

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Items 15

**CF/10 CRD 2
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY**

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

**Tenth Session
Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 4-8 April 2016**

Agenda Item 15

REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP ON PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS PROPOSED FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA

I. Introduction

The in-session working group (WG) was held on 5 April 2016 and chaired by Dr. Paul South (United States). Dr. Eileen Abt (United States) served as Rapporteur. Dr. Markus Lipp (FAO/JECFA Secretariat) and Dr. Angelika Tritscher (WHO/JECFA Secretariat) assisted the Chair.

II. Current Priority List

The current Priority List includes: 1) dioxins, 2) inorganic arsenic, and 3) scopoletin.

Aflatoxin, fumonisins, 3-MCPD esters, glycidyl esters, diacetoxyscirpenol, and sterigmatocystin were removed from the list as they are scheduled for evaluation at the 83rd JECFA meeting (November 2016).

Countries provided the WG with status updates on contaminants and natural toxins on the current Priority List to ensure understanding between CCCF and JECFA on the nature of the scientific requests prior their initiation. The information by countries included the rationale for the request, what information is being requested, how the information will be used, and the status on available data (see table below).

III. New Proposals for Priority List

Two new proposals for the Priority List are as follows:

1. Ergot alkaloids: existing standards in wheat and oats contain provisions on the maximum content of ergot sclerotia; these provisions are listed as quality rather than safety standards. Ergot alkaloids are a health concern, and discussion is needed if ergot alkaloids should be included in the GSCTFF. A risk assessment is needed, including examining a correlation between ergot sclerotia and alkaloids.

2. Aflatoxins and fumonisins in spices and culinary herbs: add occurrence and exposure assessment and contribution to total exposure and health risk as an addendum to the 83rd JECFA meeting, as JECFA is already assessing aflatoxins and fumonisins.

The WG agreed to add an ergot alkaloid exposure assessment and toxicological assessment to the Priority List because of concerns regarding the potential health effects resulting from exposures. EU stated that a recent EFSA risk assessment of ergot alkaloids is available and Canada commented that they could provide occurrence data. EU is studying the correlation between occurrence of ergot sclerotia and alkaloids.

The WG agreed to forward a request to JECFA to consider aflatoxins and fumonisins in spices and culinary herbs at the 83rd JECFA meeting. JECFA agreed to publish an addendum to the current data call extending

the deadline for an additional month to request occurrence and toxicological data on aflatoxins and fumonisins in spices and culinary herbs. EU also commented that it could provide occurrence data on aflatoxins in spices.

IV. Additional follow up Work by CCCF in Response to JECFA 80th Meeting Assessments

At its 80th meeting, JECFA considered non-dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (NDL-PCBs) and pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs). The summary report of this meeting has been published and full reports and detailed monographs will be available at the relevant FAO and WHO sites.

As a follow up to the assessment on NDL-PCBs, the JECFA Secretariat recommended examining the Code of Practice (COP) for the Prevention and Reduction of Dioxin and Dioxin-Like PCB Contamination in Foods and Feeds (CAC/RCP 62-2006) to determine if the COP could be expanded to include NDL-PCBs, as control measures may be similar across different compounds. This recommendation was supported by Canada and EU. With EU suggesting that if NDL-PCBs could not be incorporated into the existing COP, inclusion of an annex addressing NDL-PCBs should be considered.

Regarding the PAs, the JECFA Secretariat noted that the assessment is still being finalized, and therefore it could not recommend additional work on PAs at this time. Because of concerns regarding the potential genotoxicity and carcinogenicity of PAs, a number of follow up activities by CCCF were discussed by the working group, including suggestions by EU for collection of additional occurrence data, drafting of a discussion paper that details follow up actions, and the need to inform the CCSC of JECFA's assessment and CCCF's COP.

V. Recommendation to the Committee

1. The 10th session of the CCCF should consider including contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants identified in the table below on the priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants proposed for evaluation by JECFA.

PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA

Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants	Background and Question(s) to be Answered	Data Availability (When, What)	Proposed By
Dioxins ¹	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) to update 2001 JECFA assessment and incorporate data on developmental effects from in utero exposures.	EFSA assessment available summer 2017. Canada: occurrence data on foods of animal origin.	Canada
Inorganic Arsenic	2001 JECFA evaluation based on cancer effects. This evaluation would focus on non-cancer effects (neurodevelopmental, immunological and cardiovascular) and could inform future risk	US: occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal Brazil: occurrence data	USA

	management needs.	in rice, poultry, and pork	
Scopoletin ²	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) in fermented Noni juice	To be consulted with CCNASWP on status of the standard for noni juice and data availability	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South-West Pacific (CCNASWP)
Ergot alkaloids ^{3,4}	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment)	EFSA (2012) report EU: occurrence data (collecting); assessment on exposures to ergot alkaloids Canada: occurrence information (commodity-specific data, i.e., grading standards)	EU/Canada

¹Lower priority: JECFA evaluation to build on the ongoing work at national and regional re-assessment of dioxins.

²Codex Secretariat will follow up with CCNASWP to obtain additional details on proposal, as they were not present for the discussion.

³Proposals from CCCF10 for new contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for JECFA Priority List.

⁴Ergot is mentioned in quality chapter, suggestion for integration into GSCTFF.

2. As follow up of recent JECFA assessments consider the following:

a. review of the COP on dioxin and dioxin-like compound to see if NDL-PCBs can be included (e.g. discussion paper for next session)

b. discussion paper on follow up actions for PAs, including which PAs are most relevant for further monitoring, whether standards are needed, what foods should be monitored, and review of implementation of the COP.