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FOOD SAFETY REGULATORS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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FOOD SAFETY REGULATORS IN RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators

Country report

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Ensuring of food raw materials and foods safety is one of the most important and priority orientations of the official healthy nutrition policy in Russia. There is no doubt that the realization of such plans depends on Russian legal and methodological foundations and standard acts as well as on their permanent improvement and amendment to completely satisfy the requirements of the international community.

Working out the legal basis. Basically nowadays the legal code of Russia to ensure foods quality and safety has been created. In particular for last years several legislative and standard acts were worked out and passed. Those instruments are to regulate the questions of law while circulating of foods and to ensure the absolute safety of such products. These are: Federal Law №52-FL «On sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population», Federal Law №29-FL «On quality and foods safety», the Russian government decree «Concept of Federal healthy nutrition policy in Russia by the year of 2005» (№917 of 10.08.98), «On ratification of the regulation of social and hygienic monitoring» (№426 of 01.06.2000), «On organization and controlling of monitoring foods quality & safety and health of population» (№883 of 22.11.2000), «On state registration of new foods, materials and goods» (№988 of 21.12.2000), as well as the decree of Chief Sanitary Physician of the Russian Federation «On procedures for hygienic assessment and registration of food products obtained from genetically modified sources» (№7 of 06.04.1999), «On perfection of the inspection system for realization of agricultural products and medical chemicals

obtained from genetically modified sources» (№12 of 26.09.1999) and «On procedures for sanitary and epidemiological examination of foods obtained from genetically modified sources» (№14 of 08.11.2000).

According to the issues given above the Coordinating Board has been established in the Russian Federation to concern the problems of «The health nutrition policy in Russia» empowered in concordance with the order of Minister of industry, sciences and technologies of the Russian Federation. This Committee coordinates activities in working out and realization of federal and regional programs as parts of the state's health nutrition policy. In present such programs that have already been worked out are being realized in more than 15 Russian federal subunits.

Working out the normative foundation (appraisal plan). By now the unified normative document has been worked out – «Hygienic requirements for the quality and safety of raw food materials and food products». The document satisfies the requirements of international community as much as possible. Today it becomes a handbook of Russian state sanitary inspectors – in system of Health Ministry of RF, Gosstandart of Russia and the agroindustrial complex – in their practical activities. The order involves the hygienic norms for the percentage of all chemical contaminants of anthropogenic and natural origins as well as microbiological standards of foods safety. We also have such fundamental documents as «Sanitary norms for applications of alimentary additions», sanitary norms «Food raw materials and foods, raw materials for the production of dyestuffs and complex alimentary additions with dyestuffs, flavorings and extracts for food industry». Part 1. «Taste-flavoring chemical substances». Russia has got a long experience of safety evaluation of any production to have been produced using modern biotechnologies. For the latest years the rapid development and application of the appraisal plan of the safety of genetically modified food sources has its place. Nowadays this industry has its boom all over the world. The complement of standard acts to define the

procedures of evaluating of such a production has been developed in Russia, including the methodical instruction «Medico-biologic estimation of food products obtained from genetically modified sources».

Working out the basic methodological principles. More than 70 modern extremely sensitive methods of detection, determination and quantitative analysis of different chemical and biological contaminants has been developed and applied in industry. The methods are of 2-3 complexity and trustworthiness levels. These methods are widely used in practical work of organizations that ought to control of foods safety.

Working out the modern monitoring system for the foods pollution. For the last 10 years the monitoring for the foods quality and safety has been organized in Russia. Every year experts of Russian state Epidemiological Department of Health Ministry of RF analyze more than 1,5 million chemical and sanitary indexes and more than 2 million microbiological and sanitary ones. Summarizing and interpreting of the data we can say, that for the last years the percentage of foods not to satisfy national hygienic requirements is steadily declining. Now – for the first time in Russia – our experts created the computer uniform program «Accounting system of results of monitoring for the foods safety». Thus we can get data of frequency of occurrence, the dynamics and contents of chemical contaminants in food products. The generalization is a task of regional and federal levels. As a result we have got a possibility to get data to be necessary for the determination of the degree of foods pollution with chemical contaminants and estimating such health population risks.

The scientific providing with standard and methodological principles of the foods quality and safety determination is a due of the Institute of Nutrition of RAMS together with authorized research organizations in cooperation with federal and regional centers of state sanitary inspectors of Russian Health Ministry. The contributory center WHO, based in Institute of nutrition, is occupied with monitoring the foods pollution. The final

generalization of these investigations results is the reference data for estimating the risk of separate contaminants influences on infant and adult population. Specific features of the diet structure, the calculation of 24 hours contaminant consumption as well as survey of the metabolism and the influence mechanism of separate contaminants are the reasons for national hygienic standard engineering.

The proposal of the Russian Federation.

1. Because of the fact, that by now the genetically modified food sources information is a private property of corresponding industrial producers, they themselves are the authors of different initiatives, taking into account, that we have no any complete database of genetically modified food products, many problems can't be solved in corpore in separate countries and taking into consideration the experience of food additions, contaminants, pesticides and veterinary preparations coordination and control that was accumulated by WHO, we believe it would be expedient to form the United Committee of WHO FAO experts on genetically modified food sources. By analogy with active United committees of WHO/FAO the duties of this Committee would be as follows: analyzing of the current situation in the branch of genetically modified food sources production and application, the development of standard acts, evaluating and classifying of genetically modified food sources. In future the Committee authorities can be widened with evaluating all new industrial technologies and biotechnologies and applications of food raw materials as well as food products.

2 Nowadays separate countries face the challenge of foods safety as a result of the international trade expansion. Such problems can become common ones all over the world. Suffice to remember the tragedy of encefalophathy of the cattle in Great Britain, problems connected with dioxines etc. As a rule these problems while being solved in national networks are the concerns of many other countries. In this connection we propose to form the International Analytic

center for the food products safety under the aegis of FAO/WHO or any other international organization, equipped with «the fast-response group». The Committee will have to create the world database of the contamination of food raw materials and food products, to summarize the data, to make any urgent arrangements and to inform governments of different countries about contamination levels of foods. The foundation of this Analytic center will allow to define world trends of polluting of raw food materials and foods products with nature and anthropogenic contaminants, to bring to light unfair and careless producers of food products, to prevent trans-boundary transporting of bad raw food materials and foods.