



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS**

13th Session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia 29 April – 3 May 2019

MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO (INCLUDING 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 to the Committee on Contaminants in Foods.

Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)

2. Since the last session of CCCF (2018), one JECFA meeting (i.e. JECFA86) has been convened. This meeting addressed food additives. The report has been published ¹and detailed monographs are/will be available at the relevant FAO and WHO sites:

FAO: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/jecfa/en/

WHO: www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/jecfa/en/

Ad-hoc FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Ciguatera Food Poisoning

3. On 19-23 November 2018, FAO and WHO held an expert meeting to develop scientific advice in response to the request from CCCF11. In particular, the requested scientific advice to FAO/WHO entails a full evaluation of known CTXs (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment), including geographic distribution and rate of illness; congeners; methods of detection; and based on this, guidance for the development of risk management options. The meeting concluded successfully and a report is in preparation with the aim to publish it by summer 2019.
4. Future meetings:

JECFA87 will be held on 4-13 June 2019 in Rome, Italy. The meeting is dedicated to the evaluation of a number of food additives.

The call for data and draft agenda for JECFA87 are available on the respective FAO and WHO websites:

FAO: www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/calls-data-experts/en/

WHO: <http://www.who.int/entity/foodsafety/call-data-expert/en/index.html>

There are currently no specific JECFA meetings planned for the evaluation of contaminants, and the JECFA Secretariat is exploring additional ways to address pending requests from CCCF, for further assessments in 2020.

Requests for scientific advice

5. Both organizations continue to jointly prioritize the requests for scientific advice taking into consideration the criteria proposed by Codex as well as the requests for advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources.
6. In scheduling the JECFA meetings and developing the agenda, the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat has to take into account the priorities requested by the Committees on Food Additives, Contaminants in Foods and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods. Due to the increasing requests for scientific advice to JECFA, not all requests can be addressed in the subsequent meeting.
7. To facilitate provision of extra-budgetary resources for scientific advice activities, please contact Dr Markus Lipp, FAO Food Safety and Quality Unit (jecfa@fao.org) and Mr Kim Petersen, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, WHO (jecfa@who.int).

¹ Evaluation of certain food additives (Eighty-sixth report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives)
[WHO Technical Report Series, No. 1014, 2019](#)

GEMS/Food programme**Global Food Consumption Databases and ongoing activities to support countries to generate and to use data for risk analysis purposes**

8. Reliable information on food consumption, collected at individual level, is needed to estimate dietary exposure to chemicals and biological agents in the general population and in vulnerable population groups. To address the issue of insufficient access to such data, FAO and WHO have continued the work on the two following tools (initiated in 2014), to develop global food consumption databases.
- CIFOcOss (FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption Data summary statistics) has been further implemented with data from additional countries and available summary statistics are published at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>
 - FAO/WHO GIFT (FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool) has been further developed and is currently sharing 8 datasets (including 3 nationwide datasets). The database provides not only access to all microdata but also provides food-based indicators in the field of food consumption, nutrition, dietary exposure and food safety. GIFT utilizes FoodEx2 as categorization tool. and implemented it for use at global level. FAO/WHO GIFT also provides an up-to-date global inventory of individual quantitative food consumption surveys conducted and ongoing, with detailed information on identified studies. The platform is available at <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>
 - The GEMS/Food programme continues to actively support the work of CCCF by supporting several eWG in the collection and analysis of global food contamination data to derive recommendations for MLs.
9. As part of the ongoing efforts to build national capacity and to populate these databases, a study to improve and harmonize food consumption data in ASEAN countries was conducted over 2 years starting in May 2016. The project, funded by the EU through the Codex Trust Fund, and technically supported by FAO and WHO, consisted of: i) conducting nationwide individual food consumption survey in Lao PDR and ii) harmonizing existing data from individual food consumption data in other ASEAN countries in a consistent format. This harmonization activity consisted of physical trainings and online training sessions and meetings with national teams to support them in:
- The mapping the food lists from their national individual quantitative food consumption surveys with the global categorization system (FoodEx2) developed by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA);
 - The preparation of data in the format (variable types, standard codifications, recipe disaggregation and use of yield and retention factors, etc.) needed to include it in the FAO/WHO GIFT and FAO/WHO CIFOcOss data sharing platforms.
10. The ultimate aim is to improve the assessment of nutrient intake and dietary exposure to chemical and biological agents in food (supporting national and international Codex standard-setting).

Risk Assessment Methods and Principles

11. In addition to the scientific advice provided, the FAO/WHO Secretariats are working to update risk assessment methodologies, taking into account recommendations from expert meetings and the latest scientific developments. This is critical to assure that the scientific advice provided is based on up-to-date methodology and scientific knowledge.

In this context, several activities are planned or are under way, to address the following areas of JECFA's chemical risk assessment methodology

- Harmonization of chronic dietary exposure assessment for different food chemicals and combined exposure from dual uses compounds (pesticides and veterinary drugs), including harmonization of residue definition. Several workshops have been held and guidance documents are in preparation, for further discussion at upcoming JMPR and JECFA (vet drugs) meetings.
- Guidance on the evaluation and interpretation of genotoxicity tests in order to conclude on the genotoxic potential of chemicals: an expert meeting was held in 8-10 October 2018 and the final, extensive draft guidance is in preparation. The document will be made available for public comments by mid-2019, and discussed by JECFA and JMPR meetings held in 2019.
- Update of guidance on dose-response modelling and derivation of health-based guidance values, including application of benchmark dose modelling (update of Chapter 5 of EHC240): an expert meeting will be held March 25-29 to discuss and finalize a draft document prepared by a core working group. The document will be made available for public comments by mid-2019, and discussed by JECFA and JMPR meetings held in 2019.

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- Risk assessment guidance for the safety evaluation of enzymes: an expert meeting was held 11-14 December 2018 and a draft guidance is under development.
 - A process of reviewing and revising of the analytical methods used in JECFA monographs has been started. FAO intends to hold an expert meeting reviewing the outcome of this evaluation and recommending changes to be adopted to JECFA in 2020.