



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations**



**World Health  
Organization**

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - Fax: (+39) 06 5705 4593 - E-mail: [codex@fao.org](mailto:codex@fao.org) - [www.codexalimentarius.net](http://www.codexalimentarius.net)

**Agenda Item 3(a)**

**CX/AFRICA 11/19/4  
January 2011**

**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

**19<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Accra, Ghana, 1 - 4 February 2011**

**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX  
ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

(Prepared by FAO/WHO)

**PART I – CAPACITY BUILDING**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (CCAFRICA) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

**TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW**

2 Under their respective mandates, goals and workplans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4.

3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:

- upgrading the capacity of developing member countries in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
- enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors and trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
- strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.

4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided below in tables shown in paragraph 9 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at <http://www.fao.org/africa/en/>; [www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns), [www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm) and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/capacity/en/> and <http://www.afro.who.int/>

5. Important information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CAC and is available in CX/CAC 10/33/15 Add.1 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac33/cac33\\_15\\_add1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac33/cac33_15_add1e.pdf)). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials (e.g. guidelines, manuals and online resources), global information exchange systems, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include ongoing work to develop global training materials on import food control programmes and food safety risk analysis; strengthened efforts through INFOSAN and EMPRES Food Safety programme to support countries' in managing food safety emergencies; technical improvement of the FAO's International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health ([www.ipfsaph.org](http://www.ipfsaph.org)); and the undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG).
6. Joint FAO/WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners for the period in question appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which were submitted to the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEXEC and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CAC.
7. On the occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCAFRICA FAO and WHO, in collaboration with the Codex Trust Fund, are organizing a pre-CCAFRICA workshop to be held in Accra on 31 January 2011 to discuss: "Implementing Codex standards: what does it entail?". The objective of the workshop is to increase participants understanding of the process leading to the effective implementation of Codex standards and related texts at national level. This would allow a better use of Codex standards at national level, increase developing member countries understanding of the usefulness of Codex standards for consumer safety and for international trade. In consequence, this will improve participation of countries and regions in the international negotiation process for food standards.

#### **GLOBAL PROJECTS/INITIATIVES**

8. The Governments of the Netherlands and Norway jointly supported an FAO Multi-donor Partnership Programme (FMPP) for 2009 and 2010 that succeeded the PCA Norway and provided continued support to "Improved Food Safety and Quality at National Level and along the Food Chain". Activities under the 2009-2010 programme were implemented at national and sub-regional levels and include the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Honduras, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Tanzania and Uganda.
9. FAO has distributed a questionnaire "Resource Requirements for Operation of a "Mature" National Food Control System" to a number of countries as part of a benchmarking exercise to model the costs and resources required to deliver a 'mature' food control system. The model will be used in association with a broader FAO global survey on agricultural investment to provide semi-quantitative advice on resource needs required for member countries to develop and implement effective food control systems in line with national socio-economic situations, policies and needs.
10. Activities completed or ongoing since the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa are detailed in the following tables.

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Subregional workshop (UEMOA countries) on the use of risk analysis for food control activities	FAO	22 to 24 February 2010	Cotonou, Benin

### **PROJECTS/DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES**

Title	FAO/WHO	Country	Status
Adoption of Resolution WHA63.3 on Advancing food safety initiatives	WHO	All countries	2010
Strengthening of the national Codex Committee and the Food Control System through a national project	FAO/TCP	Angola	Ongoing
Emergency response mission to address Bromide intoxication event	WHO	Angola	Mission conducted. Reports presented to Government of Angola
Appui à la mise en place et au démarrage des activités du Comité National du Codex Alimentaire	FAO	Comoros	Closing
Support for SPS information systems in Benin	FAO/STDF	Benin	Closing
Sanitary Improvement of cashew nut and shea nut value chain	FAO/STDF	Benin	Closing
Evaluation of national food control systems and food safety programmes, elaboration of food safety policies, legislation, strategies and plans of action	WHO/AFRO	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, , Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo and Uganda	2008-2010
Capacity building to enhance fish trade performance in selected African countries (complying with SPS)	FAO/STDF	Benin, Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	Ongoing
Support to organise Global Food Infections Network Level IV training course in laboratory-based foodborne disease surveillance for microbiologists and epidemiologists in Institute Pasteur, Cameroun	WHO	Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Chad, Congo Rep of, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal	Ongoing
Establishment of national food safety task force, committees and working groups	WHO/AFRO	Botswana, Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Uganda	2008-2009
Strengthening of National Codex Committees	WHO/AFRO	Botswana, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda	2008-2010
Strengthening the national food safety and	FAO/STDF	Cameroon	Closing

<b>Title</b>	<b>FAO/WHO</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Status</b>
quality control system in Cameroon			
Advice and support to the Centre Pasteur du Laboratoire de Chimie de Hygiène Environnement, for the implementation of a study on exposure of the inhabitants of Yaoundé to heavy metals using a total diet study (TDS)	FAO	Cameroon	Completed in 2010
Advice and support to the Centre Pasteur du Cameroon, to coordinate the submission to STDF of a project for the implementation of a regional Total Diet Study for Sub-Saharan Africa.	FAO/WHO/ INRA/STDF	Cameroon, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Senegal	Ongoing
Strengthening the national Biosecurity systems in Cape Verde	FAO	Cape Verde	Ongoing
Formulation d'une réglementation régionale sur la sécurité sanitaire des animaux et des aliments d'origine animale en Afrique centrale	FAO/TCP	CEMAC regional group	in pipeline- formulation concluded being submitted for funding
Establishment of Healthy Food Market project	WHO/AFRO	Chad	2010 Ongoing
Training of food vendors in markets in Brazzaville using the Five Keys to Safer Food	WHO/AFRO	Congo, Rep. of	Ongoing
Development of Guide for Social Mobilization	WHO/AFRO	Congo Rep. of and Guinea	2008-2009
Assessment of food control capacities and formulation of a project proposal for the Republic of Congo	FAO/TCP	Congo, Rep. of	Achieved Feb. 2010 – report submitted to Congolese authorities
Strengthening the National Codex Committee	FAO/TCP	Côte d'Ivoire	Ongoing
Establishment of Healthy Food Market Project	WHO/AFRO	Democratic Republic of Congo	Ongoing
Assessment of Food control capacities and formulation of a project proposal for Djibouti	FAO/TCP	Djibouti	Ongoing
Strengthening of National Codex Committee and preparation of action plan	WHO/AFRO	Eritrea	2009 Ongoing Action plan validated and submitted to the Government in 2010; NCC provided with office equipment in 2010
Support to the National Codex Committee and reorganization of the food control system	FAO/TCP	Gabon	Ongoing
Strengthening of national biosecurity capacity	FAO	Gambia	Completed in 2010
Training of public health officers in HACCP	WHO/AFRO	Gambia, Lesotho, Mozambique, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Kenya and Seychelles	2008-2009
Curriculum development and enhanced access and understanding of food standards relevant for food safety and quality at the	FAO/STDF	Ghana	Commencing in January 2011

<b>Title</b>	<b>FAO/WHO</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Status</b>
University Cape Coast Ghana			
FAO supported assessment of facilities, preparation and handling practices for safe delivery at FAO Regional Office canteen in Accra (Ghana).	RAFT/SFW	Ghana	2009
Assistance to the Ghana Health Service for Training and development of guidelines in Food Safety Management for the hospital sector	FAO/TCP	Ghana	Commenced December 2010
FAO provided support for a survey on Street Food Situation at selected night markets in Accra (Ghana) and Praia (Cape Verde)	RAFT/SFW	Ghana and Cape Verde	2009
Strengthening National Codex Committee	FAO/TCP	Guinea	Project ongoing
Biosecurity project: focusing on pesticide residue issues	FAO	Kenya	Completed in 2010
Mycotoxins prevention and control: formulation of a technical assistance project	FAO	Kenya	in pipeline
Maize and poultry chain analysis	FAO	Kenya	Ongoing
Training of food control officers and regulators in prosecution	WHO/AFRO	Kenya	2009
Finalization of food law	FAO/TCP	Madagascar	Achieved in 2009 Report and recommendations submitted to Government
Investigation of typhoid fever	WHO/AFRO	Malawi	2009
Support for implementation of Codex Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products	FAO	Malawi	2009
Training of ANSSA staff in risk analysis for food control decision making	FAO/TCP	Mali	In pipeline, pending funding 2009
Sensitization of district task forces, producers and manufacturers on application of food safety norms and standards	WHO/AFRO	Sierra Leone	
Promotion of advocacy and communication of Five Keys for Safer Food or 3 fives in food safety in collaboration and partnership at regional, national and global level Strengthened capacity in advocacy and awareness generating activities Zoonotic and non-zoonotic foodborne disease surveillance and hazard monitoring programmes strengthened and integrated into existing national surveillance system with results being disseminated Establishment of public health laboratories in reducing environmental public health risks and food safety risks	WHO/EMRO	Somalia	Ongoing
Supported to prevent foodborne disease outbreaks during the 2010 World Cup. Five Keys, 3 Fives on food hygiene and diet and physical activity, Travellers' Guide on how to prevent diarrhoea. Printing in working languages of the UN and Portuguese.	WHO	South Africa	Completed in 2010
Global Food Infections Network Level III training course in laboratory-based foodborne disease surveillance for 35	WHO/AFRO	Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria,	November 2010

Title	FAO/WHO	Country	Status
microbiologists and epidemiologists.		Rwanda Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia	
Assistance to the Government in promoting the application of good hygiene practices at all stages of the value chain for selected commodities (UNJP/URT/131/UNJ)	FAO/WHO	Tanzania	Ongoing
Capacity building of regulatory agencies for handling genetically modified seeds, crops and processed foods (TCP/UGA/3103)	FAO	Uganda	Ongoing
Prevention and control of biological and chemical hazards of poultry products through the application of Good Practices along the production chain in Uganda	FAO	Uganda	Ongoing

11 Looking ahead, priorities for the coming year in the region, which may be implemented jointly by FAO and WHO, or in association with other partner organizations, aim at strengthening national food control systems in countries of Africa, including:

- providing expertise in the drafting of Codex compliant laws, regulations and standards;
- building the competent authority capacity of food inspection/certification services;
- promoting risk-based food safety systems;
- enhancing food analysis capacity;
- strengthening official food safety systems through the use of the risk analysis framework including risk assessment of food hazards;
- targeted training for food safety officials and technical staff (food safety managers, food inspectors, and food analysts) in carrying out their respective duties;
- supporting national Codex programmes (including Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees) to facilitate effective participation in Codex and providing tailored Codex training to further enhance participation in Codex activities at regional and national levels;
- building capacity of small and medium size enterprises to implement food quality and safety standards;
- developing tools and training materials to assist food safety and quality control activities; and
- strengthening regional and international food control information exchange and cooperation activities.

12. Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries. In, FAO and WHO have a tradition of collaboration and coordination in the implementation of food safety related activities. This was enhanced through the joint implementation of the Integrated Food Standards Project/Regional Trade Facilitation Programme.

13. ***The membership of CCAFRICA is invited to engage with FAO and WHO*** to provide feedback on:

- ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region;
- priority needs at national and regional level which requires further support from FAO and WHO.

-----

## PART II – SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ACTIVITIES

### INTRODUCTION

1. FAO and WHO elaborate scientific advice through JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and *ad hoc* expert meetings based on requests from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and member countries.
2. The CAC is an important client for this advice, where the results are used extensively in the development of Codex texts. However, this advice may be equally valuable for member countries and can be used to strengthen decision making processes on food safety and nutrition issues at national and regional level.

### OUTPUTS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE PROGRAMME

3. All FAO/WHO scientific advice is available on the websites at <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/> (FAO) and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/>, <http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/en/> and <http://www.who.int/nutrition/en/> (WHO). The advice can be interpreted and applied to strengthen national food control systems and nutrition programmes. See Annex I of CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)) for details of the outputs of the FAO/WHO scientific advice programme since October 2008. Details of other related FAO/WHO activities can be found in Annex II of the same document.

### Current issues

4. JEMRA is currently developing web-based tools to support i) decision making on the control of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in poultry and ii) assessment of the performance of microbiological sampling plans. FAO/WHO are seeking to identify countries that would be interested in pilot testing of the tools in national settings and the development of case studies on their application. **Interested parties should contact FAO/WHO** at [jemra@fao.org](mailto:jemra@fao.org) and [foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int) for more details.
5. FAO/WHO will establish an "e-Discussion Group for the Development of a Tiered Approach Diagram for Risk Assessment of Nanomaterials (NMs)". The overall objectives of the group will be to develop a decision tool to support identification of the appropriate risk assessment approach for nanomaterial categories and to review the current risk assessment approaches that are used by FAO/WHO and Codex, in order to address the specific emerging issues associated with the application of nanotechnologies in the food and agriculture sectors. For more information contact FAO ([proscad@fao.org](mailto:proscad@fao.org)) and WHO ([foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int)).
6. FAO's recently established Emergency Prevention System for Food Safety (EMPRES Food Safety) is now becoming operational and work will be required on assessment of emerging risks. Effective pooling of scientific excellence will contribute significantly to this effort, thus a new **FAO Food Safety Expert Roster will be established** in 2011. For more information, see Para 17 of Annex II, CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)), contact [empres-fs@fao.org](mailto:empres-fs@fao.org) or visit <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/>.
7. The Steering Committee of the Global Foodborne Infections Network (GFN) held their five-year strategic planning meeting in August 2010, which resulted in the refined vision, mission and four new strategic goals as follows:

#### Vision

A world where all countries prevent and control foodborne and other enteric infections

#### Mission

To enable countries to detect, control, and prevent foodborne and other enteric infections by:

- Building capacity for integrated surveillance
- Fostering collaboration among human health, veterinary, food and other relevant sectors

#### Goals 2011-2015

- a. To foster partnerships relevant to regional and country goals.

- b. To raise awareness of GFN outputs and activities and its benefits of integrated surveillance to countries
- c. To strengthen national and regional capacities for surveillance, investigation, and prevention of foodborne and other enteric infections
- d. To generate country and regional data that contributes to a global understanding of foodborne and other enteric infections

#### New calls for data:

8. The 74<sup>th</sup> JECFA meeting will be held in Rome, 14-23 June 2011. The agenda includes risk assessment of a number of food additives, including aluminium-containing food additives, and the contaminants fumonisins and cyanogenic glycosides. More information is available in the call for data at the JECFA websites of FAO and WHO: [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jecfa\\_new\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jecfa_new_en.asp) and <http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jecfa/data/en/index.html>. The call for data for the 2011 JMPR meeting, to be held in Geneva, 20-29 September 2011, has been published. Data for the pesticides scheduled for evaluation or re-evaluation are requested by 20 December 2010. For further details, please refer to the FAO and Who JMPR websites: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/pm/jmpr/en/> and [http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/JMPR\\_2011\\_callfinal.pdf](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/JMPR_2011_callfinal.pdf).

#### RESOURCES FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

9. FAO and WHO are continually striving to increase the resources available for the provision of timely and effective scientific advice and use various mechanisms to achieve this. One such mechanism is the **Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA)**. For more information about GIFSA, contact FAO ([mary.kenny@fao.org](mailto:mary.kenny@fao.org)) and WHO ([tritschera@who.int](mailto:tritschera@who.int)). With the support of GIFSA, two countries from Africa participated in the FAO training course on the risk assessment of pesticide residues and establishment of MRL held on 8-12 November, 2010 in Budapest.
10. In addition, FAO has developed a Strategy for the Provision of Scientific Advice for Food Safety (2010–2013) which aims to enhance the provision of scientific advice, facilitate dissemination of scientific information, strengthen national and regional scientific capacity and build scientific communities and networks. The strategy is available at [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_en.asp) (English), [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_es.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_es.asp) (Spanish) and [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_fr.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_fr.asp) (French) or for more information contact: [Mary.Kenny@fao.org](mailto:Mary.Kenny@fao.org).

#### HOW TO USE FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AT NATIONAL/REGIONAL LEVEL

11. The scientific advice can be used in setting up national, regional and international food-related **standards, policies and regulations** and building **food safety and quality systems** to ensure safe and nutritious food and afford adequate levels of consumer protection. As a result, the food production chain within countries can be better sustained and both local and global trade facilitated. FAO/WHO scientific advice is particularly useful **in cases where national or regional expertise or resources are lacking**.
12. Moreover, food-related scientific advice contributes towards important Millennium Development Goals, where food safety and nutrition not only enhances the health and wellness of populations, but also acts as a vital element to **ensuring food security, poverty alleviation and economic growth** through improved food production and trade.

#### HOW TO REQUEST FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

13. **Subject prioritization:** There is an overwhelming number of nutritional and food safety issues that need to be addressed to guide decisions of national authorities. Details of the current FAO/WHO priority areas for scientific advice can be found in Annex III of CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)). It is important that regions identify the priority areas and issues that are relevant to them. The Committee is **encouraged** to discuss and identify scientific advice needs in the framework of the regional Codex Strategic Plan and regional food safety initiatives.
14. The requests for advice can be proposed through various Codex Committees as well as the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees. Requests that are not relevant to Codex matters are also welcome and can be addressed directly to FAO ([proscad@fao.org](mailto:proscad@fao.org)) and WHO ([foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int)). It is important to note that coordinated requests from multiple countries and regions will be prioritized.



## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

15. **Submitting national monitoring data:** Data from as many sources as possible are needed to underpin the evaluations at international level. Data generated in the frame work of national food control systems are very valuable to support the work of experts in the provision of scientific advice. Data, for example, on food consumption or chemical occurrence in food, can be submitted for consideration at international level through the GEMS/Food programme: ([http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/gems\\_instructions/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/gems_instructions/en/index.html)).
16. **Mycotoxin in sorghum project:** sorghum is an important staple food in many African countries and also traded globally. Concern has been raised about potential health impact of mycotoxin contamination in sorghum, and this issue has been discussed at the last meetings of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF). Since there is an apparent lack of more systematic information on the type and amounts of mycotoxins occurring in sorghum, WHO has proposed a project to fill this data gap and has secured funding from the EC for this. The outcome of this project will feed into a possible risk assessment by JECFA and subsequent discussions at CCCF.
17. **Responding to and disseminating calls for data and experts:** Websites of FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/>) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/>) announce calls for data and experts when needs arise. The calls are also issued through other channels including newsletters, Codex Contact Points, scientific communities and journals. Countries are strongly encouraged to become involved in this process since every single input can be valuable for the overall scientific advice. In order to adhere to the core principles for the provision of scientific advice of soundness, responsibility, objectivity, fairness, transparency and inclusiveness, it is important to include qualified experts from as many parts of the world as possible, so that geographical, cultural and gender balance can be achieved in addition to the technical and scientific qualification. Thus, **countries are encouraged to disseminate FAO/WHO calls for data and experts** to a wide audience. For example, experts from Algeria, Libya and Uganda participated in the Joint FAO/WHO expert meeting on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in chicken meat in May 2009. Several countries in the region responded to the call for data and the information provided to FAO/WHO was considered in the discussions.