

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 9

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

12th Session

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 13 – 16 February 2001

COUNTRY REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF RISK ANALYSIS IN THE REGION

URUGUAY

At its last session from 23 to 28 October 2000 in Washington, US, the CCFH discussed the preliminary report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Assessment of Microbiological Hazards in Foods, held 17-21 July 2000 in Rome. The representatives of FAO and WHO informed the CCFH that they had launched a joint programme of work on assessment of microbiological risks. They were focusing on the pathogen-commodity combinations identified as priorities at the 32nd Session of the CCFH: *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods; *Salmonella* spp. in broilers and eggs; and *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs. Work so far has covered hazard identification, hazard characterization and assessment of exposure. The final part on risk assessment will be undertaken in 2001. It is important for countries to provide information on risk management if this work is to move forward. The above-mentioned session of the CCFH therefore decided to draw up a list of questions for countries to answer on the management of risk for each pathogen-commodity. These questions are included in the report of the 33rd Session of the CCFH.

We believe it would be very useful for the Region if these questions could be disseminated and the resulting information compiled systematically. We understand that developing countries might experience difficulty in answering this questionnaire which should therefore be discussed at the 12th Session of the CCLAC for analysis and for identification of difficulties and type of assistance needed. There might also be countries where such information has already been compiled, which could be of help to others.

In the case of Uruguay, information has been gathered through the System of Epidemiological Surveillance of Food-Borne Diseases, whose focal point is the Ministry of Public Health's Department of Epidemiological Surveillance. **Salmonella** was detected as the pathogen of food-borne disease outbreaks in 1995 and has continued to exist in subsequent years. This can be seen as a re-emerging pathogen, in the sense that it is a known micro-organism that produces illness in a different form, as Uruguay has records of isolation of *Salmonella* in stool cultures of individual cases dating back to 1934.

Strains corresponding to the outbreaks of Salmonellosis were sent to the National Salmonella Centre for sero-type identification, revealing that most were *Salmonella enteritidis*, with a lesser incidence of *S. glostup*, *S. agona* and *S. typhimurium*.

The most common foods carrying the disease have been animal based: eggs, meat and milk products, with a clear predominance of raw or insufficiently cooked egg used for a variety of purposes, including home-made mayonnaise, ice-creams and meringue desserts.

SALMONELLA NOTIFICATIONS 1995-1999

N° of outbreaks:	39
<i>Salmonella enteritidis</i> :	61.6%
Food involved:	84.6% in eggs
	7.5% in poultry meat
	2.6% in beef
	2.6% in sheep meat
	2.6% other

We can also report that Decree 178/00 stipulates, *inter alia*:

Article 1: Article 2 of Law N° 3606 of 13 April 1910 hereby includes diseases caused by the serovars of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*.

Article 2: The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries shall establish a Programme of Control of Aviary Salmonellosis and its General Department of Livestock Services shall determine the conditions, requirements and actions needed to implement the Programme.

We should soon therefore have further information in this regard.

We believe that this approach to the issue could be far more useful to the Region than the general approach featured on the agenda.