melamine and cyanuric acid is more toxic than exposures to each compound individually. Data are not adequate to allow the calculation of a health-based guidance value for this co-exposure. Many countries have introduced limits for melamine in infant formula and other foods. Limits for melamine in powdered infant formula (1 mg/kg) and in other foods (2.5 mg/kg) would provide a sufficient margin of safety for dietary exposure relative to the TDI.</p> <p>The Expert Meeting provided a range of recommendations for further information and new studies to better understand the risk to human health posed by melamine and its analogues.</p> <p>The Executive Summary and Conclusions and Recommendations are available from <a href="http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan_events/en/index.html">http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan_events/en/index.html</a> and <a href="http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/chemicals_melamine_en.asp">http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/chemicals_melamine_en.asp</a></p>

3. The Committee is **invited** to note the information described above and provide comments about the usefulness of the advice provided through these meetings. To facilitate the transfer and uptake of the relevant

scientific advice by Codex, the FAO/ WHO secretariat of these activities make every effort to attend Codex working groups and Codex committee 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***

4. 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:

**a) Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment:**

The Joint FAO/WHO project to update its risk assessment methods has 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, with the exception of the publication of the new EHC. The final draft version of the document is available at the WHO website at the following link:

[http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/update\\_project/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/update_project/en/index.html).

**b) JEMRA publications:**

As follow-up to the risk assessment work on *Enterobacter sakazakii* in powdered infant formula, JEMRA has developed a web-based model to assess the risk associated with *E. sakazakii* in powdered infant formula. This model allows users to compare the impact of the implementation of different sampling plans at the end of the production of powdered infant formula and also to compare the relative impact of different preparation, storage and handling scenarios on the risk of *E. sakazakii* infections in infants. Use of this model does not require any specialist software or specialist training. This is the first web-based risk assessment tool to be developed by FAO and WHO in the area of food safety and it can be accessed at : <http://www.mramodels.org/ESAK/default.aspx>

**c) JECFA publications:**

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

[http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/works\\_en.stm](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/works_en.stm)

Report of the 68th JECFA - Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants in food. WHO TRS 947, WHO 2008.

Toxicological monographs of the 68th JECFA - Toxicological evaluation of certain veterinary drug residues in food. WHO FAS 59, 2008.

Compendium of Food Additive Specifications, JECFA Sixty-eighth meeting. FAO JECFA Monographs 4, 2007.

Compendium of Food Additive Specifications, JECFA Sixty-ninth meeting. FAO JECFA Monographs 5, 2008.

**d) JMPR publications:**

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

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

Report of the Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues Geneva, Switzerland, 18–27 September 2007. FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper 191

Pesticide residues in food 2007: Evaluations Part I – Residues. FAO Plant Production and Protection Paper 192.

Summary Report of the Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues, Rome, Italy, 9-18 September 2008.

***Forthcoming meetings***

5. The 2009 JMPR will be convened 15-25 September 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, and will evaluate the safety of 27 pesticides. The tentative agenda and request for data can be accessed under [http://who.int/ipcs/food/jmpr/jmpr\\_2009\\_call\\_final.pdf](http://who.int/ipcs/food/jmpr/jmpr_2009_call_final.pdf).
6. The 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of JECFA will be convened 16-24 June 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, and will be dedicated to the evaluation or re-evaluation of a number of **food additives**. The tentative agenda and the call for data can be accessed at: [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/JECFA71\\_call.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/JECFA71_call.pdf)
7. The 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of JECFA will be convened in November- December 2009 in Rome, Italy and will be dedicated to the evaluation of some **contaminants in food**. The tentative agenda and the call for data can be accessed at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/JECFA%2070%20Call%20for%20data.pdf>
8. In response to the request made by the Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 29<sup>th</sup> Session, to organize an FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the **health risks and health benefits associated with the consumption of fish and other seafood**, as a first step, FAO and WHO organized a meeting with a small core group of experts, in Rome on 28–30 May 2007<sup>1</sup>, to seek their advice on the approach to be taken, taking into account the terms of reference prepared by the CCFAC (ALINORM 06/29/12) at its 38th Session. The meeting recommended that the limitations of the scope of the consultations must be well defined. Their advice was that the first phase in this process should be specifically related to the impact of methylmercury exposure on women of childbearing age and the future development of their children, with respect to neural and cardiovascular development as well as the benefits of fish and its components to these endpoints. Benefits of fish consumption should not be limited to intake of DHA and EPA, but include benefits related to other nutrients such as amino acids, minerals, vitamins and other nutrients. Effects on neural development should cover pre- and post natal brain development of children up to the age when the brain is fully developed. The potential risks associated with exposure to dioxin and dioxin-like PCB's, as well as confounding effects with methylmercury, should also be considered as dioxin intake is highly correlated with the intake of fatty fish, which are also significant sources of the beneficial omega 3 fatty acids. The Expert Consultation is planned for 2009, depending on when adequate funding and other resources can be secured.
9. In response to concerns raised by member countries on the possible food safety implications of the application of **nanotechnology to food and agriculture**, FAO and WHO will implement an expert meeting to address this issue. The meeting will aim to develop a common view of actual and anticipated nanotechnology applications in the food and agriculture sectors and of their implications for food safety, to share lessons learned by those countries that have already initiated programmes to assess and manage food safety concerns, to agree on priority actions that are needed to control potential food safety hazards associated with nanotechnology applications in food and agriculture and to develop guidance on the possible roles of FAO and WHO in promoting sound governance of food safety issues linked to nanotechnology applications. FAO and WHO convened a meeting of a core group of experts from 14-15 May 2008 to further define the issues and initiate preparation of background papers for an expert meeting scheduled for June 2009. A call for data and call for experts for the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee Meeting on the Application of Nanotechnologies in the Food and Agriculture Sectors: potential Food Safety Implications has been issued and is available at [http://www.fao.org/agn/agn/agns/meetings\\_consultations\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/agn/agn/agns/meetings_consultations_en.asp).

## **SECTION II: FOLLOW-UP TO THE FAO/WHO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX AND MEMBER COUNTRIES**

10. The "Consultative Process" which was initiated at the request of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in July 2001 and 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) began in earnest in 2003 and was concluded in 2007. The four main outputs of that process were presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> CAC (ALINORM 07/30/9G). Developments over the last year in each of these four areas are summarized below.

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

The Framework document has now been published in English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Arabic. For details on how to obtain a copy please contact [publications-sales@fao.org](mailto:publications-sales@fao.org) or [proscad@fao.org](mailto:proscad@fao.org) or visit the FAO webpage at [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_en.asp).

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

Both organizations continue to jointly prioritise the requests taking in consideration the criteria proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para. 75), as well as the requests for advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources.<sup>4</sup> A table which contains a description of the current requests for scientific advice posed to FAO and WHO by Codex and by FAO/WHO Member countries is included in Part III of this document.

**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**

Several initiatives are underway to facilitate and support the elaboration and dissemination of data from developing countries so that such data are more easily accessible to support the provision of scientific advice. For example, a regional study is underway in Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate the implementation of a data base on scientific research and surveillance reports related to *Vibrio* spp marine ecosystems and products in Latin America. More information on this and other initiatives are available in CX/NEA 09/5/4 – Part I.

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

In order to specifically address the issue of sustainability of the provision of scientific advice, FAO and WHO have established a Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA). The specific objectives of the GIFSA are:

- To increase awareness of the FAO/WHO programme of work on the provision of scientific advice,
- To mobilize technical, financial and human resources to support the provision of scientific advice in food safety and nutrition, and
- To promote the timeliness of the provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO, while ensuring the continuation of the highest level of integrity and quality.

11. The main focus of GIFSA is to establish a mechanism to facilitate the provision of extrabudgetary resources for scientific advice activities. Contributions are accepted from governments, organizations and foundations in accordance with WHO and FAO rules. Two separate accounts will be maintained, one at WHO and one at FAO. An FAO/WHO Committee manages the GIFSA, and procedures have been developed to ensure that all resources provided through GIFSA will be allocated to activities in an independent and transparent manner, taking into consideration the criteria for prioritization of activities already agreed by Codex, FAO and WHO and the specific needs of FAO and WHO member countries.

12. For additional information and advice on the procedure for making a donation/contribution please contact: Mr Daniel van Gilst, Policy Assistance and Resources Mobilization Division (daniel.vangilst@fao.org; Tel: + 39 06 57052170) at FAO; and Jorgen Schlundt, Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases, WHO ([schlundtj@who.int](mailto:schlundtj@who.int); Tel: + 41 22 791 3445).

**SECTION III: STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE**

13. 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. In relation to the criteria

<sup>4</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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recommended to FAO and WHO for prioritization of requests from Codex for Scientific Advice, both organizations consider that they are comprehensive and cover all possible situations. The attached Annex shows the requests received directly from Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies as well as meetings 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 October 2008.

**SECTION III**

**JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON FOOD SAFETY  
STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (October 2008) <sup>5</sup>**

**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 **October 2008**.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) <sup>LI</sup>	Expected Output by Codex
1	Safety evaluation of residues of veterinary drugs in foods	CCRVDF	17 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/31, para. 83-94 and Appendix VII.	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Completed by the 70 <sup>th</sup> JECFA (Geneva, Switzerland, 21–29 October 2008)  Repoort to be published by April 2009	250, 000	Maximum Residue Limits or other advice as appropriate.
2	Safety evaluation of food additives	CCFA	40 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 167-173 and Appendix XIV	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned for 71 <sup>st</sup> JECFA (Geneva, Switzerland, 16-24 June 2009)	250,000	Maximum levels, Specifications for food additives, or other advice as appropriate
3	Risk assessment of contaminants in food	CCCF	2 <sup>nd</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/41, para.173-190 and Appendix XIII	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned for 72 <sup>nd</sup> JECFA (Rome, Italy, November - December 2009)	200,000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate

<sup>5</sup> 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. Figures indicate cost of pending actions related to each activity. Figures do not consider staff cost.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) <sup>LI</sup>	Expected Output by Codex
4	Assessment of benefits and risks of the use of “active chlorine” in food processing.	CCFAC CCFH CAC	37 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 108 and Appendix XV 36 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 04/27/13, para. 158 37 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 05/28/13 paras 170–174 29 <sup>th</sup> Session requested FAO/WHO for scientific advice, ALINORM 06/29/41, para. 225.	TOR of Expert Consultation specified by 37 <sup>th</sup> CCFH and 37 <sup>th</sup> CCFAC. 29 <sup>th</sup> CAC supported this request asking for scientific advice accordingly.	Expert consultation was implemented in May 2008. Report to be completed by the end of 2008.	200, 000	Recommendations regarding the safe use of active chlorine.
5	Fresh produce – Control of microbial hazards.	CCFH	38 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 07/30/13 paras 224–231, Appendix VI. 39 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/13 Paras 160–163.	Implementation of a series of expert meetings to provide scientific advice on a range of fresh fruit and vegetables in order of priority from a global perspective.	Step wise approach to elaborate scientific advice adopted. Phase 1 of data collection and initial expert meeting on ranking of priorities implemented and report provided to 39 <sup>th</sup> CCFH Phase 2 expert meeting implemented from 5 to 9 May 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand to develop specific scientific advice on leafy green vegetables and report will be available in October 2008.	200, 000	Development of commodity-specific annexes for the “Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables”. Leafy green vegetables and herbs will be the first commodity group to be addressed. Additional commodities may be selected and prioritized by CCFH.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) <sup>11</sup>	Expected Output by Codex
6	Evaluation of residues and toxicology of pesticides for the establishment of acceptable intake levels and of MRLs.	CCPR	39 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 07/30/24 paras 35, 41-43, 57, 67, 69, 75, 77, 78, 80, 82, 89, 97, 99, 104, 115, 116, 127, 134, 179, 216, 224 and Appendix VIII.  40 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/24, paras 38, 42, 44, 47, 54, 57,-69, 96, 75, 77, 94, 101, 115, 139, 162, 170 and Appendix X	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues.	JMPR Meeting implemented from 9-18 September 2008 for evaluation of 28 pesticides. Summary report posted on the FAO/WHO website  Report provided to 41 <sup>st</sup> CCPR in 2009.  Next JMPR session 15-25 September 2009, Geneva	370, 000	Proposed Draft Maximum Residues for Pesticides.
7	Joint WHO/FAO Project Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment for chemicals in food	Melbourne Conference	Melbourne Conference Report  35 <sup>th</sup> 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.  Final consultation held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, supported by KFDA, 11 to 14 November 2008.  Publication foreseen in 2009.	80, 000	Harmonized methods of risk assessment for chemicals in foods to be used within the provision of scientific advice to Codex.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) <sup>11</sup>	Expected Output by Codex
8	Risks and Benefits of consumption of fish and other seafood	38 <sup>th</sup> CCFAC, paras 191–193 CAC	29 <sup>th</sup> 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 was implemented to agree nexts steps and scope of the work. Final meeting to be held in 2009.  Extrabudgetary resources available.	120, 000	Develop methodology for risk and benefit assessment.  Guidance document on the safe consumption of fish and seafood taking sensitive subpopulations into account.
9	Risks associated with <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> in follow-up formula	CCFH	39 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/13	Implement an expert meeting that specifically addresses the risks associated with follow-up formula	Meeting implemented from 15 to 18 July 2008 in Washington DC, USA.  Report will be available in October 2008.	80, 000	Use scientific advice to determine if a microbiological criteria for <i>E. sakazakii</i> in follow-up formula if should be developed or recommend another approach for addressing the risk
10	Risk mitigation options for <i>Salmonella</i> in bivalve molluscs	CCFFP	29 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/18 paras 89-93.	Expert elicitation and consultation to evaluate the impact of microbiological criteria and sampling plans applied to harvesting areas and product lots as a means of reducing the risk from <i>Salmonella</i>	Preliminary planning under way.  Extra budgetary resources required to support this activity.	80,000	Use of the scientific advice to review microbiological criteria for <i>Salmonella</i> in bivalve molluscs and if necessary, use the scientific advice to guide the selection of appropriate criteria

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) <sup>[1]</sup>	Expected Output by Codex
11	Decision-tree approaches for the evaluation of veterinary drugs	CCRVDF	17 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 08/31/31 paragraph 119.	Convene an expert group to develop a general decision tree approach for the evaluation of veterinary drugs, which could identify different options for hazard identification and characterization, and exposure assessment	Preliminary discussions will be held at meeting under item 1.  Extra budgetary resources will be required to support this activity	To be determined	Use the output to assist in the development of risk management guidance on veterinary drug residues without ADIs and MRLs
12	Scientific evaluation of measures for the control of Salmonella and Campylobacter in poultry and a risk-based decision tool to facilitate their management.	CCFH	40 <sup>th</sup> Session ALINORM 09/13/40	Implement an expert meeting to evaluate potential control measures and develop a user friendly web-based decision support tool.	Preliminary planning underway.  Extra budgetary resources required to support this activity.	200,000	Use of the scientific advice to facilitate the development of the guidelines for the control of Salmonella and Campylobacter in poultry and the decision support tool to compliment the Codex guidelines.

<sup>[1]</sup> 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\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	Expected Output
1	Nanotechnology	FAO		FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Food Safety Assessment of the Use of Nanotechnology Techniques	Core group meeting held on 14–15 May 2008 Expert meeting will be organized in June 2009. Extrabudgetary resources needed to support this activity.	100, 000	Scientific advice on food safety implication of nanotechnologies applied to food and agriculture sectors with particular attention to nanoparticles in foods
2	Pesticide Specifications	FAO/WHO	Memorandum of understanding between FAO and WHO <a href="http://www.fao.org/AG/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/">http://www.fao.org/AG/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/</a> and public health	Meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS)	The 7 <sup>th</sup> JMPS implemented in Germany in June 2008. Report posted on the FAO/WHO website Next session, 8 <sup>th</sup> JMPS will be held from 3 to 7 June 2009 in San Salvador, El Salvador.	150, 000	FAO and WHO Specifications for pesticides to be used in agriculture and public health