

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Italy

SUBJECT: **A) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING**

B) REQUEST FOR COMMENTS IN RELATION TO THE FOOD SAFETY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEADLINE: **15 January 2000**

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BACKGROUND

1. The 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission agreed to establish *Ad-Hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding to provide for a more flexible structure to handle specific issues for a time-limited period under closely defined terms of reference, but functioning in the same manner as established by Codex Committees under Rule IX.1(b)(i) of its Procedure with the Terms of Reference presented below. The Commission agreed to designate the Government of Denmark to be responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the Task Force in compliance with Rule IX.10 of its Rules of Procedure.
2. The First Session of the *Ad-Hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 13 June to 15 June 2000.
3. The 46th Session of the Executive Committee recalled that the 22nd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission had approved the elaboration of a Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding and had assigned this work to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, Food Additives and Contaminants, Pesticide Residues, and Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, with the co-ordinating role to be taken by the Executive Committee (ALINORM 97/37, para. 129). However, progress on the draft Code had been slow because of the split responsibilities. Moreover, the technical need for the Code had evolved and greater emphasis needed to be placed on the appropriate use and control of antimicrobial substances. The Executive Committee felt that the current draft was too general and that there was a need for a more complete text which addressed all the issues relating to animal feed. The Executive Committee was of the opinion that the Commission should proceed urgently with the

development of international guidelines or recommendations on animal feeding that would provide more explicit advice than was contained in the present Draft Code.

4. The 23rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission noted the recommendation of the 46th Session of the Executive Committee concerning the urgent need for the Commission to develop international guidelines or recommendations which addressed all the issues relating to animal feeding and that the new mechanism of *an ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force would be an appropriate means of achieving this goal.

5. Therefore, a key issue of the Task Force is to proceed with the development of international guidelines or recommendations on animal feeding as outlined in the Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. In addition, other aspects of animal feeding which are important to food safety should be addressed as specified in the Terms of Reference of the Task Force.

Terms of Reference :

- (a) To complete and extend the work already done by relevant Codex Committees on the Draft Code of Practice for Good Animal Feeding.
- (b) To address other aspects which are important for food safety, such as problems related to toxic substances, pathogens, microbial resistance, new technologies, storage, control measures, traceability, etc.
- (c) To take full account of and collaborate with, as appropriate, work carried out by relevant Codex Committees, and other relevant international bodies, including FAO, WHO, OIE and IPPC.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS AND COMMENTS

6. In order to cover the majority of concerns of the Member Governments, the Chairman of the *Ad-Hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding kindly requests Member Governments and interested International Organizations to provide proposals for additions or amendments to the Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding and comments in relation to the food safety issues identified by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in the Terms of Reference of this Task Force.

7. The proposals and comments submitted will contribute to a Chairman's paper to be circulated as a main working document in advance of the meeting to be held in Copenhagen.

8. The current text of the Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding can be downloaded from Codex FTP site at ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccaf01/code_e.pdf.