



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

JOINT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETING ON HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL FEED¹

Rome, Italy

12-15 May 2015

CALL FOR EXPERTS AND CALL FOR DATA

BACKGROUND

A rapidly growing population, along with an increase in urbanization and income are driving the demand for foods of animal origin. The consumption of animal products is estimated to be possibly 70% higher in 2050 than today. Concurrently, the demand for animal feed² will continue to go up with an increase in the food-feed-fuel competition and in food prices. Measures to reduce imbalanced consumption of animal products, to produce food and feed more efficiently and to reduce food and feed losses and wastes are necessary to face this challenge.

The challenge is not only to meet the growing demand for animal feed but also to ensure its safety. Animal feed safety impacts on animal health, welfare and productivity, the health of feed producers, handlers and users, as well as the safety of the human food supply and the livelihood of farmers. Safe feed helps to reduce production costs, maintains or increases food quality and reduces food losses and wastes. Animal feed is an integral part of the food chain and its safety has been recognized as a shared value and a shared responsibility.

Work on the application of the risk analysis framework provided by Codex in the field of animal feed has facilitated the further understanding of the role of animal feed safety on public health and of the importance of risk-based measures to prevent and control hazards. Hazards may be introduced through feed ingredients or via carryover or contamination during production, handling, storage and transportation. The presence of a hazard may also result from accidental or deliberate (e.g. fraud) human intervention. Hazards associated with animal feed can be of a biological, chemical or physical nature and include pathogenic microorganisms, mycotoxins, heavy metals, dioxins, dibenzofurans and PCBs, residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides, and radionuclides. New hazards may be associated with novel and unconventional feed and feed ingredients which are entering the production chain e.g. agro-industrial by-products (such as those of the biofuel industry), insects, food processing by-products, food wastes, etc.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted the *Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding* (CAC/RCP 54-2004) in 2004. The CAC has also adopted in 2013 *Guidelines on the Application of Risk Assessment for Feed* (CAC/GL 80-2013) and *Guidance for Governments on Prioritizing Hazards in Feed* (CAC/GL 81-2013). After completing work on these two documents, the Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding, noting the availability and ongoing emergence of new information in feed of relevance to human health, requested FAO

¹ Conventional, novel and unconventional feed, feed ingredients and feed production processes.

² In the context of this call, the words "animal feed" and "feed" are given the same meaning.

and WHO to update the findings of the 2007 *FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety*³. In order to address this FAO and WHO will review the current knowledge on hazards related to animal feed contaminants and through the implementation of an Expert Meeting provide advice and orientation on this issue to Member Countries, to FAO and WHO and to other relevant organizations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EXPERT MEETING

Within the overall aim of securing feed safety⁴ and ensuring fair trade practices in the feed and food trade, the objective of the meeting is to provide Member Countries with an updated overview of the current state of knowledge on hazards associated with conventional, novel and unconventional feed, feed ingredients (including feed additives⁵, but not veterinary drugs) and feed production processes (e.g. insects, food waste, biofuels by-products).

More specifically, the objective is to collate and analyse scientific information and data on:

- Hazards, their sources, their levels and variability (seasonality) in feed to facilitate feed safety assessment;
- Transfer of hazards from feed to food products of animal origin;
- Emerging hazards in the animal feed chain; including hazards in novel and unconventional feed, feed ingredients and feed production processes; and
- New analytical methods for the detection of hazards in feed, including rapid methods and multi-analyte methods.

The meeting will also provide guidance on the most appropriate use of this information for risk analyses purposes; it will identify knowledge gaps and prioritize future work on the identification of potential hazards of key global concern from the perspective of human and animal health.

CALL FOR EXPERTS

(Deadline for submission: not later than 31 January 2015)

FAO/WHO are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified candidates to participate in this work on animal feed. In particular, expertise is required in the areas of:

- Hazards (chemical, biological and physical, including emerging hazards) in animal feed and feed ingredients, their sources, their levels and variability (seasonality) in feed;
- Hazards associated with novel and unconventional feed, feed ingredients and feed production processes;
- Transfer of hazards from feed sources to feed and food products of animal origin and assessment of any related risks to human health and animal health and welfare; and
- New analytical methods for the detection of hazards in feed, including rapid methods and multi-analyte methods.

The selected candidates may either be invited to participate physically in the expert meeting and/or contribute to the review of background papers as members of the drafting/review group.

The expert meeting will be held in English and all meeting documentation and correspondence will be in English.

³ REP13/AF

⁴ Safety for animals, feed producers/users/workers and consumers of food products of animal origin.

⁵ Feed additives are defined as in the Codex *Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding* (CAC/RCP 54-2004): "Feed Additive: Any intentionally added ingredient not normally consumed as feed by itself, whether or not it has nutritional value, which affects the characteristics of feed or animal products. (Micro-organisms, enzymes, acidity regulators, trace elements, vitamins and other products fall within the scope of this definition depending on the purpose of use and method of administration)."

Applicants are kindly requested to submit their curriculum vitae including a description of their work experience and if applicable a list of peer-reviewed publications, particularly those related to the subject of the Expert Meeting. Applications should be sent, by email to the contact persons indicated at the end of this document, postmarked not later than **31 January 2015**.

Selection of experts

FAO and WHO have developed procedures for selecting and designating experts that assure transparency, excellence and independence of the opinion expressed. In selecting experts, FAO and WHO will consider, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarity of backgrounds and balanced representation from geographic regions and gender as well as representation of the various stakeholders in the feed and food chains.

Selection process

All submitted applications shall be reviewed by a panel composed of at least one technical officer from each of the sponsoring agencies (FAO and WHO). The purpose of the panel's review is to determine whether the applicants meet the following essential criteria:

Selection criteria

- Advanced university degree and professional experience in the areas indicated above (see under Call for Experts);
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals in areas related to the subject of the Expert Meeting and/or practical experience in these topics;
- Leadership of, or invited presentations in national or international scientific committees pertinent to the subjects described above;
- Working knowledge of English.

Appointment of experts

FAO and WHO will appoint experts from the pool of qualified applicants to participate in the expert meeting and/or to be member of the drafting/review group. All experts will be required to complete a Declarations of Interests Form prior to participation in any of the afore mentioned activities. Applicants will be informed of the final decision.

CALL FOR DATA AND INFORMATION

(Deadline for submission: not later than 31 January 2015)

To ensure that the expert meeting has at its disposal all available and relevant information, FAO and WHO invite all interested parties to provide any relevant information/data and particularly information that may not be readily available in the public domain.

Data on the following subjects are therefore needed:

- Composition and use (e.g. species and ration) of feed and feed ingredients;
- Frequency and level of contamination of feed and feed ingredients, their sources and routes of contamination, their levels and variability (seasonality) in feed;
- Details and outputs of monitoring programmes for contaminants in feed;
- Impact of the environment on occurrence of contaminants in animal feed;
- Impact of conditions during feed and food processing/preparation or characteristics of the feed, on the presence and levels of contaminants;
- Data on transfer of hazards from feed sources to feed and food products of animal origin and on the potential of the feed production processes to generate hazards (particularly of a chemical nature); and

- Range/kind of novel and unconventional feed, feed ingredients and feed production processes (e.g. bio-products, insects, food waste), their associated hazards, frequency and level and routes of contamination and variability (seasonality);
- New analytical methods for the detection of hazards in feed, including rapid methods and multi-analyte methods; and
- Any other relevant data.

Data should be accompanied to the extent possible with detailed information of the complete studies, in particular in relation to the methods of data collection and analysis,

Important notes:

- a) It is important to gain an understanding as to whether there are differences in the use and contamination of animal feed in different parts of the world as well as possible differences in the sources of contamination. Therefore, we are seeking the aforementioned data from all countries and regions.
- b) FAO and WHO are requesting governments, the feed and food industry, interested organizations, academia, laboratories and individuals to submit any available data on the specific areas indicated above. This data may be published or unpublished. Reference should be made to related published studies, where applicable.
- c) Confidential and/or unpublished information: FAO and WHO recognize that some of information and relevant data which is now required may be unpublished or of a confidential nature. With regard to unpublished information and data, this remains the property of the author for subsequent publication by the owner as original material. Unpublished confidential studies that are submitted will be safeguarded in so far as it is possible to do so without compromising the work of FAO and WHO. Specific issues relating to confidentiality should be discussed directly between the information and data owners and FAO/WHO. For these and other issues please contact FAO and WHO at the contacts provided below.

Please submit applications, data and relevant information (electronic and / or hard copies) to either of the following contact persons, not later than 31 January 2015.

CONTACT PERSONS

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