

**Combined Report for the IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS
Task Force for the International Food Data Conference (30 June 2003)
and the INFOODS Regional Data Centre Coordinators' Meeting
(3 July 2003)
Washington, DC, USA**

▪ **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introduction
- Regional Data Centre activities
- Training Courses
- Expert Consultations
- Journal of Food Composition and Analysis
- Technical Cooperation Projects for Developing Countries
- International Food Data Conference
- Other business

▪ **Introduction and regional activities**

The participants introduced themselves (list see *Annex 1*) as briefly highlighted the activities of their Regional Data Centres, both past and planned. It was agreed that each participant would submit a written summary of these activities to Barbara Burlingame so that she could put them under each regional data centre on the INFOODS website. It was also agreed that regional reports would be available on the INFOODS website for straightforward access to information.

▪ **Training**

Clive West presented a review and update. The training in food composition and analytical methods was discussed, in particular the time and sites of future training as well as new approaches. The courses in Wageningen have been held since 1992. These courses are intended for Europeans and for “training of the trainers”. Similar courses were held in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and South Africa. For 2003, two courses are planned, one in Wageningen and one in Senegal (in French). For 2004, courses are foreseen in South Africa and in China (new development since the last NEASIAFOODS in Beijing, China). For 2005, a course is proposed to be held in Wageningen and Latin America (last in 1995). It was agreed that a course was needed for South Asia, and that Bangladesh could be considered as a hosting country. Evidence of more progress needs to be demonstrated in respect of the past training opportunities given to South Asians. The Oceania region also expressed the need for a course.

All previous organizers expressed their view it is a major effort and time commitment to organize a course, identify appropriate participants, and secure the funding. Two years planning has been suggested to secure fund and participants. It was agreed to create an international panel for reviewing curriculum and course content to assure equal quality across courses. An evaluation at the end of the course will be introduced in addition to the group work to make participants more

attentive. It was also recommended to add a module for working with actual data sets from the participants' own country in order to provide practical experience, e.g. treatment of missing values, imputing values, comparing foods and values etc. Areas such as advocacy and copyright need to be addressed more in detail.

Clive West will contact all previous participants of all food composition courses and investigate their food composition activities since the courses. This will provide evidence of the effectiveness of the course, and provide further information related to selecting appropriate students. It could also be useful in attracting donors and for advocacy purposes. This would also be relevant for FAO's contribution to future African courses.

The Greenfield & Southgate book is urgently needed for the upcoming course in Wageningen and the French version for the Senegal course for the teachers to base their lessons on and for the participants to have as reference. If the book will not be published in time, drafts of the book in a loose-leaf binder may be used.

It was felt that additional courses of varying durations are needed to teach analytical methods and sampling techniques. These courses would be more expensive, and would have to be attached to a good teaching laboratory. Discussions would continue by email as it relates to proposal development and submission.

▪ **Expert consultation**

Priorities for future technical areas were defined. It was agreed, that the next FAO expert consultation meeting in January 2004 will be held on data interchange guidelines and formats. In addition, a call for experts has been issued, with the objective to draft documents on the different areas which should be addressed in future expert consultations. Based on electronic submissions, and input during the meeting, the following areas and experts have been identified:

- **Food identification, description and classification:** Hettie Schonfeldt, Elizabete Wenzel Menezes, Miriam Chavez, Pauline Samuda, Joanne Holden;
- **Calculation standards, including missing values, retention and yield factors:** Hanna Kunachowicz, Lena Bergstrom, Bogнар, Petro Wolmarans , Nelofar Athar, Uraiporn Chittchang;
- **Data Quality including source/origin:** Prapasri Puwastien, Saturnino de Pablo, Joanne Holden.

Ruth Charrondiere will send a draft of objectives together with a short description and the work outline for the expert consultations.

▪ **Journal of Food Composition and Analysis**

Barbara Burlingame, Editor, presented a summary of highlights for the JFCA during the past two years. Since the last INFOODS meeting at the

4th International Food Data Conference (IFDC), 16 issues (1,970 pages and 196 articles) of JFCA have been published, including three special issues (24th and 26th National Nutrient Databank Conferences, and the 4th IFDC). Submission of manuscripts has been steadily rising, from 126 in 2001 to 147 in 2002. Approximately half of the submitted papers are from North America and Western Europe. Rejection rate continues to average around 30%. Approximately 10% of the papers from Europe are rejected, while nearly 60% of the papers from Africa and the Middle East are rejected. ISI certification was obtained in September 2001, with coverage in Current Contents. The Data Centre Coordinators congratulated the editor on this significant achievement.

It was suggested that volunteers from the scientific community could be approached to provide assistance in editing these papers if it were found that the English language was the major problem being experienced by the authors.

ISI certification was obtained in September 2001, with coverage in Current Contents. "Articles in Press" is now well established (corrected proofs available on-line before publication in issues). JFCA's reviewers' database has 1100 reviewers (300 new names). In 2003 a new cover design was launched with illustrations from FAO and USDA historic botanical watercolours/prints. Yearly volumes will feature in rotation old fruit and vegetable cultivars from print collections. JFCA is fully integrated into Elsevier portfolio, with the following advantages: higher visibility, through Science Direct, enhanced operational tools, Author Gateway (for authors to track their manuscripts through production after acceptance, or after e-submission), Oasis Editor Gateway (for editors to track manuscripts through production process), On line submission (E-Submit) tool (access through Author Gateway) or JFCA online site; supports electronic submissions and handling of accepted manuscripts through production.

- **Funding for Technical Projects**

The question of funding from FAO and UNU was raised. Barbara Burlingame outlined the possibilities of Technical Cooperation Project funding for food composition-related work, and mentioned that some countries have had success for projects that link food composition with trade, and others that link food composition with micronutrient deficiencies.

- **International Food Data Conferences**

During the 4th IFDC in Bratislava in August 2001, the convenorship of the 5th IFDC was awarded to the United States, and to NORAMFOODS Coordinator Joanne Holden. It was agreed that it would be a joint meeting of the 27th National Nutrient Databank Conference and the 5th IFDC. This conference was held from 30 June – 3 July 2003. The Program Co-chairs, Jean Pennington and Phyllis Stumbo, reported to the conference that there were over 140 abstracts submitted, 220 attendees, and 29 countries represented. The papers from the Conference will be published in a Special Issue of the Journal of Food Composition and Analysis.

During the Bratislava meeting, the convenorship of the 6th IFDC had been awarded to South Africa in 2005 as an official satellite to the IUNS's 18th International Congress of Nutrition.

Hettie Schönfeldt, Regional Data Centre Coordinator of AFROFOODS will organize the 6th IFDC, will rely on the IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force as the members of the future scientific advisory committee for the conference. She will put up a website as soon as possible so that promotion could start at the European Nutrition Conference in October 2003. A small brochure is also envisaged for this date. Funding is a concern, especially advanced funding and guarantees in case the conference will not have sufficient participants. In the IUNS/FAO/UNU meeting, it was suggested that some of the financial surplus from the 5th IFDC could be given to the 6th IFDC to start the organization of the IFDC, which needs initial funds to get the organization started, e.g. hotel reservation etc. FAO could also provide some of the initial funding through a letter of agreement in 2004, the funds from which would be used to bring in speakers from developing countries.

The theme of the 6th IFDC was proposed to be 'Food composition data and the nutrition dilemma' in view of the double burden some countries face on under- and over nutrition.

There were some expressions of interest for hosting the 7th IFDC in Chile, Brazil or Mexico in 2007. It was agreed that proposals would be submitted from interested parties via email. The 8th IFDC will be held in Thailand in 2009 as an official IUNS ICN satellite.

- **Other business**

Noel Solomons, chairperson of the IUNS Task Force on Diet Nutrition and Long-Term Health has asked that a representative of the FAO/UNU/IUNS INFOODS Taskforce participate as an observer on his Task Force. In return, one of his Task Force members will participate in the INFOODS Task Force meetings. Volunteers would contact Barbara Burlingame by email.

- **Next meeting**

The next meeting of the IUNS/UNU/FAO INFOODS Task Force will take place in Pretoria in September 2005.

List of participants

1. Nelofar Athar, Crop and Food Research, OCEANFOODS Coordinator
2. Barbara Burlingame, FAO, INFOODS Coordinator
3. Ruth Charrondiere, FAO
4. Miriam Chavez, MEXCARIBEFODDS Coordinator
5. Ilho Cho, FAO
6. Joanne M. Holden, NORAMFOODS Coordinator
7. Wojciech Klys, CEECFODDS Poland
8. Hanna Kunachowicz, CEECFODDS Coordinator
9. Elizabete Wenzel Menezes, BRASILFOODS, Vice-president of LATINFOODS
10. Saturnino de Pablo, SAMFOODS, President of LATINFOODS
11. Janka Pastorova, CEECFODDS Slovakia
12. Prapasri Puwastien, ASEANFOODS Coordinator
13. Pauline Samuda, CARICOMFOODS Coordinator
14. Hettie Schönfeldt, AFROFOODS Coordinator
15. M. A. Wahed, ICDDR Bangladesh , representing SAARCFOODS
16. Clive West, EUROFOODS Coordinator

Observer

1. Ray Shillito, ILSI, Crop Database