

## Invitation to participate in the CCRVDF eWG – Prioritization of Countries' Needs for Veterinary Drug MRLs

To: all Codex members and observers

The CCRVDF at its 23rd session agreed to establish an eWG co-hosted by Costa Rica and the United States of America, working in English and Spanish, with the following Terms of Reference: To consider the complete results of the global survey in order to identify priority veterinary drugs and identify information gaps for a successful and comprehensive assessment by JECFA.

To accomplish the terms of reference, the electronic Working Group will begin with a list of the highest priority veterinary drugs as identified in the Global Survey. Working Group participants will have an opportunity to submit additional high priority needs to ensure the starting list is comprehensive. The Working Group will develop and apply prioritization criteria to create a list of ten high priority veterinary drugs in need of Codex MRLs. The electronic Working Group will also identify information gaps for the top ten high priority veterinary drugs. The top ten high priority veterinary drugs will serve as a reference to the CCRVDF so that member countries and organizations can focus efforts to fill the identified information gaps preventing an evaluation by JECFA.

Costa Rica and the United States of America invite those members and observer organizations that are interested in participating in the eWG to provide the following information to [brandi.robinson@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:brandi.robinson@fda.hhs.gov), [alasso@meic.go.cr](mailto:alasso@meic.go.cr) and [hfernandez@senasa.go.cr](mailto:hfernandez@senasa.go.cr) not later than the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016:

- Participant's name;
- Official title;
- Name of country, Member organization or organization that has an observer status in Codex and
- Email address.

Applications should be sent through or with a copy to the Codex Contact Point of the member or recognized observer organization.

As part of a pilot programme, the eWG will be run over a bulletin board<sup>1</sup>. With this system we hope to achieve a better flow of information, greater security and increased transparency. The bulletin board will require you to login. You will be provided with the link once participant credentials have been verified.

Below is the proposed working schedule:

Action	Date
1. Registration of Working Group participants	<b>December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016</b>
2. Circulate initial list of highest priority veterinary drugs from the Global Survey results, request additions from countries that did not participate in the Global Survey, and circulate draft criteria for prioritization of needed MRLs.	<b>December 22nd, 2016</b>
3. Deadline for submission of highest priority drugs and comments on the prioritization criteria	<b>February 23rd, 2017</b>
4. Circulate full list of highest priority veterinary drugs and second draft of prioritization criteria for eWG agreement	<b>March 23rd, 2017</b>

<sup>1</sup> Using phpBB : a free flat-forum bulletin board software solution

5. Deadline for comments on second draft of prioritization criteria	<b>May 25th, 2017</b>
6. Circulate final prioritization criteria and full list of highest priority veterinary drugs and request working group members apply the criteria to the full list	<b>June 25th, 2017</b>
7. Deadline for submission of individual prioritizations of the full list of highest priority veterinary drugs using the final prioritization criteria	<b>August 24th, 2017</b>
8. Circulate the top ten priority veterinary drugs based on the combined individual prioritizations and request comments on the available information for each veterinary drug	<b>October 5th, 2017</b>
9. Deadline for submission of comments on the available information for the top ten priority veterinary drugs	<b>December 5th, 2017</b>
10. Submission of the working group report including the top ten priority veterinary drugs and their respective information gaps to Codex Secretariat for distribution	<b>January 12, 2018</b>

Sincerely yours,

**Brandi L. Robinson, MPH, CPH**

ONADE International Coordinator

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