



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

FAO/WHO Call for Data

Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spp.* and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis*

Deadline April 15, 2013

Background

With the rapid uptake of risk-based approaches to food hygiene by national governments and the subsequent re-evaluation of their food control systems, problems in trade can arise from inadequate knowledge of the value of specific measures in reducing public health risks.

This is particularly important in the case of meat hygiene. A risk-based approach to meat hygiene requires re-evaluation of traditional practices and a re-focusing of regulatory and industry resources proportionate to risks. While this approach is now strongly advocated by national governments, there has been very uneven uptake on a global basis. As a consequence, the import requirements for meat and meat products of most countries represent a mix of “new” (risk-based) and traditional procedures and tests. Such is the case of *Trichinella spp.* and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis* in meat, where risk analysis principles can be applied to different types of traditional meat hygiene procedures.

At the 42nd session of the Codex Committee for Food Hygiene (CCFH, 2010) the Committee proposed new work in the area of meat hygiene to consider the development of guidelines for priority zoonoses that may be transmitted by meat and meat products. The purpose was to provide risk-based guidance on control of priority biological hazards in meat. This new work replied to the need to establish a risk-based approach to the different ranges and intensities of inspection procedures used for *Trichinella spp.* and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis* proportional to the epidemiological situation of a country or region. Such an approach is consistent with the provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), which requires that the selection of risk management options be based on the proportionality of risk. Development of this new approach calls for strong cooperation with OIE so as to facilitate a whole food chain approach to risk reduction measures.

To facilitate this work the 44th session of the CCFH reiterated the request of the 43rd session to FAO/WHO to develop risk-based examples for *Trichinella* spp. and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis* to illustrate the level of consumer protection likely to be achieved with different post-harvest risk management options, based on the slaughterhouse information (e.g., intensities of slaughter inspection or types of post-harvest control measures) and other data sources such as human illness and requested that the initial focus be on:

- The existing information on risk-based examples for *Trichinella* spp. and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis* to illustrate the level of consumer protection likely to be achieved with different post-harvest risk management options

This Call for data is a starting point to address that request.

CALL FOR DATA

List of data and information requirements

The purpose of this call for data is to collect information that is associated with the evaluation of risk-based approaches to food safety management for *Trichinella* spp. and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis*. Information in the following categories will provide essential input to risk assessment and evaluation of risk management options for control of these hazards.

Please provide available information as follows:

1. Public health data on the burden of disease in a country or region associated with *Trichinella* spp. and *Taenia saginata/Cysticercus bovis*
 - Prevalence of human cases (% of population)
 - Notification status
 - Source attribution information if available for *Trichinella*
 - Information on types of human illness / clinical symptoms
2. Trade-related information
 - Any detections at port-of-entry inspection?
 - Risk management response to any detections at port-of-entry inspection
3. Performance of post-harvest control measures for *Trichinella* spp.
 - Prevalence of detection (number of cases per year) in domestic pigs, including age distribution if available

- Prevalence of detection in game¹
 - Details of test methodology applied (reference or weblink, e.g.to OIE guidelines if applied)
 - Description of any national or regional changes to testing regime as a result of a risk-based approach being applied
4. Performance of post-harvest control measures for *Taenia saginata*/*Cysticercus bovis*
- Prevalence of detection (number of cases per year), including age distribution if available
 - Details of inspection methodology in national legislation (e.g. reference, weblink)
 - Details of risk management response to detection in national legislation (reference, weblink)
 - Epidemiological information on the level of infection (e.g. low, medium or high cyst density, clusters versus sporadic cases)
 - Description of any changes to testing regime at the national or regional level as a result of a risk-based approach being applied
5. Availability of risk models
- Brief description of any qualitative or quantitative risk models developed and the outputs (including unpublished)
 - Reference or link to models described in the scientific literature
6. Contact person (name, title, and full contact information) for follow-up if needed.

Request for relevant information

FAO and WHO are requesting governments, animal health services (veterinary and inspection) , interested organizations, academia, the food industry, consumer groups, laboratories and individuals to submit any available data (published or unpublished) on the specific areas indicated above. Reference should be made to related published studies, where applicable.

Confidential and/or unpublished data

FAO and WHO recognize that some of the information and relevant data which is now required may be unpublished or of a confidential nature. With regards 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.

¹ Wild boar, crocodile, bear, walrus, etc.

Deadline

Please submit any relevant information (electronic and/or hard copies, via e-mail -if not too large- or on CD ROM), in any of the official UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian), and with title and short description of the content in English along with the list of data and information requirements if possible, to the contacts below, by **15 April 2013**.

Data submissions in response to the call for data should be sent to:

Food Safety and Codex Unit
*Attention: **Dr Marisa Caipo***
Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153
Rome, Italy
Telephone: + 39 06 57056623
Facsimile: + 39 06 5705 4593
Email: Marisa.Caipo@fao.org

and Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses
*Attention: **Dr Mina Kojima***
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 791 2920
Facsimile: +41 22 791 4807
Email: kojimam@who.int