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Discussion paper on the Revision of Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in Chicken Meat (CXG 78-2011)

Comments of Argentina, European Union and Thailand

Argentina

Argentina agradece a Estados Unidos de América, Honduras, Brasil y Nueva Zelandia la elaboración del Proyecto de documento, está de acuerdo con el avance de la revisión del documento y manifiesta su intención de participar con observaciones durante el desarrollo del mismo.

European Union

In response to the request for comments, the European Union and its Member States (EUMS) would like to make the following comments.

I. General Comment

The EUMS would like to thank and congratulate the United States of America, Honduras, Brazil and New Zealand with the drafting of the very useful discussion paper on the revision of Guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in chicken meat. (CXG 78-2011). The EUMS can support the recommendation that CCFH undertakes new work to revise and update the appropriate text in CXG 78-2011, subject to the considerations of the comments made below. If there is a need to prioritize new work, the EUMS consider that a higher priority could be given to the new work proposed under items 7, 10 and 12 since the availability of new scientific information for the revision of CXG 78-2011 seems more limited (See specific comments).

The EUMS also welcome the additional work carried out by JEMRA in 2022 and 2023 but urges FAO/WHO on the full publication of the meeting reports without undue delay.

II. Specific comments

Appendix 1

Several critical developments in the last decade are highlighted to illustrate the relevance of the revision of the guidelines. These developments seem however not new and were already considered in the development of the original guidelines. Only limited scientific progress seems to have been made to provide new control measures to address them. Examples are:

- Biosecurity measures at primary production have been successfully implemented for control of *Salmonella* but seems to have hardly resulted a reduction of *Campylobacter* infections at that stage;
- Several of the risk mitigation measures for *Campylobacter* control are not new at all (already developed in CXG 78-2011) and have been considered in the past but appear to be not economically feasible or contradicting market demands (avoidance of partial depopulation, slaughter age, freezing of carcasses,...);
- Vaccination of broilers against *Salmonella*.

Additional guidance might be considered in the developments and use of microbiological performance of a process or a food safety control system (without laying down specific microbiological criteria).

The use of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) should be encouraged and the development of a data base with WGS profiles from human, animal food and environment samples, and their comparison should be recommended.

Thailand

Thailand does not object the proposal of new work on this issue. However, we would like to provide some comments to the project document as follows:

Section 3 Main aspects to be covered

In bullet point 5, we would like to propose amendment as follows:

‘- methods for the detection and characterization of pathogens by serotype ~~and eventually by virulence-associated loci~~’

Rationale: The method of detection and characterization using virulence-associated loci is not widely used by the service laboratories but used as part of the research project. Thus, we are of the opinion that it may not be appropriate to be address as part of control measures in CXG 78-2011.