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Agenda Item 3

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Seventeenth Session

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**ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, INCLUDING CAPACITY BUILDING**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-ninth Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 3 – 7 July 2006

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

Prepared by FAO and WHO

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N.B. This paper does not include information on capacity building activities carried out by FAO and WHO. Such information is provided in a separate paper (CAC/29 INF/3).

PART I: OUTCOMES OF RECENT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS

1. FAO and WHO continue their efforts to provide relevant scientific advice to Codex in a transparent, sound and timely manner. Recent changes in FAO's organization, which led to the move of the of the Food and Nutrition Division, now the Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division, from the Economic and Social Department to the Agriculture, Biosecurity, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Department are facilitating the implementation of the concept of a farm-to-table approach to nutrition, food safety and consumer protection. These changes are providing new opportunities for cooperation between all units involved in the production, processing, handling, storage and distribution of food products enhancing FAO's capabilities for the provision of scientific advice.
2. The scientific advice that JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and *ad hoc* expert meetings provide remains a high priority for the Department and continues to cover the broad range of relevant issues.
3. The results of meetings implemented jointly by FAO and WHO with the objective of providing scientific advice are available on the FAO and WHO websites. The activities carried out related to the provision of scientific advice since the 28th CAC Session are summarized below.

Summary of scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO during 2005/April 2006

Activity	66th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) (Rome, Italy. 22 - 28 February, 2006).
<i>Purpose</i>	Dedicated to evaluate the safety of residues of veterinary drugs in food, this session evaluated eight substances with conclusions on seven of them.
<i>Outputs</i>	ADIs were established for the two antibiotics colistin and erythromycin. MRLs were recommended for colistin (several species), erythromycin (chicken and turkey), flumequine (shrimp), melengestrol acetate (cattle), ractopamine (cattle and pigs) and triclabendazole (cattle, sheep and goats). The ADI for trichlorfon (metrifonate) established at the 60 th meeting was confirmed and after specific toxicological concerns raised by the EU were addressed in detail, the MRLs were maintained. For tylosin no data were submitted and publicly available information was insufficient to assess the safety of the substance. The Committee further considered a number of important aspects related to the principles of risk assessment of veterinary drug residues in food. Summary and Conclusions are available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/jecfa66_final.pdf Technical report and monographs are in preparation.
Activity	65TH Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives (JECFA) (Geneva, 7 – 16 June 2005).
<i>Purpose</i>	A safety evaluation of 12 food additives, 5 of them for specification only, was undertaken. 138 flavouring agents were evaluated, as well as the safety of L-5-Methyltetrahydrofolic acid, calcium salt, when used as replacement for folic acid in dietary supplements, foods for special dietary uses and other foods.
<i>Outputs</i>	Specifications were considered for all 150 substances, for which full specifications were adopted for 138 substances, tentative specifications for 10 substances and 2 specifications were withdrawn. The

	<p>summary and conclusions are available at: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jecfa/summaries/en/index.html.</p> <p>This JECFA session also discussed the procedure for estimation of the dietary exposure to flavouring agents and recommended a working group to be formed to analyse all relevant aspects of the introduction of additional use level-based screening methods to complement the existing procedures for certain flavours.</p> <p>Compendium of food additive specifications – Addendum 13 is available at: http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/008/a0044e/a0044e00.htm with Errata ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0044e/a0044e03.pdf .</p> <p>The technical report and toxicological monographs are in preparation.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO Technical meeting on methods of analysis for food specifications (JECFA)*</p> <p>Review the draft updated version of Volume 4 of a new Combined Compendium of Food Additive Specifications to be included in the first of a series of FAO JECFA Monographs (methods of analysis).</p> <p>This volume of the “Combined Compendium of Food Additive Specifications” is under finalisation.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO/RIVM/WHO Workshop on Updating the principles and methods of Risk Assessment: maximum residue levels (MRLs) for pesticides and veterinary drugs. (Bilthoven, The Netherlands. 7 – 10 November 2005). Organized with the collaboration of The Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment. Implemented as part of the larger project to update the Principles and Methods for the Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food for the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).</p> <p>To review the scientific principles and procedures used by JECFA and JMPR for recommending MRLs and to harmonize their approaches to the extent useful and possible with emphasis on the general principles applied by both scientific bodies.</p> <p>The final report is available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/bilthoven_2005.pdf</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>FAO/WHO Meeting on the use of microbiological risk assessment outputs to develop practical risk management strategies (Kiel, Germany, 3 – 7 April 2006). Hosted by the Federal Research Centre for Nutrition and Food in collaboration with the German Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.</p> <p>To elaborate guidelines for the use of outputs of qualitative and quantitative microbiological risk assessment in developing or determining practical strategies and risk management standards for microbiological hazards in foods.</p> <p>Guidelines for the use of MRA outputs in setting/evaluating public health goals and ALOP. Description of challenges of the use of QMRA in the establishment of some food hygiene targets and related criteria.</p> <p>The meeting report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/riskmanagement_en.stm and at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/2005/en</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>Joint FAO/WHO Technical Meeting on <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> in powdered infant formula (Rome, Italy. 16-20 January 2006)</p> <p>To respond to specific questions from CCFH on <i>E. sakazakii</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> in powdered infant formula in order to facilitate its work on preparation of the international code of hygienic practice for foods for infants and children (to be renamed Code of hygienic practice for powdered formulae for infants and young children).</p> <p>Estimation of the relative risk associated with different levels of <i>E. sakazakii</i> in PIF and with different preparation, storage and feeding practices. A model to evaluate risk reduction strategies associated with these practices and to evaluate the impact of a range of sampling plans in terms of risk reduction and rejected product. Review of the relevant scientific information on <i>Salmonella</i> in powdered infant formula. Recommendations on how to minimise the risk associated with these pathogens in powdered infant formula.</p>

	The meeting report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/enterobacter_en.stm and at. http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/jan2006/en
Activity	FAO/WHO Expert meeting on the benefits and potential risks of the Lactoperoxidase system of raw milk preservation (Rome, Italy. 27 November- 3 December 2005)
Purpose	To determine the benefits (economic and nutritional) and the level of health risks, if any, posed by the application of the LP-system and advise on the safety of LP-system treated milk and derived milk products.
Outputs	Review of all the available relevant scientific data and information on microbiological, human health and nutrition, processing, technological and economic aspects associated with the use of the LP-system of raw milk preservation and recommendations regarding its application. The meeting report will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/risk_lacto_en.stm
Activity	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. September 2005)
Purpose	To assess the safety of 21 pesticides and propose MRLs when used in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice. 5 of these pesticides were new compounds and 8 were re-evaluated within the periodic review programme of the CCPR. Supervised trials median residues (STMR) and highest residue (HR) levels were reviewed as basis for estimation of dietary intake to be compared with the ADIs and ARfDs, in order to perform a dietary risk assessment and advise CCPR. To elaborate and update general principles for the safety assessment of pesticide residues in food
Outputs	The meeting report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/JMPR/DOWNLOAD/2005_rep/report2005jmp.pdf Toxicological and residue monographs are in preparation.
Activity	The Joint FAO/WHO Nutrient Risk Assessment Workshop: A model for establishing upper levels of intake for nutrients and related substances (Geneva, Switzerland. 2-6 May 2005).
Purpose	To develop an international approach or 'model' for nutrient risk assessment, by outlining key considerations relevant to establishing upper levels of intake for nutrient substances and to characterize potential risk.
Outputs	The meeting report is available at http://www.who.int/ipcs/highlights/nutrientproject_may18/en/index.html

4. The Commission is **invited** to note the information described above and provide comments about the usefulness of the advice provided through these meetings.

Other activities related to the provision of scientific advice

5. FAO and WHO continue their efforts to complete a number of activities which constitute a follow up to earlier expert meetings. These include, for example, the recent activities related to JECFA reported to the 38th session of the CCFAC in paper CX/FAC 06/38/3 (ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccfac38/fa38_03e.pdf), in particular the issue of a new call for experts for JECFA rosters 2007 – 2011. Details on the scientific expertise required for the fields in which JECFA is mandated to perform risk assessment and the application procedure and process is available at http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jecfa/experts_en.stm.

6. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants, JECFA, celebrates this year the 50th anniversary of its activities aimed at providing scientific advice to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and FAO/WHO Member Countries. Both organizations greatly appreciate the efforts of all the experts and institutions that have contributed to the valuable work of the Committee throughout all these years.

7. JEMRA published Volume 6 of the Microbiological Risk Assessment Series: *Enterobacter sakazakii* and other microorganism in powdered infant formula: meeting report. The risk assessment of *Vibrio vulnificus* in oysters is now available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/a0252e/a0252e00.htm> (soon to be published as volume 8 of the MRA series).

8. FAO and WHO supported the implementation of the Second International Conference on Microbial Risk Assessment (MRA): Foodborne Hazards (20 to 23 February, 2006) and organised a Pre-Conference Workshop entitled “Introduction to Food Safety Risk Assessment” in Sydney, Australia. More details on the workshop are available from jemra@fao.org and details of the conference are available at: www.aifst.asn.au/

9. The Global Environment Monitoring System - Food Contamination Monitoring and Assessment Programme, commonly known as GEMS/Food, maintains various databases to allow the assessment of exposure to chemicals in food, including databases on chemicals in specific foods and the total diet. In January 2006, GEMS/Food developed Consumption Cluster Diets, for use by JECFA and JMPR in conducting international exposure assessments for contaminants and pesticide residues. In addition, a large portion food consumption database is maintained for use in assessing exposure to chemicals with acute toxicity. In January 2006, GEMS/Food in cooperation with FAO and UNEP convened an ad hoc working group to consider advice to Member States in managing the risks of methylmercury in fish while maintaining the obvious health and nutritional benefits of fish consumption. With regard to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which came into force in May 2004, GEMS/Food in cooperation with UNEP will be coordinating a global survey of human milk for POPs in 2006/2007 to facilitate the monitoring of the effectiveness of the treaty in reducing emissions of POPs. More details on GEMS/Food and its activities are available at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/gems/en/index.html>.

10. A joint WHO/DFID-AHP meeting on “Neglected Zoonotic Disease: a route to poverty alleviation” was organized in WHO HQ Geneva on 21-22 September 2005. This interdisciplinary and multisectoral meeting reviewed the current situation where measures to safeguard human health and control disease in livestock and other animals for the prevention of the transmission of animal-borne or zoonotic diseases, are too often undertaken in isolation of one another. The meeting, jointly with Animal Health Programme (AHP) of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) showed the dual benefits to be gained by both animal and human health sectors by investing in the integrated and coordinated control of these diseases. The meeting report is available at: <http://www.who.int/zoonoses/diseases/sept05/en/index.html>.

11. The Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Consultation on Avian Influenza and Human Health: Risk Reduction Measures in Producing, Marketing and Living with Animals in Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 4 to 6 July 2005. The Consultation provided guidance applicable in developing countries regarding appropriate regulatory controls in the production, distribution and marketing of live animals for food and identified effective interventions that would (a) enhance community awareness and understanding of high-risk human behaviours and practices contributing to the emergence and prevalence of avian influenza in humans and poultry; and (b) facilitate change aimed at reducing the risk of zoonoses to human health. Finally, the meeting determined research that needs to be undertaken to strengthen regulatory controls. The report is available at: http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/38A980D7-8577-400A-8024-7D27F34309D1/0/FAO_OIE_WHO_Consultation.pdf

Future meetings (additional information is provided in CX/FAC 06/38/3.)

12. The 67th JECFA¹ will be convened from 20-29 June 2006 in Rome to evaluate the safety of a number of food additives and flavouring substances, as well as consider some general aspects such as intake assessment of flavouring agents. The call for data is currently accessible under: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jecfa/jecfa67_call%20final.pdf

¹ The present document was prepared before the date of the JECFA meeting, hence the lack of information on the outcome of the JECFA session.

13. FAO and WHO, in collaboration with OIE, are organizing an expert consultation on Antimicrobial Use in Aquaculture and Antimicrobial Resistance. The consultation will be held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in June 2006 and will address aspects related to regulation, marketing, distribution, the magnitude of the use of antimicrobials in aquaculture and the public health impact of such use. FAO/WHO/OIE are currently seeking experts and data to facilitate the implementation of this consultation. More information is available at: www.fao.org/agn/food.risk_antimicrobial_en.stm

14. FAO and WHO, in collaboration with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, are taking initial steps for the organization of an expert meeting on *Escherichia coli* O157 in meat to be implemented in late 2006. The main objective of the meeting will be to review the current scientific information on this field and assess the need for an international quantitative risk assessment on this matter. More information on this meeting will be available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/jemra/index_en.stm.

15. The 2006 JMPR will be convened from 3-12 October 2006 in Rome to evaluate the safety of 23 pesticides. The tentative agenda and request for data can be accessed under: http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jmpr/jmpr_2006_call_final.pdf.

16. FAO and WHO, with the collaboration of the Centre for Substances and Integrated Risk Assessment of the Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM/SIR), have initiated the preparation of a technical document on the criteria for establishing the list of acceptable cargoes as requested by the CCFO. The paper will be further reviewed by an expert meeting to be held in late 2006. Information on this activity will be available soon at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/food/riskassessment_en.stm

17. FAO/WHO preparatory working groups and Expert Consultations on carbohydrates, on the fats and oils and on issues related to dietary fibre, sugars and trans-fatty acids have been postponed until financial resources are available. Additional information on most of these upcoming activities is available in Annex 1 of this document.

18. In view of the paucity of information on chemicals in food in developing countries, WHO in cooperation with FAO has undertaken a series of workshops and training courses to promote the understanding and implementation of total diet studies (TDS). Such studies are considered one of the most cost effective means for assessing the exposure of population subgroups to a range of chemicals in the food supply. The 4th International TDS training course and workshop will be held in Beijing from 16-27 October 2006 in cooperation with the Chinese Centers for Disease Control.

19. FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE are planning to organize an expert consultation on Critically Important Antimicrobials (CIA). Considering the list of critically important antimicrobials that has been developed by WHO during a WHO consultation held in Canberra, Australia, in February 2005 (report available at http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/amr_feb2005.pdf), the meeting will propose management options in relation to non-human use of these CIA to prevent/contain antimicrobial resistance. The list of Critically Important Antimicrobials for animals that has been developed by the OIE should also be taken into consideration

PART II: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FAO/WHO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX AND MEMBER COUNTRIES

20. The review of the FAO/WHO programme on the provision of scientific advice to Codex and member countries continued with the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the FAO/WHO Workshop on the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27-29 January, 2004² and comments received from the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 197-209).

21. The 57th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission recognised that the Consultative Process was conducted under the authority of FAO and WHO, not by Codex, and held

² The report of the Workshop is available on the websites of FAO (http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/proscad/index_en.stm) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/consult/en>).

the view that a practical approach would be for FAO and WHO to submit a semi-final report to the 29th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for information and observation. After considering the views of the Commission, FAO and WHO should submit a final report to the respective governing bodies for adoption (ALINORM 06/29/3, para 87).

22. Activities prioritised by FAO/WHO in this reporting period are:

a) *Elaboration of a **Procedural Guideline** compiling all written procedures currently followed by FAO and WHO in relation to the provision of scientific advice.* The procedural guideline will be available in the second half of 2006 at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/proscad/advice_en.stm and on the WHO website. The Guideline will enhance the transparency of the work of FAO and WHO on the provision of scientific advice. The guideline will be revised periodically.

b) *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.* FAO/WHO implemented an expert meeting to work towards achieving full participation of developing countries in the provision of scientific advice. The meeting, *Enhancing developing country participation in FAO/WHO scientific advice activities*, was implemented from 12 – 15 December 2005 in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro with the collaboration of the Institute of Bromatology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Belgrade University. The meeting proposed recommendations in three main areas: greater inclusion of data from developing countries; enhancement of the potential for experts from developing countries to be selected as members and have an effective participation in these meetings; and means to enhance the enabling environment at national, regional and international levels. The meeting suggested mechanisms and processes to enable FAO/WHO and Member countries to better communicate with experts and institutions. The report of the meeting has been circulated to Codex Contact Points and is now electronically available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/proscad/index_en.stm and at WHO website.

23. The Commission is **invited** to consider the recommendations made by the Belgrade meeting (see point b above) and to support efforts at international and national level for their implementation.

24. The completion of the FAO/WHO Consultative Process on Provision of Scientific Advice has been postponed to December 2006. It requires the support and involvement of member countries and the identification of additional resources to meet the expectations of the CAC and member countries.

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

25. In prioritising 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. The table in the attached Annex presents the overall status of pending requests for scientific advice received by FAO/WHO as of **April 2006**.

ANNEX

Table 1: Codex Requests to FAO and WHO for Scientific Advice (as of April 2006)

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ¹¹	Expected Output by Codex
1	Safety evaluation of food additives, flavouring agents and contaminants	CCFAC	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 225 and Appendix XXIX	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Planned for 67 th JECFA (Rome, Italy. 20 – 29 June 2006)	150, 000	Acceptable or tolerable intake levels
					NOTE: only a proportion of the long list of pending requests can be considered.		
2	Safety of active chlorine used in and on foods	CCFAC CCFH	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 108 and Appendix XV 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/13, para. 158 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/13 paras 170 - 174	TOR of expert consultation specified by 37 th CCFH and 37 th CCFAC.	Awaiting final direction from CCEXEC and CAC. Extra-budgetary resources that are needed to implement this work.	300, 000	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Use of Active Chlorine

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ¹¹	Expected Output by Codex
3	Risk assessments on <i>Campylobacter</i> & <i>Vibrio</i>	CCFH	34 th Session ALINORM 03/13; 35 th Session ALINORM 03/13A, paras 49-54 and para. 57	Completion of the risk assessments – peer review	In finalization stage through consultation with the drafting groups Translation / publication NOTE: Codex should verify any further need of advice on this matter after the CCFH 38 th session (December 2006)	150, 000	Risk management options in the revision of relevant Codes of Practice
4	Risk assessment of enterohaemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i>	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras. 12 - 20	ad hoc expert meeting to be organized	Expert meeting to assess current information available to be convened late 2006	150, 000 extra-budgetary resources to be provided by Ireland.	Management options for risk associated with enterohaemorrhagic strains of <i>Escherichia coli</i>
5	Risk assessment of viruses in food	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras 12 – 20	Provision of Scientific Advice as requested by CCFH	Initiation of preliminary work by September 2006	50 000 (Initial part). Extra-budgetary resources to be provided by the Netherlands	Management options for the risk associated with viruses in food

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ¹¹	Expected Output by Codex
6	Risk assessment based advice on pathogen-commodity combinations	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras 12 – 20	Provision of Scientific Advice as requested by CCFH	Awaiting clear definition of specific advice required following decisions on new work by 38th CCFH and subsequent CAC.	Cost to be estimated considering the scope of the activity.	Risk management options in the revision of relevant Codes of Practice and the development of new management documents
7	Establishment of criteria for the evaluation of safety of acceptable previous cargoes (transport of fats and oils in bulk) and evaluation of specific substances on that basis	CCFO CAC	18 th Session ALINORM 03/17, paras 78-79 19 th Session ALINORM 05/28/17 paras 57-61 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/41 para. 206	FAO/WHO to provide advice on the proposed criteria	Expert review to be completed in second half of 2006 with the collaboration of The Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM/SIR). Report by February 2007 to the CCFO.	45,000	Criteria for the elaboration and revision of the positive list
8	Evaluation of residues and toxicology of pesticides for the establishment of acceptable intake levels and of MRLs.	CCPR	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/24, paras 86, 93, 97, 104, 107, 135, 240-244 and Appendix XIV	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues	Next JMPR Meeting in preparation for 3 – 12 October 2006 to evaluate 23 pesticides. Report to 39 th CCPR in 2007	350, 000	Proposed Draft Maximum Residues for Pesticides

