



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD-HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

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REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO, WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Recent FAO Activities

The FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2010-2011, included a specific service "Information, guidelines and capacity building for feed safety."

FAO (Animal Production and Health Division) continues to provide extensive information and capacity development on different issues regarding animal feeds and feeding. All publications are available through its website¹. The activity is being further developed with the production of a Gateway to Animal Feeding and Nutrition that will serve as knowledge platform and document repository for exchange of information and knowledge and participatory web-based activities (fora, electronic consultations, etc.). The Gateway will be publicly available from April 2012².

In recent years FAO has worked in strong collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders (including national competent authorities, private sector and civil society representatives) to develop the capacities of the sector players to ensure feed safety within the whole production and utilization chain. More specifically:

- in collaboration with the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF), FAO has organized a series of annual International Feed Regulator Meeting (this year at their 5th edition); the meeting have the purpose to increase dialogue and collaboration between private and public sector to better face the challenges of the sector;
- in collaboration with the Latin American Feed Industry Association (FeedLatina), FAO has organized a series of regional (Latin America and the Caribbean) events and capacity development activities;
- in collaboration with IFIF, FAO has produced a Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry³, which is in the process of being translated in French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese and Japanese. The Manual provides comprehensive information and practical guidelines to assist producers and all stakeholders along the production and distribution chain to comply with the regulatory framework, which have or will come into force in response to the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. The publication is intended to guide managers of feedmills and the feed industry as a whole; it is also be of value to officers engaged in feed inspection, with their supervisory roles in feed safety;
- in collaboration with IFIF and national feed industry associations, FAO has organized, since 2005 three Global Feed and Food Congresses (Brazil 2005 and 2007, Mexico 2010); a forth edition of the Congress is in preparation, it will take place in 2013 in South Africa.

In 2011 FAO has released two specific publications addressing animal feeding and nutrition:

¹ http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_food.html and http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/resources/en/pubs_aprod.html#3

² accessible through <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/home/en/index.htm>

³ www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1379e/i1379e00.htm

- Successes and failures with animal nutrition practices and technologies in developing countries - Proceedings of an FAO Electronic Conference⁴; and
- Quality assurance for animal feed analysis laboratories⁵.

Regarding the possible food safety hazards coming into aquaculture through fish feed and the measures to be implemented to minimize the hazards have been incorporated in the FAO Technical Guidelines for Aquaculture certification⁶. Further, for implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, FAO has published Supplement 5 to the Technical Guidelines for responsible Fisheries No 5: Aquaculture Development. Use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture.⁷ It provides the Guidelines for the use of wild fish as feed in aquaculture in which Principle 8 is that steps need to be taken not to compromise food safety. Guidelines for actions to be taken to abide by this principle have been provided in this supplement.

With regards to the work on criteria for the global identification and notification of emergency situations affecting animal feed, FAO is currently considering existing FAO and WHO mechanism to verify if any of them could adequately serve the purpose, possibly with some modification.

Recent WHO Activities

Antimicrobial resistance

WHO has been addressing the public health impact of the use of antimicrobials agents as feed additives, for therapeutic, prophylactic or growth promotion purposes, in a number of expert consultations during the past years. Some of these consultations were held jointly with FAO and OIE. The reports of these meetings are available at: http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/publications/en/index.html.

To support prioritization of risks associated with antimicrobial use as feed additives, WHO has developed a list of Critically Important Antimicrobials (CIA) for Human Medicine. The WHO list of Critically Important Antimicrobials has been established in 2005 and is updated every 2 years and is available at:

http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/cia/en/index.html.

FAO/WHO joint activities

FAO/WHO have developed a user friendly web-based tool (WBT) to assess presence/absence sampling plans and concentration-based sampling plans for microbiological hazards in food and feed. This will be publicly available from March 2012 and can be accessed at www.mramodels.org.

FAO, in collaboration with WHO, has organized in 2007 an Expert Meeting on “Animal feed impact on food safety”. The meeting had the aim of: reviewing the state of knowledge on animal feed, its impact on public health and on international trade; analysing the situation of international standards addressing animal feed; identifying relevant areas for the development of specific standards for animal feed, on the basis of scientific evidence relevant to ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin and fair practices in international trade; and providing guidance for further action required at international level to address these issues in the most appropriate ways, and recommend specific activities needed. The Report of the meeting is available online⁸.

Chemical risk assessment

FAO and WHO have been assessing the risk of chemical substances and contaminants in food including the residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs, through the international expert bodies such as Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)⁹. In these risk assessments, the implication of contamination of animal feed or feed ingredients on residue levels in food are taken into consideration as appropriate.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2441e/i2441e00.htm>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2441e/i2441e00.htm>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2296t/i2296t00.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i1917e/i1917e00.pdf>

⁸ <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1507e/a1507e00.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/chem/en/>

Feed issues are also addressed in ad hoc expert meetings as appropriate. For example, WHO, in collaboration with FAO, held an ad hoc expert meeting to review the toxicological and health aspects of melamine and its derivative and to provide member countries with advice on risk management options following the melamine contamination incident occurred in 2008. In this assessment, too, the impact of occurrence of melamine in animal feed and feed ingredients and their carry-over to food was considered. The full report of this expert meeting is available at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/fs_management/infosan_events/en/index.html. This scientific advice was subsequently considered by the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, which led to the adoption of a Codex maximum limit of melamine in food and feed of 2.5 mg/kg.