

The Final Communiqué of Co-chairs of the Conference "Food Safety and Risk Analysis"

The International Conference "Food Safety and Risk Analysis" was held in the city of Sochi (Russia) on May 18-19 2017. It was organized jointly by Rospotrebnadzor and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and supported by the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Conference gathered 227 delegates - including representatives of public authorities, specialized international organizations, the private sector, consumer organizations and the world scientific community - from 23 countries. Over the course of the two days international experts presented best practices and the latest knowledge and discussed new developments in the area of food safety, risk assessment and communication, as well as antimicrobial resistance.

The large number of participants in this first Russian-speaking forum on these topics indicates significant interest in the subject matter, which is of vital importance to the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

The Conference contributed to the world community's efforts within the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and made an example of practical implementation of food safety goals, established by the second International Conference on Nutrition and listed in the Sustainable Development Goals. Safety and quality provision is the key component for food security, an essential condition for health, physical activity, longevity and high-quality life, as well as the basis for a successful economy.

During the Conference's plenary and parallel sessions, experts discussed such high-priority issues as: antimicrobial resistance; harmonization of safety standards for food; scientific studies on risk assessment, risk management and risk communication; tackling food adulteration in the era of cross-border and digital trade; and the impact of world economic globalization on human life and health protection.

Close cooperation and interaction among representatives of state, scientific, international, public and private organizations allowed for the shaping of new and innovative ideas for improved approaches and development of policies on healthy and safe nutrition and food safety risk assessment.

Organization of the event and the quality and professionalism of its discussions, were highly appreciated by participants and guests of the Conference. Participants also emphasized the importance of food safety-related risks assessment as one of key scientific tools for ensuring the safety of food ingredients and additives as well as final food products on the global market.

Goal-oriented discussions at the Conference reaffirmed the need for ensuring a proper level of population safety by increasing knowledge of antimicrobial resistance and risk analysis. Participants and presenters alike highlighted the need to further strengthen national regulatory frameworks; enhance recognition by state authorities of the standards of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission as

binding international standards for food safety; gather more data in order to support science-based food safety risk assessment at regional and international levels; ensure control at all stages of food production in order to avoid increasing health risks due to microbiological and chemical contaminants; perform systematic monitoring and use up-to-date complex instruments for risk assessment; and strengthen collaboration to ensure a global, regional and national action plan on minimizing the threat from antimicrobial resistance to human and animal health.

The Conference once again proved that in order to achieve practical results on strategic issues, it is important to establish platforms that promote interactions among a wide range of partners striving to jointly respond to new challenges in all areas of food safety.

The increasing involvement of the Russian Federation in global partnerships, and the gradual development of cooperation between Russia and FAO, are set to become the basis for progress towards the goal of ensuring the safe and adequate nutrition as part of any food security strategy.