



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



World Health
Organization

JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT COMMITTEE ON FOOD ADDITIVES (JECFA)

Call for Experts by the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat

Exposure Assessment: Estimating Dietary Intake of Chemicals in Food

Introduction

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) is an international expert scientific committee that is administered jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It has been meeting since 1956, initially to evaluate the safety of food additives. Its work now also includes the evaluation of contaminants, naturally occurring toxicants and residues of veterinary drugs in food.

To date, JECFA has evaluated more than 1500 food additives, approximately 40 contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants, and residues of approximately 90 veterinary drugs. The Committee has also developed principles for the safety assessment of chemicals in food that are consistent with current thinking on risk assessment and take account of recent developments in toxicology and other relevant scientific areas such as microbiology, biotechnology, exposure assessment, food chemistry including analytical chemistry, and assessment of maximum residue limits for veterinary drugs.

According to the procedure described in the [general information on the call for experts](#) the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat establishes one joint list of experts for exposure assessment (appointments are for a period of five years). Experts are selected from the list, referred to as the *roster* of experts, for each meeting of JECFA to serve as members of the Committee or to assist the Secretariat with preparatory work.

Expertise required

For food additives, contaminants and naturally occurring toxins; Experts are called who can

- (i.) analyse the concentration of chemicals occurring in food items and statistically evaluate data and results obtained;
- (ii.) evaluate the comparability and reliability of analytical data received;
- (iii.) evaluate and compare sampling protocols, in particular study the influence of the sampling protocols on the analytical results;
- (iv.) evaluate food consumption studies and databases of human populations (including specific sub-populations like children and the elderly);
- (v.) establish and maintain databases relevant to the intake assessment of chemicals in food;
- (vi.) assess the dietary intake of chemicals in food by humans based on food consumption data using a variety of techniques, including stochastic modelling;
- (vii.) assess the exposure of population subgroups to a chemical/contaminant or groups of such substances; and

- (viii.) evaluate and compare national exposure estimates, including those based on total diet studies and biomonitoring approaches.

Knowledge of and experience with the food chemical concentration data in the GEMS/Food format (see http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/chem/gems_instructions/en/) and the GEMS/Food Consumption Cluster Diets (see <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/gems/en/index1.html>) would be an asset.

Basic and essential qualifications of experts

FAO and WHO place great value on the technical qualification and independence of the participating experts as well as to the transparency of its selection process. Therefore, both organisations have developed well-defined procedures for selecting experts that promote the excellence and independence of opinions provided.

Candidates should fulfil the following basic and essential qualifications:

- advanced university/college degree in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, microbiology, food science and technology or other relevant biosciences;
- at least five years experience in food safety risk assessment and in particular the exposure assessment of chemicals in food by humans;
- scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, in particular, relevant publications on exposure assessment within the last ten years; and
- leadership or invited participation in national or international scientific bodies, committees, and other expert advisory bodies pertinent to exposure assessment and related disciplines.

Criteria and process for selection of experts

The criteria for the selection of experts are the basic and essential qualifications together with the proven competence and expertise in various tasks related to exposure assessment as described above. The *curriculum vitae* of applicants will be reviewed on the basis of the criteria listed above by a selection panel consisting of three or more individuals including at least one independent, internationally recognised expert appointed by FAO or WHO. The purpose of the panel review is to determine whether an applicant meets all the essential requirements. The highly qualified individuals selected from the applicants will be placed on the roster that will be used by FAO and WHO to invite experts to JECFA meetings and/or expert consultations.

In selecting experts FAO and WHO will consider, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarities of scientific backgrounds, and balanced representation from geographic regions including developing and developed countries as well as gender.

Appointment of Experts

The experts will be invited to participate only in their individual scientific capacity. No expert shall represent the position of the government of which he or she is a citizen, or of the institution with which he or she is associated. The experts designated to participate in such meetings will not receive any remuneration, however, travel costs, subsistence allowance and other related expenses will be the exclusive responsibility of FAO and WHO.

Application

Interested applicants should submit their *curriculum vitae* including a description of their education, work experience including reference to two persons with knowledge of the professional qualifications and a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to the factors indicated above. Do not include reprints in your submission unless specifically requested at a later date. Applicants must

have a good working knowledge of English including the ability to write scientific reports as meetings and correspondence will be in English and translation service is not provided.

Before participating in meetings, candidates will be required to declare any potential interests associated with the substances that will be evaluated through completion of a standard form adopted by FAO or WHO. They will be asked to indicate in writing any potential conflict of interest on their part or their spouse that may affect their scientific independence as experts including one or more of the following conditions: employment (past or present) by any commercial enterprise or private or civil sector association; a recipient of research or other study grants from such enterprises or associations; or shareholdings in commercial enterprises active in fields related to food safety. In addition, a confidentiality undertaking is also to be signed to ensure proper handling of dossiers and proprietary information. These declarations will be retained by the Joint Secretariat.

Names of selected individuals will be posted on the FAO and WHO web sites, including their affiliation.

Deadline

In order to be considered for the roster 2007-2011, applications should be sent electronically or post-marked by **1 July 2006** to one of the addresses mentioned below. Applications received after that date will be evaluated following the same procedure as described above and added to the roster on an individual basis.

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