



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES

Forty-third Session

Xiamen, China, 14 – 18 March 2011

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO AND FROM THE 73RD MEETING OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (JECFA)

1. This document provides information on FAO and WHO activities in the area of provision of scientific advice to Codex and Member countries, as well as other activities which are of interest for CCFA.

Matters for information and action from the 73rd meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

2. The results of the 73rd meeting of JECFA on food additives are available in the summary report¹. The meeting report (WHO Technical Report Series No 960, 2011) and the toxicological monographs (WHO FAS 64, 2011) will become available in due course and will be accessible through the WHO JECFA website: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jecfa/en/index.html>. The specifications monographs (FAO JECFA Monographs 10, 2010) are available at the FAO JECFA website at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1782e/i1782e.pdf>. In addition, all specifications monographs for food additives and flavouring agents are available in the updated on-line editions of the respective databases at the FAO JECFA website: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa-additives/search.html> and <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa-flav/search.html>. See also paragraphs 9-10

Provision of Scientific Advice from FAO and WHO

Principles and Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food

3. FAO and WHO have finalised the project to update the principles and methods for risk assessment of chemical in food, including food additives, contaminants and natural toxins, residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides. The document is published as the Environmental Health Criteria No 240 and is available on the web at this site: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/principles/en/index1.html>.

Activities in the field of nanotechnology in food and agriculture sectors

4. FAO has implemented, together with CAPES and the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil (EMBRAPA), a conference on Nanotechnology in the food and agriculture sectors in San Carlos, Brazil, 20 - 25 June 2010. New and emerging applications of nanotechnologies in food and agriculture and issues related to their use were the focus of this Conference. In addition to exploring relevant scientific and technological advances, the Conference also highlighted areas of research with the greatest potential to benefit society. A report summarizing the discussion and recommendations from several round table discussion forums will be made available shortly. For more information, visit www.nanoagri2010.com or contact food-quality@fao.org.

¹ See the Summary and Conclusions of the 73rd Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives for additional details: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jecfa/JECFA73%20Summary%20Report%20Final.pdf> and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/summary73.pdf>.

5. FAO and 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) and WHO (foodsafety@who.int).

Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA)

6. GIFSA is a mechanism established by FAO and WHO to facilitate the provision of extrabudgetary resources for scientific advice activities. Resources provided through GIFSA are 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. Contributions, which are accepted from governments, organizations and foundations in accordance with WHO and FAO rules continue to be received. For additional information and advice on the procedure for making a donation/contribution please contact Ms Dominique Di Biase, Policy Assistance and Resources Mobilization Division (Dominique.DiBiase@fao.org; Tel: + 39 06 57055391) at FAO; and Angelika Tritscher, Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases, WHO (tritschera@who.int; Tel: + 41 22 7913569).

7. 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 (English), http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_es.asp (Spanish) and http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_fr.asp (French) or for more information contact: Mary.Kenny@fao.org.

Other related initiatives underway in FAO and WHO

Establishment of a new program: Emergency Prevention System for Food Safety (EMPRES Food Safety)

8. 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), contact empres-fs@fao.org or visit <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/>.

Actions required as a result of changes in acceptable daily intake (ADI) status and other toxicological recommendations from JECFA

9. This section of the document summarizes actions required by the Codex Committee on Food Additives as a result of changes in the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) status of food additives or other toxicological recommendations concerning additives, as proposed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) at its 73rd meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 8-17 June 2010.

10. At its 73rd meeting, JECFA evaluated the safety of a large number of flavourings in 12 different groups of substances, using the Procedure for the safety Evaluation of Flavouring Agents, including the newly implemented procedure for exposure assessment using both added use-level data and maximized survey-derived intake (MSDI) estimation method. On the majority of flavourings JECFA concluded that these substances were of "no safety concern" based on current estimated intake. For a small number of flavours, the evaluation could not be completed, pending submission of required additional data, as indicated in the summary report². No action is required by CCFA as a result of these toxicological recommendations, but the Committee should take note of the request for data.

² Additional data are required to complete the toxicological evaluations of 13 flavouring agents (Nos 1914, 1931, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1944, 1973, 1988, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2046)