

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 19

CRD03

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

## FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF JECFA EVALUATIONS AND FAO/WHO EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

For consideration by the virtual meeting of the

Working Group on Follow-up Work to the Outcomes of JECFA Evaluations and FAO/WHO Expert Consultations

3, 5 May 2022

13.00 – 16.00 CET

(Prepared by the Chair of the WG on Follow-Up to JECFA evaluations,  
European Union)

### Background

1. Due to the virtual nature of CCCF14, the in-session Working Group (WG) on the Follow-Up to JECFA Evaluations and FAO/WHO Expert Consultations led by the European Union (EU) could not be held and that instead, the Secretariat prepared a working document CX/CF 21/14/18 highlighting the recently concluded JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations relevant to the work of CCCF.
2. CCCF14<sup>1</sup> agreed to:
  - i) establish an Electronic Working Group (EWG) chaired by EU, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids to look into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF15;
  - ii) issue a circular letter (CL) requesting comments on possible follow-up actions to the outcomes of the JECFA evaluations and FAO/WHO expert consultations in particular those for which the full report was already available, such as ciguatera poisoning and tropane alkaloids, for consideration by the in-session WG to be convened at CCCF15;
  - iii) re-convene the in-session WG at CCCF15 chaired by European Union and
  - iv) request guidance from CCEXEC on the best approach to address the safety of edible insects in Codex.

### Summary of comments received in response to CL 2021/89-CF

3. Comments in response to CL 2021/89-CF were received from Canada, Chile, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Peru, Uganda and United States of America (USA) and are compiled in CX/CF 22/15/18.

#### 4. Ciguatera toxins

Canada and Chile supports ongoing risk management that uses, and builds on, that which is already established (e.g. IAEA and IOC-UNESCO e-learning course on monitoring and preventing ciguatera poisoning) and the establishment of clear protocols that minimize the risk of consuming potentially impacted seafood, given the current lack of analytical standards.

The United States of America (USA) would support, insofar resources permit, the elaboration of a Code of Practice.

#### 5. Tropane alkaloids

Canada is of the opinion that follow-up actions are not required given that practical guidance<sup>2</sup> has been developed to avoid contamination of cereals destined for human consumption.

Chile, Egypt and Uganda, considering the availability of methods of analysis and relevance for the protection of public health, considers that risk management measures, including the consideration of Codex maximum levels (MLs), should be considered by priority.

The USA does not consider risk management measures as a priority.

<sup>1</sup> REP21/CF 235

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/ar/c/CB2105EN/>

**6. Ergot alkaloids**

Canada is of the opinion that the full JECFA report should be available before deciding on the follow-up to be given to the risk assessment.

Chile indicates that further data must be collected on toxicity and occurrence have to be available so that the risk assessment can be completed before discussing follow-up risk management measures.

Egypt considers that the follow up to ergot alkaloids has to be handled with priority.

The USA does not consider risk management measures as a priority.

**7. Pyrrolizidine alkaloids**

CCCF14 (2021) agreed to establish an EWG chaired by EU to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids to look into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF15 (REP 21/CF, para. 235). This discussion paper has not (yet) been issued.

Canada will provide comments on possible follow-up actions to the outcomes of the JECFA evaluation on pyrrolizidine alkaloids, once the discussion paper is reviewed.

Uganda considers pyrrolizidine alkaloids as a second priority (after tropane alkaloids) because of the presence in many plant species, contaminating e.g. tea and herbal infusions.

8. Cuba, Kenya and Peru did not mention specific comments.

**Recommendations for consideration by the WG**

9. As regards pyrrolizidine alkaloids, to reiterate the conclusion of CCCF14, i.e. establish an EWG, working in English, to prepare a discussion paper on pyrrolizidine alkaloids to look into the feasibility of possible follow-up actions for consideration by CCCF16.
10. As regards ciguatera toxins, to consider the possible development of a Code of Practice/guidelines to prevent/avoid ciguatera poisoning;
11. As regards tropane alkaloids, given the divergence of opinions expressed in reply to CL 2021/89 –CF, to discuss the possible follow-up.
12. As regards ergot alkaloids, await the publication of the full report before concluding on appropriate follow-up to be given the JECFA risk assessment.
13. Consider any other recommendation suggested by one of the participants of the WG for consideration/endorsement by the Committee.