

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Items 4, 6(d)

RVDF/22 CRD/22

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEx COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS
Twenty-second Session
San José, Costa Rica, 27 April – 1 May 2015
COMMENTS OF PHILIPPINES

Agenda Item 4

Recombinant bovine somatotropin (rbST)

The Philippines supports the adoption of standards for recombinant bovine somatotropin based on the outcomes of the three JECFA evaluations which confirmed the safety.

The following justifications are hereby enumerated:

- The use of somatotropin is already accepted in the Philippines. Porcine somatotropin is registered and used for swine.
- While rbst is not registered in the countries (due to low market viability), Philippines recognized that it is approved in more than 20 countries.
- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of milk consumed in the Philippines is imported (32% from New Zealand and Australia, 24% US, and 43% from other countries). The adoption of standards will further ensure consumer protection.
- The JECFA has three times evaluated and confirmed the safety of rbst for humans. Most recently, the 78th JECFA, which included more than 20 experts, evaluated specific terms of reference from the 35th Commission and confirmed the safety.
- rbst is a protein hormone, easily broken down by digestive enzymes.
- rbst is species specific, it has no bioactivity in humans.
- rbst is safe and environmentally friendly technology that can help the planet produce more affordable food.
- The JECFA established an ADI of “not specified” for the rbsts because “the lack of oral activity of rbsts and IGF-1 and the low levels and nontoxic nature of the residues of these compounds, even at exaggerated doses, results in an extremely large margin of safety for humans consuming dairy products from rbst-treated cows.
- The proposed standards meet all of the conditions necessary for Codex standards. Adopting standards are important to protect the integrity of the Codex scientific process.

Agenda Item 6(d)

Dimetridazole, Iprnidazole, Metronidazole and Ronidazole

The Philippines reiterates its position that the competent authorities should prevent residues of the following veterinary drugs in foods: Dimetridazole, Iprnidazole, Metronidazole and Ronidazole. This can be accomplished by not using these veterinary drugs in food producing animals.

Justification:

The Philippine government’s decision of not using these veterinary drugs in food-producing animals is reinforced by human health concerns.

Hence, proposing that these substances be elevated at Step 5.