



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

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PART I: RECENT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS AND CONSIDERATION BY CODEX

1. The scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO through JECFA, JMPR, JEMRA and *ad hoc* expert meetings remains a high priority for both organizations and continues to serve as the basis for Codex standards. The CAC remains an important client for this advice, where the results are used extensively in the development of Codex texts and standards. The advice may be equally relevant for member countries of FAO and WHO, in the strengthening of science-based decision making on food safety and nutrition issues at national and regional level. The following summarises the additional scientific advice provided in the 2011-2012 since FAO and WHO's previous report to the Commission in July 2011 (CX/CAC 10/34/15).

Expert meetings and outputs

2. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), 74th Meeting, Rome, Italy, 14–23 June 2011. This meeting was held in the framework of the on-going programme on the risk assessment of food additives, including flavourings, contaminants and natural toxins. The meeting was devoted to (a) elaborate further principles for evaluating the health risk of food additives and contaminants, (b) evaluate a considerable number of food additives, and (c) re-evaluate the fumonisin mycotoxins. The results were made available to and considered by the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) and the 6th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF).

3. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), 75th Meeting, Rome, Italy, 8–17 November 2011. This meeting was held in the framework of the on-going programme on the risk assessment of residues of veterinary drugs in foods. It was the nineteenth meeting of JECFA convened to consider residues of veterinary drugs in food. The tasks before the Committee were to further elaborate principles for evaluating the safety of residues of veterinary drugs in food and for establishing acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and recommend maximum residue limits (MRLs) for certain drugs when they are administered to food-producing animals in accordance with good practice in the use of veterinary drugs. In total, eight veterinary drugs were considered by the Committee and health-based guidance values were established and/or MRLs were recommended for six of them. The results were considered at the 20th Session of CCRVDF.

4. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Dietary Exposure Assessment Methodologies for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, Rome, Italy, 7-11 November 2011. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 75th JECFA meeting. In order to help address the need for updated methodology, FAO and WHO issued a

call for data on consumption of foods of animal origin in 2010. In response, food consumption data from 47 countries and one interested party were submitted. Prior to the expert meeting an open stakeholder meeting was held to allow further input. The experts on exposure assessment prepared a draft report outlining their proposed new approaches for acute and chronic¹ dietary exposure assessment for veterinary drug residues, taking the key findings, concerns and recommendations of the stakeholders into consideration. Discussions and exchanges were organized between participants at both the meeting on dietary exposure assessment methodologies and the 75th JECFA meeting. The draft report was issued for public comments in early 2012, and revised report was considered at the 20th session of CCRVDF where the scientific principles were endorsed, but further testing and validation was recommended before any decisions are taken to change current practice.. The final report will be published in due course.

5. Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), Geneva, Switzerland, 20–29 September 2011. The Meeting evaluated 27 pesticides, of which 8 were new compounds, and 4 were re-evaluated within the periodic review programme of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR). The Meeting established acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and acute reference doses (ARfDs). The Meeting estimated maximum residue levels, which it recommended for use as maximum residue limits (MRLs) by the CCPR. It also estimated supervised trials median residue (STMR) and highest residue (HR) levels as a basis for estimation of the dietary intake of residues of the pesticides reviewed.

6. FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS), 10th Meeting, Beijing, China, 8–13 June 2011. This meeting was held in the framework of the on-going programme on the evaluation and development of pesticide specifications. The Joint Meeting evaluated 18 pesticides and the pesticide specifications established at the meeting are published on the FAO (www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/pm/jmps/ps/ps-new/en/) and WHO websites (<http://www.who.int/whopes/quality/en/>). The next Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications will be held in early June 2012.

7. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Methodology and Enumeration of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio vulnificus* in Seafood, Ottawa, Canada, 17-19 October 2011. The 42nd Session of the CCFH requested FAO/WHO to continue the work on *Vibrio* in four steps, recommending enumeration methodology, developing data collection strategies, encouraging data collection in different regions, and modifying/developing risk assessment models. A three-year workplan has been developed and the work initiated with the above-mentioned expert meeting. This meeting focused on the available testing methodologies, their performance criteria, the possible application of the methods for various end uses and data collection enhancement strategies.

8. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting to Assess the Public Health Risk due to the Presence of *Salmonella* in Bivalve Molluscs, Ottawa, Canada, 20–21 October 2011. As follow-up to an electronic meeting and discussion forum during January to April 2011, this meeting sought to incorporate new data and provide a final response to the question raised by the 30th Session of CCFFP on the public health risk due to the presence of *Salmonella* in bivalve molluscs and the value of a specified microbiological criterion in managing that risk. The conclusion was that, based on the available evidence, live and raw bivalve molluscs from areas that are managed for harvesting for direct human consumption e.g. managed by shellfish sanitation programs, do not cause frequent outbreaks of salmonellosis and that the *Salmonella* criterion provides little or no additional protection from salmonellosis above that which is achieved by current risk management strategies. These final conclusions were presented to the 43rd Session of the CCFH and the final report will be presented to the 32nd Session of CCFFP.

9. Proposed Draft Additional or Revised Nutrient Values for Labelling Purposes in the Codex Guidelines on Nutrition Labelling. Following the request of the 32nd Session of CCNFSU to review existing daily vitamin and mineral intake reference values globally for a list of 28 vitamins and minerals and the basis for those values for an apparently healthy population of adult males and adult females FAO/WHO provided a report to the 33rd Session of the CCNFSU. The report provided a comparison of nutrient recommendations from recognized authoritative scientific bodies and from FAO/WHO published since 1998, and an estimate of the extent of the change in the scientific evidence base since 1998 for the vitamins and minerals of interest.

The full report is available at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/Meetings/CCNFSU/ccnfsdu33/nf33_04e.pdf.

¹ Includes subchronic for the purposes of this exercise.

10. The Commission is **invited** to note the information above. To facilitate the transfer and uptake of the relevant scientific advice by Codex, the FAO/WHO Secretariats of these activities make every effort to attend Codex working groups and Codex committee meetings. FAO and WHO would like to thank all those who supported the programme of work to provide the above-mentioned scientific advice and in particular the various experts from around the world and the donors who contributed financially and in kind to the programme either through or outside the Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA).

Publications

11. In addition to the above, FAO and WHO are continuously working on a range of activities which support, expand on and follow-up on specific expert meetings. Such activities include:

a) JECFA publications

- **Report of the 74th JECFA - Evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants.** WHO TRS 966, 2011, http://whqlibdoc.who.int/trs/WHO_TRS_966_eng.pdf
- **Compendium of Food Additive Specifications**, 74th JECFA meeting. FAO JECFA Monographs 11, 2011.
- **Report of the 75th JECFA – Evaluation of residues of certain veterinary drugs**, WHO TRS 969 (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241209694_eng.pdf)
- **Toxicological monographs of the 74th JECFA meeting:** Safety evaluation of certain food additives and contaminants. WHO Food Additives Series No. 65, 2012. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241660655_eng.pdf
- **Toxicological monographs of the 75th JECFA meeting:** Toxicological evaluation of certain veterinary drug residues in food. WHO Food Additives Series, No. 66, 2012. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2012/9789241660662_eng.pdf
- **Residue evaluation of certain veterinary drugs, 75th JECFA meeting:** FAO JECFA Monographs 12, 2012. http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/agns/pdf/JECFA_Monograph_12.pdf

These and other JECFA publications are available on the FAO (<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/jecfa/jecfa-publications/en/>) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/jecfa/publications/en/index.html>) websites.

b) JMPR publications

- **FAO Training Manual of Evaluation of Pesticide Residues for Estimation of Maximum Residue Levels and Calculation of Dietary Intake.** Available at: www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/JMPR/TrainingManualJMPR.pdf
- The 2011 JMPR Report, the 2011 Evaluations part I – Residues and other JMPR publications are available on the FAO (www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/pm/jmpr/jmpr-rep/en/) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/jmpr/publications/en/index.html>) websites.

c) JEMRA Publications

- **Risk Assessment of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in seafood: Interpretative summary and technical report.** Microbiological Risk Assessment Series 16 - FAO/WHO (2011)
- **Enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* in raw meat and meat products – Approaches for the provision of scientific advice: Meeting report.** Microbiological Risk Assessment Series 18 - FAO/WHO (2011) (*currently only available electronically*)

These and other JEMRA publications are available on the FAO (<http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/scientific-advice/jemra/risk-assessments/en/>) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/en/index.html>) websites.

- **Risk Management Tool for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in Chicken Meat (Version 1).** Available at <http://www.mramodels.org/poultryRMTTool/>.

d) Other publications

- **Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on the Risks and Benefits of Fish Consumption (Rome, Italy, 25–29 January 2010).** Available at: FAO (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/ba0136e/ba0136e00.pdf>) and WHO (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241564311_eng.pdf) websites.

Upcoming meetings

12. Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), 76th Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 5–14 June 2012: The meeting will be dedicated to the (re)evaluation of a number of food additives and a large number of flavouring agents. The call for data is accessible at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/jecfa/JECFA76_Call_Final.pdf and http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jecfa/JECFA76_Call_Final.pdf.

13. Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), Rome, Italy, 11–20 September 2012: The call for data is accessible at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/jmpr/JMPR_2012_call_final.pdf.

PART II: STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

14. Both organizations continue to jointly prioritise the requests taking into consideration the criteria proposed by Codex as well as the requests for advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources. A table of the current requests for scientific advice posed to FAO and WHO directly by the Codex Alimentarius Commission and its subsidiary bodies as well as meetings being planned by FAO and WHO in response to requests from member countries is attached as Annex I. It presents the overall status of pending requests for scientific advice received by FAO/WHO as of May 2012.

15. FAO and WHO would like to emphasize the severe financial problems faced by the Organizations for the scientific advice program. The current financial situation no longer allows the Organizations to respond to all requests for scientific advice, including requests listed below brought forth by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. It has to be emphasized that this scientific advice forms the basis for the respective Codex Standards. Efforts need to be undertaken by Members to provide support for scientific advice activities in order to be able to support the work of Codex.

ANNEX I

JOINT FAO/WHO ACTIVITIES ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON FOOD SAFETY
STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE²

In prioritizing the requests for scientific advice to be addressed, FAO and WHO continue to consider the set of criteria for the prioritization proposed by Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, para. 75) as well as the requests of advice from Member Countries and the availability of resources. The table below presents the overall status of requests for scientific advice as of May 2012.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/ Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ³	Expected Output by Codex
1	Safety evaluation of food additives and contaminants	CCFA CCCF	43 rd & 44 th Session of CCFA 5 th & 6 th Session of CCCF	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	Additive evaluations planned for 76 th JECFA (Geneva, Switzerland, 5-14 June 2012). Contaminants planned for 2013.	350,000 350,000	Maximum levels, specifications for food additives, or other advice as appropriate
2	Safety evaluation of residues of veterinary drugs	CCRVDF	20 th Session of CCRVDF	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	To be planned for 2013 if funds are available	300,000	Maximum residue limits, or other advice as appropriate.

²FAO and WHO express appreciation to those governments who have contributed to support FAO/WHO scientific advice activities, either through direct financial support, facilitation of meetings at national institutes, and technical input by national experts. Figures indicate cost of pending actions related to each activity. Figures do not consider staff costs.

³ Total costs for FAO/WHO, including publication of reports, but excluding staff costs.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/ Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ³	Expected Output by Codex
3	Decision-tree approaches for the evaluation of veterinary drugs	JECFA Subsequently supported by CCRVDF	17 th Session of CCRVDF	Convene several expert groups to develop a detailed decision tree approach for the evaluation of veterinary drugs, which provides greater flexibility in the advice that JECFA can provide on issues relating to the potential human health effects	First draft of working document prepared and discussed at 70 th JECFA, provided to 18 th CCRVDF. Expert meeting on dietary exposure assessment methodologies held 7-11 November 2011. Additional extra budgetary resources required to support further developments.	150,000	Change in current work process and interaction with JECFA. Use the output to assist in the development of risk management guidance on veterinary drug residues, including for compounds without ADIs and/or MRLs
4	Foodborne parasites	CCFH	42 nd and 43 rd Sessions of CCFH	Data collection and analysis Liaison with FERG JEMRA meeting to undertake ranking	Call for data and experts issued. Expert meeting convened for 3 – 7 September 2012.	250,000	Ranking of foodborne parasites in terms of public health, economic and social impact and in terms of where international risk management guidance is most critical.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/ Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ³	Expected Output by Codex
5	Development and validation of risk assessment tools on <i>Vibrio</i> spp. in seafood and advice on methodology for <i>Vibrio</i> spp. in seafood.	CCFH	41 st and 42 nd Sessions of CCFH	Implement an expert meeting to review methodology and develop and validate web-based risk assessment tools.	Workplan developed. First meeting on methodology implemented in October 2011. Extra budgetary resources required to continue the work.	250,000	Web-based tools and consensus methodology to support the implementation of Codex Guidelines.
6	Pesticide Residues	FAO/WHO	43 rd Session of CCPR	Meetings of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)	2012 JMPR to be held from 11-20 Sep. in Rome, Italy.	350,000	Maximum Residue Limits or other advice as appropriate.
7.	Histamine and other biogenic amines in fish	CCFFP	31 st Session of CCFFP	Data collection and analysis Expert meeting	Call for data and experts issued. Expert meeting planned for second half 2012.	150,000	Advice on the harmonized risk-based limit and sampling plan for histamine in various Codex standards, and limits for other biogenic amines as appropriate.
8.	Risk assessment of microbiological hazards associated with dried spices and aromatic plants	CCFH	43 rd Session of CCFH	Data collection and analysis Drafting Group and JEMRA meeting	Planning process underway.	200,000	Advice on the relevant microbiological hazards and potential control options for spice-borne hazards.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/ Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ³	Expected Output by Codex
9.	Review of statistical basis for the establishment of microbiological criteria	CCFH	43 rd Session of CCFH	JEMRA meeting	Planning process underway.	100,000	Guidance on the underlying statistical information on microbiological criteria to be included in Codex texts.
