

**Report of the meeting of IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force held on
3 November 2015 at the 11th International Food Data Conference, Hyderabad, India**

List of Participants

1. Ruth Charrondiere, INFOODS coordinator
2. Henrietta Ene-Obong, AFROFOODS coordinator
3. Johana Ortiz, ECUAFOODS
4. Norma Samman, LATINFOODS vice president
5. Elizabete Wenzel, LATINFOODS Brazil
6. Pamela Pehrsson, NORAMFOODS
7. David B Haytowitz, NORAMFOODS coordinator
8. Paul Hulshof, EUROFOODS
9. Averalda Van Graan, SAFOODS/ ECSAFOODS
10. Joelaine Chetty, SAFOODS/ ECSAFOODS
11. Kunchit Judprasong, ASEANFOODS
12. Prapasri Puwastien, ASEANFOODS coordinator
13. Fernanda Grande, BRASILFOODS
14. John Maina Mwai, INFOODS country focal point for Kenya, ECSAFOODS
15. Longvah, SAARCFOODS coordinator
16. Gina Kennedy, Biodiversity International
17. Jayashree Arcot, UNSW Australia,
18. Subathira Sivakumaran, NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research
19. Siva Sivakumaran, for Judy Cunningham OCEANIAFOODS
20. Hettie Schonfeldt, Special Advisor to AFROFOODS
21. Anna Vincent, FAO, INFOODS

Future of INFOODS (Continuation of an email discussion)

FAO declared the intention to reduce some areas of food composition work. This generated concern that FAO would stop supporting INFOODS. There were discussions about possibilities to move INFOODS somewhere else, e.g. WHO but noted that WHO's focus is primarily on maternal and infant health. At the end, it was concluded that FAO is the best home for INFOODS. Members discussed ways to inform FAO of the importance of food composition work to FAO's programmes.

Decisions

- a. INFOODS will not seek to move away from FAO.
- b. Members, where possible, would discuss with their governments to include food composition activities into the country plan to be presented to FAO.
- c. Longvah to write from India to FAO HQ explaining the success of the conference and about the importance of INFOODS.

Coordinators and vice coordinators

In recent time, some of the regional data centres were strengthened by appointments of vice coordinators in order to increase the work force, have more activities and better succession plans. An example of success is AFROFOODS. Also in other regional data centres, such as GULFFOODS, NORAMFOODS, CEECFOODS, new coordinators and/or vice coordinators were appointed. It seems that in some cases the terms of reference for the coordinators were so overwhelming that people were reluctant to take over this position. ASEANFOODS and SAARCFOODS are having problems attracting new coordinators or vice coordinators.

Decisions

- a. Outgoing regional coordinators may become “Special advisors” to assist new coordinators.
- b. Ruth will forward list of food composition course attendees in order for regional members to approach new coordinators.
- c. Ruth will modify the terms of reference for coordinators on the INFOODS website to indicate that the list of tasks only represents examples of possible activities. This modification would make the tasks of coordinators less demanding and more achievable.
- d. Jayashree Arcot was appointed new OCEANIAFOODS vice coordinator.
- e. Prapasri Puwastien will continue looking for a replacement as ASEANFOODS coordinator.

Capacity building

The Wageningen and e-learning food composition courses remain the most important capacity building tools. The Wageningen course has increasingly self-paying participants which is good for its sustainability.

In Sydney, a one-week food composition training course is planned in February 2016 focusing on data quality and evaluation: its attendance will depend on the prior completion of the FAO/INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data. This can become a model for other training courses. Other models could also be envisaged where the FAO/INFOODS and EuroFIR e-learning courses on analytical methods are combined, also for universities.

Another model which proves to be successful is to hold half- or one-day training courses before or after a nutrition conference: this was done in Ghana after the ANEC conference, or in Arusha after the FANUS conference or in Hyderabad before the 11th International Food Data Conference. Participants increased their interest in food composition, learned new skills and acquired motivation to include the course into their university or institute.

A possible mentorship programme was discussed, in which new compilers would be mentored by one or several senior compilers. It was found that it is best for the moment to continue providing support on an ad-hoc basis: those having a query turn to a former facilitator or a more senior compiler or the listserv.

Decisions

- a. Paul Hulshof will follow up with Paul Finglas about the possible use of the EuroFIR e-learning courses.
- b. Ruth will publish the list of participants in the training workshops of Ghana, Arusha and Hyderabad onto the INFOODS website

Grant proposals

INFOODS should be actively looking for external funding opportunities. It would be good to submit a big grant proposal together.

Success stories awards

Ruth and her colleagues were unable to decide which of the food composition success stories should win the IFDC2015 prize due to difficulties to decide which criteria to apply. It is difficult to judge the degree of success as the scales are so different, e.g. between an

individual without budget or an institution with considerable budget. The aim of the award should be to honour efforts and achievements.

Decisions

- a. All submitted success stories to be given a certificate this time.
- b. The tasks force to develop criteria for future awards over e-mail.

Other issues

- Regional food composition table (FCT): Prapasri asked if it is still necessary to produce regional FCT. They are useful if there are countries in the region not having an updated national FCT or none. In ASEAN countries, it might be good to assist Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to build their own national FCT. For countries like West Africa, it is still worth having a regional FCT as most countries do not have an updated FCT. The West African FCT will be updated as part of the Gates-funded project INDDEX under the leadership of the Tufts University.
- It would be valuable to increase data sharing among INFOODS to avoid duplication of work. Ways on how to implement this still to be discussed.
- FAO has produced a video to promote food composition in general and the FAO/INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data. It could be used as advocacy tool. It will be posted on the INFOODS website and on YouTube