

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 20

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ONLY

PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA

For consideration by the virtual meeting of the
Working Group on Priority List of Contaminants for Evaluation by JECFA

3, 5 May 2022

13.00 – 16.00 CET

(Prepared by the Chair of the WG on Priorities,
United States of America)

Background

1. At CCCF14 (2021), the usual in-session Working Group (WG) on Priorities chaired by the USA could not be held. Instead, the Codex Secretariat prepared a working document (CX/CF 21/14/18) to update the priority list, based on the outcomes of the JECFA evaluations on ergot alkaloids (removed) and trichothecenes (T2 and HT2), issues raised on scopoletin, and the replies to CL 2020/24-CF by which no new compounds had been added and only an additional note was made in relation to data availability on arsenic. The priority list agreed on at CCCF14 is available in REP21/CF and the Annex (attached).
2. CCCF14 agreed to:
 - i. endorse the priority list as amended (REP21/CF, Appendix VIII);
 - ii. keep scopoletin in the priority list awaiting feedback from CCNASWP16 on the provision of necessary data and studies to perform an evaluation of scopoletin and to encourage Codex members to generate and submit data to GEMS/Food;

Note: Because CCNASWP16 is scheduled for early 2023, no action will be taken at this session of the Committee, but interested members are encouraged to generate and submit data to GEMS/Food and to participate in the forthcoming CCNASWP discussion.
 - iii. continue to request comments and/or information on the priority list for consideration by CCCF15 and re-convene the in-session WG at CCCF15 chaired by USA.

Summary of comments received in response to CL 2021/88-CF

3. Chile and the United States offered data and information relevant to arsenic.
4. Canada, Colombia, Peru, and Saudi Arabia reviewed the priority list and had no suggested additions.
5. Kenya requested that MRLs be established for sodium metabisulfite (sodium pyrosulfite) in meat/poultry products.
6. Uganda proposed inclusion of maximum limits for cadmium in processed root vegetable juice for JECFA evaluation.
7. Egypt proposed work on tropane alkaloids; this topic was referred by the Codex Secretariat to the WG on Outcomes of JECFA Evaluations.

Recommendations for consideration by the WG

8. Regarding the request for inclusion of maximum limits for cadmium in processed root vegetable juice, the WG recommends that this topic be presented as a proposal for new work for CCCF rather than for JECFA evaluation.
9. Regarding the request for establishment of MLs for sodium metabisulfite (sodium pyrosulfite) in meat/poultry products, the WG suggests that this request be referred to CCFA.
10. The WG for CCCF15 should review responses to CL 2021/88-CF and any additional nominations made at CCCF15 and report on any recommended changes to the Priority List for consideration/endorsement by the Committee.

PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA (REP21/CF)

Contaminants	Background and question(s) to be answered	Data availability (when, what)	Proposed by
Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) to update 2001 JECFA assessment and incorporate data on developmental effects from in utero exposures.	EFSA assessment available September 2018 <u>Brazil</u> : Occurrence data on milk, raw eggs, fish, and fat (poultry and mammals) <u>Canada</u> : Occurrence data on foods of animal origin	Canada
Arsenic (inorganic and organic)	<u>Inorganic</u> : 2011 JECFA evaluation based on cancer effects. This evaluation would focus on non-cancer effects (neurodevelopmental, immunological and cardiovascular) and could inform future risk management needs. <u>NOTE</u> : Needs to be put in context to cancer risk assessment. <u>Organic</u> : (exploratory)	<u>Australia/New Zealand</u> : Total diet study; inorganic arsenic occurrence data in rice <u>Brazil</u> : Occurrence data on total arsenic in rice, poultry, pork, fish, and cattle meat, inorganic arsenic occurrence data in rice <u>Canada</u> : Occurrence data on inorganic and total arsenic in a variety of commercial foods. <u>Chile</u> : Occurrence data on inorganic and total arsenic in algae, crustaceans, gastropods, bivalve molluscs and small fish. <u>EU</u> : Inorganic arsenic occurrence data <u>India</u> : Occurrence data in rice <u>Japan and China</u> : Occurrence data on rice and rice products <u>Turkey</u> : Occurrence data in rice <u>USA</u> : Occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal. <u>USA</u> : Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neurodevelopmental studies of inorganic arsenic impacts on rat behavior (2019, 2022) • Toxicokinetic studies on metabolism and disposition of inorganic and organic arsenic and metabolites in mice (various life stages) (2018-20) • Developmental toxicity test in <i>C. elegans</i> on inorganic arsenic (2018) and ongoing study on organic arsenic. • Non-governmental report, Effects of Inorganic Arsenic in Infant Rice Cereal on Children's Neurodevelopment (2017) 	USA

Contaminants	Background and question(s) to be answered	Data availability (when, what)	Proposed by
Scopoletin	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) in fermented noni juice	<p>CCNASWP still working on standard for noni juice and data availability, to be discussed at CCCNASWP16 (2023). CCNASWP15 agreed¹ to request CCCF to retain scopoletin on the priority list and to call upon Codex members to generate and submit data to support the conduct of the safety evaluation by JECFA. CCNASWP15 also requested FAO and WHO to organize a new call for data for the safety evaluation of scopoletin. FAO reminded that a full dataset including exposure and toxicity is required.</p> <p>A consultant was hired by the Codex Secretariat to undertake a toxicological review of scopoletin as presented in the Annex² to CX/CF 21/14/2-Add.1.</p>	CCNASWP

(1) REP20/NASWP, paras. 74, 83, Appendix II

(2) <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/pt/?meeting=CCCF&session=14>