
codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

Twenty-sixth Session
Warsaw, Poland, 7-10 October 2008

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

(PART II - SCIENTIFIC ADVICE)

Prepared by FAO/WHO

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PART 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 the broad range of relevant issues.
2. The results of meetings held since the 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are summarized below.

**SUMMARY OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE PROVIDED BY FAO AND WHO FROM MAY 2007 TO
APRIL 2008**

<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Viruses in Food: Scientific Advice to Support Risk Management Activities (Bilthoven, the Netherlands, 21 – 24 May 2007)</p> <p>The objective was to provide advice and guidance on the virus-commodity combinations of particular concern, the issues that need to be addressed by risk managers and the options available to them, as well as the identification of additional data and information needed to provide scientific advice on managing the risks associated with viruses in foods.</p> <p>A review of the current role of viruses in the burden of infectious intestinal disease and the current state of the methodology available for detection of enteric viruses in contaminated foods. The meeting prioritized the virus-commodity combinations of public health concern according to a pre-defined set of criteria. Noroviruses and hepatitis A virus in shellfish, fresh produce and prepared foods were identified as the highest priority in terms of food safety. The meeting also identified the major routes of viral contamination of foods and highlighted the cross-sectorial approaches that would be needed to address the problem of foodborne viruses. The outcome was presented to the 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH).</p> <p>The meeting report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_viruses_en.asp and at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/virus/en/index.html</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>68th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives (JECFA) (Geneva, Switzerland, 19–28 June, 2007)</p> <p>Dedicated to the evaluation of the safety of food additives and contaminants, this session evaluated 6 food additives, 160 flavourings in several different chemical groups, 3 processing aids, one product for use as a disinfectant in the food industry and one salt for food fortification. In addition, 9 food additives and 12 flavourings were evaluated for specifications only. Reevaluation of two contaminants was also undertaken.</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 acidified sodium chlorite (with specifications for sodium chlorite and sodium hydrogen sulfate), asparaginase from <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> expressed in <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i>, carrageenan, processed <i>Eucheuma</i> seaweed (PES), cyclotetraose and its syrup, isoamylase from <i>Pseudomonas amyloclavata</i>, magnesium sulfate, phospholipase A1 from <i>Fusarium venenatum</i> produced by <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i>, Sodium iron(III) ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and steviol glycosides. For 3 of the food additives evaluated for specifications only, the specifications were withdrawn (anisyl acetone, furfural and zeaxanthin extract from <i>Tagetes erecta</i>) and the other revised. These results were presented to the 40th session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives. The conclusion of the JECFA evaluations on the contaminants aflatoxin regarding contribution to exposure from tree nuts and a re-evaluation of ochratoxin A, including exposure from cereals, were presented to the 2nd session of the Codex Committee for Contaminants in Food.</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions are available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/files/jecfa68_final.pdf</p> <p>The report is available at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241209472_eng.pdf</p> <p>Specifications monographs are available at: http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1447e/a1447e00.htm</p> <p>Toxicological monographs are available at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241660594_eng.pdf</p>

<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></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) (Geneva, Switzerland, 18 – 27 September 2007)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Joint Meeting assessed 24 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 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food. The pesticides assessed were aminopyralid, atrazine, azinphos methyl, captan, carbaryl, clofentezine, cyfluthrin / beta-cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, cyromazine, difenoconazole, dimethomorph, fenitrothion, fenpyroximate, flusilazole, folpet, indoxacarb, phosmet, procymidone, profenofos, propiconazole, pyrimethanil, triadimefon / triadimenol, triazophos and zoxamide.</p> <p>The meeting report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/a.htm</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Hazards Associated with Fresh Produce (Rome, Italy, 19 – 21 September 2007)</p> <p>To review the available data on microbiological hazards and foodborne illnesses linked to fresh produce and identify the priority issues to be addressed from a global perspective.</p> <p>The meeting identified 3 levels of priority commodities and the pathogens of concern for each commodity group according to a set of defined criteria. Leafy greens including leafy green herbs were identified as the highest priority. The next level of priorities included melons, tomatoes, berries, green onions and sprouted seeds. With regard to sprouted seeds the meeting recommended that the existing Codex guidance be reviewed for adequacy in light of recent information and the fact that outbreaks linked to sprouted seeds continue to occur. With regard to melons, tomatoes, berries and green onions, the meeting concluded that, given the available scientific data, it was not possible to separate these in order of priority from a global perspective. The third level priority grouping included those products that have been implicated in foodborne disease but for which there is inadequate information available at the current time to develop specific science based guidance. The outcome was presented to the 39th Session of the CCFH and used by the committee to establish their work priorities in the area of fresh produce.</p> <p>The meeting report is available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_freshproduce_en.asp http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety (Rome, Italy, 8-12 October 2007)</p> <p>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.</p> <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 among 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>

	The report of the meeting, in English, French and Spanish is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_food.html .
Activity	Joint FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials (Rome, Italy, 26-30 November 2007)
Purpose	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.
Outputs	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 that a prioritization scheme for the risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance resulting from the use of antimicrobials in food animals could follow 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. Further information and the report of this Expert Meeting can be obtained from: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/micro_antimicrobial_en.asp and http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/en/index.html

3. The Committee is **invited** to note the information described above. 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) **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 all applications for the fields of expertise in chemistry and analysis of food additives and contaminants, exposure assessment of chemicals in food and residues of veterinary drugs. The final composition of the rosters has been published on the JECFA website at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jecfa_experts_en.asp.

b) **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.

c) **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>

d) JECFA Publications:

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

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.

e) 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.

Forthcoming meetings

5. JEMRA will implement an expert meeting **microbiological hazards in leafy green vegetables and herbs** on 5 – 9 May 2008¹ in Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the meeting is to address the questions posed by the CCFH related to the microbiological hazards associated with leafy greens, their sources and potential management options from primary production through to the consumer. Additional background information is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_riskassessment_freshproduce_en.asp and

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings>

6. The 69th JECFA¹ will be convened from 17–26 June 2008 in Rome, Italy, to evaluate and re-evaluate the safety of a number of **food additives**. 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.

7. JEMRA will implement an expert meeting on ***Enterobacter sakazakii* in follow-up formula** in the USA in July 2008. The purpose of this meeting is to address specific questions posed by the CCFH to assist them in deciding whether or not to establish microbiological criteria for *E. sakazakii* in follow-up formula.

8. The 2008 JMPR will be convened 9-18 September 2008 to evaluate the safety of 25 **pesticides**. The tentative agenda and request for data can be accessed under:

http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jmpr/jmpr_2008_call_final.pdf.

9. FAO and WHO is working to address the request from the CAC on the **benefits and risks of use of chlorine containing disinfectants in the food production and processing**. 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. A core group of experts met in Rome, Italy (November 2007) to plan the drafting of background documents. The expert meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 – 30 May 2008 (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA). Further details are available at FAO: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_chlorine_en.stm and at WHO: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/active_chlorine/en/index.html.

10. 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**, as a first step, FAO and WHO organised a meeting with a small core group of experts, in Rome on 28–30 May 2007¹, to seek their advice on the approach to be taken, taking

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

into 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.

11. 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 will convene a meeting of a core group of experts on 14 - 15 May 2008 to further define the issues and initiate preparation of background papers for an expert meeting in late 2008 / early 2009. A call for data and call for experts will be issued well in advance of the expert meeting.

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

12. The "Consultative Process" which was initiated at the request of the 24th 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 was presented at the 30th 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 or proscad@fao.org.

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.² 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.

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.

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 ALINORM 08/31/9G-Add 1.

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 program of work on the provision of scientific advice,
- To mobilise 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.

13. 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.

14. For additional information and advice on the procedure for making a donation/contribution please contact Sandra Avilés, Policy Assistance and Resources Mobilization Division (Sandra.Aviles@fao.org; Tel: + 39 06 57056733) at FAO; and Jorgen Schlundt, Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases, WHO (schlundtj@who.int; Tel: + 41 22 791 3445).

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

15. 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 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 April 2008.

PART III

**JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON FOOD SAFETY
STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (April 2008)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 **April 2008**.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁴	Expected Output by Codex
1	Safety evaluation of food additives and flavouring agents.	CCFA	39 th Session ALINORM 07/30/12, para. 159-165 and Appendix XV.	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned_for 69 th JECFA (Rome, Italy, 17–26 June 2008)	300,000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate.
2	Safety evaluation of residues of veterinary drugs in foods	CCRVDF	17 th Session ALINORM 08/31/31, para. 83-94 and Appendix VII.	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned_for 70 th JECFA (Geneva, Switzerland, 21–29 October 2008)	250,000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate.
3	Risk assessment of contaminants in food	CCCF	2 nd Session ALINORM 08/31/41, para.173-190 and Appendix XIII	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Tentatively planned for 71 st or 72 nd JECFA in 2009	200,000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate
4	Safety evaluation of food additives and flavouring agents.	CCFA	40 th Session ALINORM 08/31/12, para. 167-173 and Appendix XIV	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Tentatively planned for 71 st or 72 nd JECFA in 2009	300,000	Maximum Limits or other advice as appropriate

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.

Figures indicate cost of pending actions related to each activity. Figures do not consider staff cost.

⁴ Total costs for FAO/WHO, including publication of reports, but excluding staff costs.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁴	Expected Output by Codex
5	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.	Planning meeting convened in November 2007. Expert consultation to be implemented in May 2008. Extrabudgetary resources available.	200,000	Recommendations regarding the safe use of active chlorine.
6	Fresh produce – Control of microbial hazards.	CCFH	38 th Session ALINORM 07/30/13 paras 224–231, Appendix VI. 39 th 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 th CCFH Phase 2 expert meeting on 5 – 9 May 2008 to develop specific scientific advice on leafy green vegetables as requested by the 39 th CCFH. Extra-budgetary resources available.	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.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁴	Expected Output by Codex
7	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.	JMPR Meeting implemented from 18-27 September 2007 for evaluation of 31 pesticides. Summary report posted on the FAO/WHO website Report to 40 th CCPR in 2008. Next JMPR session is scheduled for 9-18 September 2008, in Rome	370,000	Proposed Draft Maximum Residues for Pesticides.
8	Joint WHO/FAO Project Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment for chemicals in food	Melbourne Conference	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 by end of 2008, with exception of publication. The need for a final consultation step is dependent on identification of funds.	80,000	Harmonised methods of risk assessment for chemicals in foods to be used within the provision of scientific advice to Codex.
9	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 has been implemented to agree next steps and scope of the work. Final meeting to be held in 2009, pending extrabudgetary resources to be made available.	100,000	Develop methodology for risk and benefit assessment. Guidance document on the safe consumption of fish and seafood taking sensitive subpopulations into account.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁴	Expected Output by Codex
10	Risks associated with <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> in follow-up formula	CCFH	39 th session ALINORM 08/31/13	Implement an expert meeting that specifically addresses the risks associated with follow-up formula	Preliminary planning under way. Meeting scheduled to be convened in July 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
11	Risk mitigation options for <i>Salmonella</i> in bivalve molluscs	CCFFP	29 th 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 determine whether or not to establish microbiological criteria for <i>Salmonella</i> in bivalve molluscs and if needed use the scientific advice to guide the selection of appropriate criteria
12	Decision-tree approaches for the evaluation of veterinary drugs	CCRVDF	17 th 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 on feasible approaches underway 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 ADI's and MRL's

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\$) ^[1]	Expected Output
1	Nanotechnology	FAO		FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Food Safety Assessment of the Use of Nanotechnology Techniques	TORs under discussion Core group meeting on 14 – 15 May 2008 Expert meeting in late 2008 / early 2009. Extrabudgetary resources needed to support this activity.	70, 000 (initial step)	Scientific advice on safety assessment of nanotechnology techniques used in food production
2	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)	The 7 th JMPS will be held in Germany in June 2008.	150,000	FAO and WHO Specifications for pesticides to be used in agriculture and public health

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