

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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HEALTH
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Agenda Item 16

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-eighth Session,

FAO HQ, Rome (Italy), 4-9 July 2005

OTHER MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

Prepared by FAO and WHO

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PART I: OUTCOMES OF RECENT FAO/WHO EXPERT MEETINGS

As Codex endeavours to provide guidance to its member countries on a wide range of issues pertinent to the safety and quality of food in international trade with the objectives of protecting consumer health and facilitating fair practices in food trade, FAO and WHO strive to provide the relevant scientific advice in a transparent, sound and timely manner. The scientific advice that FAO and WHO provides to several Codex Committees and the Codex Alimentarius Commission covers a range of issues and requires the input of several expert bodies and *ad hoc* expert meetings. The results of those meetings are available on the FAO and WHO websites. The most recent activities related to the provision of scientific advice are summarized below.

Summary of scientific advice provided by FAO and WHO during 2004/2005

<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>64th Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) (Rome, 8-17 February, 2005).</p> <p>Evaluation of the following food contaminants: acrylamide, cadmium, ethyl carbamate, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and inorganic tin.</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions are available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esn/jecfa/jecfa64_summary.pdf. Technical report and monographs in preparation. This JECFA session also developed a new approach to provide advice on compounds that are both genotoxic and carcinogenic.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>63rd Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) (Geneva, 8-17 June, 2004).</p> <p>Safety evaluation of 18 food additives, of peroxyacid antimicrobial solutions for use in food contact and of the natural food constituent glycyrrhizinic acid. The safety of benzoyl peroxide for use in treatment of whey, safety of alpha-cyclodextrin, lutein and zeaxanthin as food ingredients were evaluated. Consideration of 217 specifications (20 food additives, uses other than as flavouring agent; 197 flavouring agents). Specifications for 186 compounds were newly adopted, of which five remained tentative. Specifications for 31 compounds were revised of which three remained tentative.</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions are available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esn/jecfa/jecfa63_summary.pdf</p> <p>Compendium of food additive specifications – Addendum 12 is available at: http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/007/y5777e/y5777e00.htm</p> <p>Technical report and toxicological monographs in preparation.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>62nd Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee for Food Additives and Contaminants (JECFA) (Rome, 4 – 12 February, 2004).</p> <p>Dedicated to residues of veterinary drugs in foods. Considered the following 11 compounds: cefuroxime, chloramphenicol, flumequine, lincomycin, pirlimycin, cyhalothrin, cypermethrin and alpha-cypermethrin, doramectin, phoxim, melengestrol acetate and ractopamine. Special considerations were given to the source of low levels of chloramphenicol in animal products.</p> <p>The monographs of the residue data of 8 compounds agreed by the meeting are now available in FNP 41/16 at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/es/esn/jecfa/2004-10-15_fnp41-16final_4.pdf.</p> <p>Technical report available at: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/trs/WHO_TRS_925.pdf</p> <p>Toxicological monographs summarizing the data that were considered by the Committee in establishing ADIs will be published in <i>WHO Food Additives Series No.53</i>.</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p> <p><i>Outputs</i></p>	<p>Joint FAO/IOC/WHO ad hoc Expert Consultation on Biotoxins in Molluscan Bivalves, (Oslo, Norway, 27 September - 1 October 2004)</p> <p>Considered available information on a range of biotoxins that may be found in shellfish to facilitate the establishment of limits and provide guidance for analysis and monitoring.</p> <p>Meeting report available at: http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/food/risk_biotoxin_en.stm</p>
<p>Activity</p> <p><i>Purpose</i></p>	<p>Joint FAO/WHO Technical Workshop on Residues of Veterinary Drugs without ADI/MRL (Bangkok, 24 - 26 August 2004)</p> <p>Provided a first analysis of disruptions in food trade that occurred in 2001/2002 as a result of the detection of trace amounts of chloramphenicol and nitrofurans in animal products to provide appropriate guidance for follow-up at both national and international levels.</p>

Outputs	Meeting Report and Background papers are available at: http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/food/risk_vetdrugs_report_en.stm
Activity	FAO/WHO Technical meeting on obstacles to the application of HACCP, particularly in small and less developed businesses (SLDBs) and approaches to overcome them (Rome, 13 – 15 December 2004)
Purpose	Reviewed existing materials and developed guidelines for national governments to assist in the application of HACCP in small and less developed businesses.
Outputs	Draft guidelines to governments (presented at the 37 th session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene as CRD6) . The draft is currently under review for finalisation towards end 2005.
Activity	FAO/WHO Meeting on <i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i> and other microorganisms in powdered infant formula (Geneva, 2 – 4 February 2004)
Purpose	Considered the available scientific information and provided recommendations on how to minimise risk.
Outputs	Meeting report now available at: http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/jemra/enterobacter_en.stm and at http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/meetings/feb2004/en/
Activity	Publication of the FAO/WHO Risk assessment of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> in ready to eat foods
Purpose	Provided information based on risk assessment to assist risk managers addressing problems posed by <i>Listeria</i> in ready-to-eat foods
Outputs	Final technical report and interpretative summary now published, and available at: http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/jemra/listeria_en.stm and at : http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/jemra/assessment/listeria/en/
Activity	Second Joint FAO/OIE/WHO Workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial Usage and Antimicrobial Resistance: Management Options (Oslo, Norway, 15-18 March 2004)
Purpose	Considered the broad range of possible risk management options for antimicrobial resistance from non-human usage of antimicrobials.
Outputs	Meeting report is available at: http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/food/risk_antiworkshop_en.stm and at : http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/micro/mar04/en/
Activity	Joint Meeting of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group (JMPR) (Rome, Italy, September 2004)
Purpose	Evaluated 31 pesticides, including three new compounds and eleven re-evaluations, and estimated 575 MRLs (including 300 MRLs for spices) and recommended 64 previous MRLs for withdrawal. A new method was developed to derive MRLs for several pesticides in spices based on monitoring data.
Outputs	Meeting report is available at: http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpp/Pesticid/p.htm

Other activities related to the provision of scientific advice

FAO and WHO also have a number of ongoing activities which constitute a follow up to earlier expert meetings (held in 2002 and 2003). These include the preparation of the final technical documents and interpretative summaries of risk assessments on *Vibrio* spp. in seafoods and *Campylobacter* spp. in broiler chickens and guidelines on exposure assessment and risk characterization of microbiological hazards in foods which are now undergoing review and finalisation for publication. It also includes undertaking of a

global review of food-based dietary guidelines for supporting their updates and implementation, incorporating the updated population nutrient intake goals.

The Joint FAO/WHO **Nutrient Risk Assessment Workshop**: A model for establishing upper levels of intake for nutrients and related substances was held in Geneva on 2-6 May 2005. The meeting report is in preparation and will be posted on the internet for a public comment period of 30 days. An expert consultation was carried out on **Exposure/Intake Assessment for Chemicals in Food** in Annapolis, Maryland, USA, from 2-6 May, as part of the larger project to update the Principles and Methods for the Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food for the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). The draft report will also be posted on the internet for public review and comment and submitted to JECFA and JMPR for their approval.

The **65th JECFA**¹ will be convened from 7-16 June 2005 in Geneva and will evaluate the safety of a number of food additives and flavouring substances, as well as consider a number of general aspects such as intake assessment of flavouring agents.

In addition, planning is underway to address the requests for scientific advice on the **criteria for establishing the list of acceptable previous cargos** as well as the **potential risks and benefits of the lactoperoxidase system for milk**. Work is ongoing on *Enterobacter sakazakii* and other microorganisms in powdered infant formula and a meeting to address the outstanding issues on this topic will be convened at the end of 2005. Preparations are also underway to begin work on the development of **practical risk management strategies based on microbiological risk assessment outputs**. FAO/WHO preparatory working groups to convene Expert Consultations on carbohydrates and on the fats and oils have begun work on issues related to dietary fibre, sugars and trans-fatty acids. Additional information on most of these upcoming activities is available in Annex 1 of this document.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information above.

PART II: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FAO/WHO CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE TO CODEX AND MEMBER COUNTRIES

The review of the FAO/WHO programme on the provision of scientific advice to Codex and member countries continued with the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the FAO/WHO Workshop on the Provision of Scientific Advice to Codex and Member Countries held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27-29 January, 2004² and comments received from the 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 197-209).

Activities prioritised by FAO/WHO are:

- Elaboration of a **Procedural Guideline** that would compile all written procedures followed by FAO and WHO in relation to the provision of scientific advice;
- Establishment of an **Internal FAO/WHO Task Force** to review the management options for the provision of scientific advice and consider improved coordination;
- Preparation of **Review Papers** to address procedures for the selection of experts, to consider factors associated with enhanced openness of meetings, and to improve procedures for the use of data;
- Explore new approaches to enhance the participation of experts and the use of data from developing countries in the elaboration of international scientific advice.

A first draft of the **Procedural Guideline** is in preparation and should be available in late 2005. The Guideline will enhance the transparency of the work of FAO and WHO on the provision of scientific advice. Through this process, gaps in procedures, or the need to improve existing procedures, may be identified. Where this is the case, these issues will be addressed further.

¹ The present document was prepared before the date of the JECFA meeting, hence the lack of information on the outcome of the JECFA session.

² The report of the Workshop is available on the websites of FAO (http://www.fao.org/es/ESN/proscad/index_en.stm) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/>).

Completion of the FAO/WHO review process on provision of scientific advice

FAO/WHO are implementing the above mentioned activities and working to define any further steps needed to complete the consultative process on the provision of scientific advice to Codex and member countries. The resulting “Procedural Guidelines” would be submitted to FAO and WHO Governing Bodies for consideration and possible endorsement. The provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO requires the support and involvement of member countries and in the longer term would require additional resources to meet the expectations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and member countries.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information above and provide any guidance as appropriate.

PART III: STATUS OF REQUESTS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE FROM CODEX SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The 27th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2004 made a number of observations regarding the criteria for establishing priorities for the provision of scientific advice (ALINORM 04/27/41, paras 207 and 208). The 55th Session of the Executive Committee elaborated further on this matter and recommended to FAO/WHO the use of the following set of criteria for the prioritisation of requests for scientific advice from Codex (ALINORM 05/28/3, par 75):

- Relevance in relation to the strategic objectives and priorities as defined in the Strategic Plan;
- Clear definition of the scope of the objective of the request as well as clear indication of the way in which the advice will be used in the work of Codex;
- Significance and urgency to the development or advancement of Codex texts taking into account public health and/or food trade relevance of the issue and the needs of developing countries;
- Availability of scientific knowledge and data required to conduct the risk assessment or to elaborate the scientific advice;
- High priority assigned by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

In prioritising the requests to be addressed, FAO and WHO are also taking into consideration the needs for advice that are directly submitted by Member Countries and the availability of resources. The attached table (Annex) presents the overall status of pending requests for scientific advice received by FAO/WHO up to **April 2005**.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information in Table 1 of Annex and provide any guidance as appropriate.

PART IV: CAPACITY BUILDING IN FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

In the past year, a number of initiatives have been taken or continued by FAO and WHO, in collaboration with relevant partner organizations and institutions, to (1) further enhance the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors in ensuring the quality and safety of the food supply, (2) to strengthen FAO and WHO’s role as neutral fora for negotiation and for exchange of information and experiences in the field of food safety and quality; (3) to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations and with other partners in the field of food safety and quality; and (4) to upgrade the capacity of developing member countries in food safety and food quality assurance and support their effective participation in Codex work.

Information on FAO and WHO’s main capacity building activities in food safety and quality at the international level is provided below, with more detailed information on all the FAO and WHO activities related to capacity building available as an information document (CAC/28 INF.5).

FAO’s Strategy for a Safe and Nutritious Food Supply

At its 19th Session (April 2005), FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG) considered a document prepared by the Secretariat (www.fao.org/unfao/bodies/coag/coag19/coag19_en.htm) on the above subject. The Committee supported FAO’s proposed strategy, which stresses the need for addressing food safety issues along the food chain. It recommended that countries apply a stepwise and sequential approach to implementation of the food chain approach and that special attention should be paid to the needs of small-scale farmers in developing countries to assist them in integrating into international food markets.

Global and Regional Fora of Food Safety Regulators

As a follow-up to the successful first Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators and with the support and approval of the FAO and WHO member countries, FAO and WHO held the Second Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators (GF-2) in Bangkok, Thailand on 12-14 October 2004, under the main theme of: "Building Effective Food Safety Systems". The delegates at GF-2 were generally supportive of holding a Third Global Forum (GF-3), but proposed that further discussion should be held on the objective, format, themes, and timeframe/ location of a GF3. Accordingly, the FAO/WHO Secretariat convened an e- forum from 4 April to 13 May 2005 to further solicit the views of the Member countries and all interested parties on the subject. Detailed results of the e-forum are presented as an information document (CAC/28 INF.13).

In an effort to facilitate the discussion of practical actions and capacity building recommendations to promote food safety in the countries of the Near East region, FAO and WHO convened a *Regional Meeting on Food Safety for the Near East* in Amman, Jordan from 5 to 6 March 2005, immediately prior to the 3rd session of the Codex Coordinating Committee for the Near East (7-10 March 2005). A full report of the outcome of the Near East Meeting is being made available to the Commission.

This Meeting was the third in a series of regional events that FAO and WHO are convening at the request of member countries to meet their needs for policy guidance and capacity building in food safety. Regional food safety conferences are currently being planned for Africa (Harare, Zimbabwe, 3-6 October 2005) as well as the Americas and the Caribbean. On the occasion of the 28th session of the Commission, a briefing meeting will be held with the delegates from the Americas and the Caribbean as well as the permanent representatives of the countries of the region to FAO.

Funding Mechanisms to Improve Food Safety and Quality

FAO, WHO, OIE, WTO, and the World Bank have established a Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) to coordinate the capacity building efforts of these organizations in the areas of food safety, plant, and animal health and to provide a funding mechanism for countries and stakeholders to improve in these areas. Interested countries and stakeholders are encouraged to propose projects and submit them to the STDF for consideration.

FAO and WHO have implemented a Trust Fund for Participation in Codex to increase the participation of developing countries and countries in transition in the vital work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The fund provides financial support to increase their ability to participate in the establishment of global food safety and quality standards, as well as improve their capacity to implement those standards in their own countries.

Technical Assistance and Supporting Material for Capacity Building

FAO is engaged in an extensive programme of technical assistance activities and projects at national, regional and international levels, covering areas such as training of food control officials and technical staff (food control managers, food inspectors, food analysts), enhancement of food control laboratory capabilities, implementation of risk analysis, support in establishing national Codex committees, policy advice, establishment of regulatory frameworks, fresh fruits and vegetables quality and safety, mycotoxin prevention and control, HACCP in aquaculture, traceability of fish and fish products, good practices for the feed industry, prevention of BSE and other zoonotic diseases and others. Detailed information on all these activities/projects is available in CAC/28 INF.5.

FAO is presently conducting a programme for improving the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables, which focuses on the application of good practices (GAP, GMP, and GHP) to prevent hazards at appropriate points in the fresh fruits and vegetable chain (production and post-harvest stages- *food chain approach*). Sub-regional workshops have been held in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, and are planned for other regions of the world. Activities for awareness raising and training at the national level have also been initiated through the implementation of National Action Plans. Three case studies on the implementation of quality and safety schemes are under preparation. FAO has prepared a Training Package (available in CD-ROM and printed format), providing information that can be used by countries to develop training programmes and implement safety and quality requirements to suit their specific needs and thus enhance their capability to apply the Codex guidelines and standards, meet importers requirements, as well as improve the quality and safety of fresh produce on the domestic market. An on- line database (also produced

as a CD-ROM) with over 800 documents related to the safety and quality of fresh fruits and vegetables is also available.

FAO is also implementing a large global project to enhance coffee quality through prevention of mould formation. This project is being carried out in Brazil, Colombia, Ivory Coast, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Uganda, with collaboration from the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Coffee (ISIC) and the University of Surrey, United Kingdom. The project has received funding from the Common Fund for Commodities and the Government of the Netherlands.

FAO and WHO are currently or have recently been engaged in the development of a number of manuals, guidelines and training materials that should facilitate the capacity building effort. Most of these materials are developed jointly except for a few which are prepared under specific field projects operated either by FAO or WHO. These materials include the following:

- Improving the Safety and Quality of Fresh Fruits and Vegetable training manual and resource database (available from FAO web pages or as a CD-ROM in English, Spanish, and French- see further description above);
- Food Safety Risk Analysis – A framework manual and CD-ROM training pack (a joint FAO/WHO publication – undergoing finalization);
- Evaluation of Capacity Building Needs for Food Control (a joint FAO/WHO publication – undergoing pilot testing);
- Improving Participation in the Work of Codex- A Training Pack (undergoing pilot testing);
- IARC/FAO/WHO Monograph on prevention of mycotoxins (undergoing finalization);
- FAO/ICD/WHO Basic Awareness Course on Microbiological Risk Assessment (undergoing pilot testing);
- Paper on the Application of risk assessment in the fish industry (available as a 2004 FAO Fisheries Technical Paper #442);
- Manual on Good Practices for the Meat Industry (Available in English and undergoing translation into French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese).

All these materials, once finalized, will be issued in multi-lingual form for wider use by member countries.

Information Exchange Mechanisms

During its first year of activity, the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health (www.ipfsaph.org) - a joint initiative with IPPC, OIE, Codex and WTO - has handled over 2 million page requests and built up a regular user base of over 5,000 users. In addition to the international standards, notifications, and other official information from the partner international agencies, the portal also provides a view on national legislation and related texts from the EU, USA, and smaller data sets from a pilot group of developing countries (21,000 records in May 2005).

The latest version includes up-to-date information on the Codex-established maximum residue limits (MRLs) for veterinary drugs and pesticides, as well as the JECFA and JMPR evaluations of these substances; navigation in English French and Spanish; and a "help desk" for any questions users may have regarding the portal.

With funding from the Standards and Trade Development Facility, work is now proceeding with partners in developing countries to exploit the work undertaken on the portal project so far. This includes activities with in-country data owners (government departments responsible for food safety, animal or plant health regulation) looking at information management and metadata standards, and with national users of portal information (producer associations, export promotion agencies, etc). The first regional demonstration workshops will be later this year. More information on the portal project is available in CAC/28 INF.4.

INFOSAN, the International Food Safety Authorities Network was inaugurated on 13 October 2004 at the 2nd FAO/WHO Global Forum of Food Safety Regulators held in Bangkok, Thailand and has received support from Member States. As of 13 May 2005, 138 Member States are members of the network. The initiative of developing an international food safety authorities network was undertaken in response to the WHO World Health Assembly Resolution on Food Safety (WHA53.15, May 2000) calling on WHO to assist Member

States in strengthening their food safety programmes. In addition, the Codex Alimentarius Commission adopted a text that requested WHO to facilitate communication during food safety emergencies. INFOSAN is an information network for the dissemination of important global food safety information and serves as a vehicle for food safety authorities and other relevant agencies to exchange food safety information and improve collaboration among them. INFOSAN EMERGENCY, the emergency arm of the network is intended to complement and support the existing WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network ([GOARN](#)) which includes a Chemical Alert and Response component. INFOSAN is developed and maintained by WHO in collaboration with FAO.

In 2004, WHO inaugurated its new Strategic Health Operation Centre (SHOC). The SHOC is a shared information and communications centre designed to facilitate collaboration and problem solving in order to better improve health outcomes in countries. The SHOC both virtually and physically supports WHO Operations at HQ, Regional and Country Office levels in responding to crises in public health. INFOSAN EMERGENCY is part of the operational support structure of SHOC.

FAO also supports the development and maintenance of FishPort, web based system for dissemination of scientific and technical information on fish safety and quality.

Preparedness for response to nuclear emergencies.

FAO has established a network of technical experts on preparedness for response to nuclear emergencies in relation to food and agriculture. This group is charged with implementation of the cooperative arrangements between IAEA and FAO. Ongoing activities include the development of an on-line information system (including data on soil types, nutrition patterns, land use etc.), setting up an internal crisis management team to deal with nuclear emergencies affecting agriculture, and strengthening working relations with IAEA on this issue.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information above.

PART V: OTHER MATTERS FROM FAO AND WHO

Collaboration between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention (Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures - ICPM)

At the 6th meeting of the ICPM (April 2004), the chairman proposed a closer cooperation between *inter alia* the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC in order to avoid overlaps or contradictory approaches in regard to common principles laid down in the SPS Agreement. Closer cooperation was also proposed with the OIE. As a result, a discussion paper on the subject was considered by the 6th meeting of the ICPM Informal Working Group on Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance (SPTA).

The SPTA recognised the importance of close cooperation between the organisations and recommended to the 7th meeting of the ICPM (April 2005) a programme for initiating contact in order to investigate the disposition for closer collaboration and possible subjects and procedures for collaborative activities.

The ICPM considered the recommendations of the SPTA and after some discussion adopted the following:

- a) The ICPM Bureau initiates contact with Codex Alimentarius;
- b) Meetings are to be held as necessary between the IPPC and Codex Alimentarius to identify potential topics and priorities, and to develop draft procedures for cooperation;
- c) Adoption by the ICPM of the potential topics, priorities and draft procedures.

The ICPM requested a report on progress to be presented at the eight meeting of the ICPM (April 2006)

FAO/WHO work-sharing activities with national governments and regional authorities for the evaluation of pesticide residues and toxicology

The first pilot project on work-sharing (trifloxystrobin evaluation) in response to the request from the CCPR on ways to speed up the JMPR process was completed and reported at the 37th Session of the CCPR. The outcome of this project demonstrated that difficulties existed in achieving some time saving due to the different formats of dossiers and different studies submitted. Only one study was submitted to all participating countries and the JMPR. The availability of several national and regional studies was useful to FAO and WHO. The evaluation process, including standardization of formats should be harmonized further.

Good progress has been attained in the toxicological evaluations, while more work is necessary to improve work-sharing for residue evaluations.

A new work sharing project is planned for 2006 based on the compound nominated by the CCPR-working group on priorities i.e. quinoxifen. The CCPR noted that dossiers from the US, EC, Canada and manufacturers would be available and therefore agreed to propose this compound for the work-sharing Pilot Project in 2006.

The 37th Session of the CCPR noted that progress in the OECD work on harmonizing all data requirements for pesticide evaluation may resolve many of the barriers to work-sharing at national and international level.

Follow-up on the implementation of the York and Zoning reports

The 37th Session of the CCPR was informed that JMPR will continue to consider in their work the recommendations of the OECD/York Workshop and the OECD/FAO Zoning report as auxiliary advice but that substantial additional work is required to make the recommendations generally applicable as guidance. The JMPR recalled the conclusion of the Zoning report that trials on a given commodity conducted at the same GAP with similar residues at zero day be considered equivalent regardless of geographic location. The 2004 JMPR recommended that hypothetical zones be developed based on crop type and good agricultural practices.

The 37th Session of the CCPR was also informed that an FAO Consultant conducted a survey on the acceptability of the recommendations of the workshop on minimum data requirements (York workshop) and the zoning report. It concluded that majority of the national authorities do not accept the recommendations of the zoning report due to limited nature of the study. The details of results and recommendations are published in the FAO website.

Principles for Modelling Dose-Response for the Risk Assessment of Chemicals

WHO/PCS (Programme on Chemical Safety) held an expert workshop to agree on principles for dose-response assessment in the risk assessment of chemicals. The outcome of the workshop will be published in the Environmental Health Criteria document series. The draft report is available on the internet for public comment (http://www.who.int/ipcs/methods/harmonization/dose_response/en/). The recommendations of this workshop were already implemented at the 64th JECFA meeting for the evaluation of food contaminants with genotoxic and carcinogenic properties.

Review of toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds

WHO/PCS has initiated a project to review toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) of dioxins and dioxin-like compounds. Details are available on the internet from: http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/tef_review/en/

International consensus TEFs have been developed by WHO for application in risk management and have been formally adopted by a number of countries and supranational bodies. Internationally agreed TEFs based on latest scientific knowledge are the prerequisites for successful international and harmonized risk management actions for these important class of contaminants present in the food supply.

Water Guidelines

WHO through its water sanitation and health programme developed the following guidelines:

The Third Edition of WHO 'Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality' was published in 2004. The Guidelines are used by most countries worldwide, typically as the 'scientific point of departure' for the development of corresponding national regulations and standards. The third edition advocates the use of 'Water Safety Plans' as a preventive management approach analogous to HACCP adapted to the specific issues related to public water supply. It also includes sections on application of the Guidelines to specific circumstances:

- One section deals with bottled/package waters. The Guidelines are intended to be applicable to all waters intended for human consumption and this section notes that "The Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality provide a basis for derivation of standards for all packaged waters"; that in applying the Guidelines to bottled packaged water some adaptation is appropriate. It further notes that "The international regulatory framework for packaged water regulation is provided by the Codex Alimentarius Commission of WHO and the FAO". It goes on to refer to the CAC standard for natural mineral waters and to the associated Code of Practice; and to the Codex standard for bottled/package water other than mineral waters. Of relevance to the Committee would be the progressive increase in

coherence and consistency between these CAC outputs and related WHO Guidelines. The CAC standard for waters other than mineral waters cross-refers to the Guidelines for Guideline Values for substances not otherwise specified in the standard;

- A further section refers to water used in food production which notes that "The quality of water defined in the Guidelines is such that it is suitable for all normal uses in the food industry. Some processes have special water quality requirements in order to secure the desired characteristics of the product and the Guidelines do not necessarily guarantee that such special requirements are met". It also recognises that "Deterioration in drinking-water quality may have severe impacts on food processing facilities and potentially on public health" and concludes that "Information on deterioration of the quality of a drinking-water supply should be promptly communicated to vulnerable food production facilities.

The Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality are kept up-to-date through a 'rolling revision' process. Included on the plan of work is an item on bulk transport of water through various means that is of relevance to CAC ongoing work on the draft code of hygienic practice for the transport of foodstuffs in bulk and semi-packed foodstuffs.

The Third Edition of WHO Guidelines for Safe Use of Wastewater and Excreta in Agriculture (in multiple volumes) has been produced in cooperation with UNEP, FAO and other relevant partner organizations. They will be concluded at a meeting of government-nominated experts in mid 2005 and published this year.

Implementation of the WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health

The Representative of WHO informed the 55th Session of the Executive Committee that the World Health Assembly had adopted the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health in May 2004 through Resolution WHA57.17. The Global Strategy provided a comprehensive set of policy options, and underlined the importance of Codex standards for member countries, especially as regards nutrition and labelling, in order to provide better information to consumers.

After an exchange of views and opinions, the Executive Committee recognized the importance of a public health approach to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, which called for actions by international agencies as well as national and local governments. The Executive Committee recommended that the Commission continue to give full consideration, within the framework of its mandate, to evidence-based action it might take to improve the health standards of foods consistent with the aims and objectives of the strategy, and agreed that this could be achieved through the work of the existing subsidiary bodies such as the Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses and the Committee on Food Labelling.

The Executive Committee also agreed to ask WHO, in cooperation with FAO, to prepare a document highlighting the action that could be taken by Codex, in the framework of its mandate, to facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy. This document would be considered by the next session of the Commission.³

A discussion paper on this matter will be presented to the 28th Session of the Commission by WHO as CAC/28 LIM-6.

On this particular matter, the Commission is **invited** to express its views on the recommendation by the Executive Committee as above and provide guidance on further actions required by the Commission.

Guidelines for Good Agricultural Practices

FAO is developing an approach to support the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) along the food-chain. GAP work focuses on information, technical assistance and capacity building to help developing countries cope with changing and globalising food systems and the proliferation of requirements on GAP from the food industry and others, while not compromising their sustainable development objectives. FAO's approach on GAPs is one that is non prescriptive, and would not lead to the development of new international standards or codes. Further, it should not affect the definition or scope of good agricultural practices as they appear in existing texts, for example the Codex Alimentarius. Instead, in the GAP work that FAO is implementing, local-level GAPs defined by concerned stakeholders would support farmers and governments to adopt agricultural practices that help them comply with international regulatory

³ ALINORM 05/28/3 paras 84-90.

frameworks (such as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), Codex Alimentarius and the Office International des Epizooties (OIE)), as well as implement GAP that generate environmental, economic and social sustainability in different local settings. Upon request by members, FAO is undertaking technical assistance and capacity building activities on GAP for crops, fruit and vegetables, meat, milk or feed in different countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The Commission is **invited** to note the information above.

Table 1 : Codex Requests to FAO and WHO for Scientific Advice (as of April 2005⁴)

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁴	Advice to be Used by Codex for
1	Safety evaluation of food additives and flavouring agents	CCFAC	36 th Session ALINORM 04/27/12, para. 210 and Appendix XXVII	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	<u>In preparation</u> – will be addressed by 65 th JECFA (7 – 16 June 2005)	300, 000	GSFA 38 th CCFAC, 2006
2	Safety evaluation of residues for four new and three existing veterinary drugs	CCRVDF	15 th Session ALINORM 05/28/31 paras 162-177 and Appendix IX	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	<u>Planned for</u> 66 th JECFA (2006)	250, 000	Maximum residue limits 29 th CCRVDF, 2006
3	Safety evaluation of food additives, flavouring agents and contaminants	CCFAC	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 225 and Appendix XXIX	Joint FAO/WHO Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)	<u>Planned for</u> 67 th JECFA (2006)	300, 000	Report to the CCFAC

⁴ Some activities listed will be undertaken between April 2005 and the convening of CAC 28

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁽¹⁾	Advice to be Used by Codex for
4	Safety and regulatory problems related to functional foods	CCASIA (Korea)	14 th Session ALINORM 05/28/15, paras 53-55	Expert Consultation pending	Expert consultation requested by one member country at CCASIA <u>pending and awaiting direction</u> from CAC before taking further action Implemented a FAO/WHO Workshop on 6.9.04 to exchange information	80, 000	Identification of needs and elaboration of guidelines for member countries on evaluating safety and effectiveness ¹ .
5	Safety of active chlorine used in and on foods	CCFAC CCFH	37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/12, para. 108 and Appendix XV 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/13, para. 158 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/13 paras 170 - 174	TOR of expert consultation specified by 37 th CCFH and 37 th CCFAC.	<u>Awaiting TOR</u> and final direction from CAC and extra - budgetary resources that are needed to implement this work.	300, 000	Proposed Draft Code of Practice for the Use of Active Chlorine Proposed Terms of Reference to be discussed at 28 th CAC, 4 – 9 July 2005.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Advice to be Used by Codex for
6	FAO/WHO to extend their current work on Reference recommended nutrient intakes to include ULs for vitamins and minerals	CCNFSDU	23 rd Session ALINORM 03/26 para. 139	Technical Workshop	<u>Under implementation</u> - Joint FAO/WHO Project initiated August 2004 Expert meeting May 2005	170, 000	Proposed Draft Guidelines for Upper Limits for Vitamins and Minerals
7	The risk associated with <i>Enterobacter</i> genus, including <i>E. sakazakii</i> , and <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> in powdered infant formula	CCFH	35 th Session ALINORM 03/13A para. 169 36 th Session ALINORM 04/27/13 para. 154 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/13 paras 54-55	Follow-up activities to elaborate the risk assessment	Development of the risk assessment tool <u>ongoing</u> <u>Planning</u> final meeting for the end 2005	15, 000	Risk management options/guidance in the revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children Labelling provisions in standard on infant formula (CCNFSDU)
8	Risk assessments on <i>Campylobacter</i> & <i>Vibrio</i>	CCFH	34 th Session ALINORM 03/13; 35 th Session ALINORM 03/13A, paras 49-54 and para. 57	Completion of the risk assessments – peer review	<u>In finalization stage</u> through consultation with the drafting groups Translation / publication	50, 000	Risk management options in the revision of relevant Codes of Practice Report to 37 th CCFH (March 2005); 27 th CCFFP (28 February – 4 March 2005)
9	Risk assessment based advice on a range of 14 pathogen-commodity combinations	CCFH	32 nd Session ALINORM 01/13, paras. 12 – 20	Provision of Scientific Advice as requested by CCFH	<u>Awaiting</u> clear definition of specific advice required following decisions on new work by 38th CCFH and subsequent CAC	Approximately 100, 000 per pathogen-commodity combination	Risk management options in the revision of relevant Codes of Practice and the development of new management documents

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁽¹⁾	Advice to be Used by Codex for
10	Establishment of criteria for the evaluation of safety of acceptable previous cargoes (transport of fats and oils in bulk) and evaluation of specific substances on that basis	CCFO CAC	18 th Session ALINORM 03/17, paras 78-79 19 th Session ALINORM 05/28/17 paras 57-61 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/41 para. 206	FAO/WHO to provide advice on the proposed criteria	<u>Planning</u> - Expert review to be completed by late 2005 as proposed by 19 th CCFO	30,000	Criteria for the elaboration and revision of the positive list Report by February 2007.
11	Evaluation of residues and toxicology of pesticides for the establishment of MRLs.	CCPR	36 th Session ALINORM 04/24, paras 204-206 and Appendix XI	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues	Next JMPR Meeting <u>in preparation</u> for 20 – 29 September 2005.	350, 000	Proposed Draft Maximum Residues for Pesticides Report to 38 th CCPR, 2006
12	York recommendations and Zoning Report on minimum data requirements for establishing MRLs and Import Tolerances	CCPR		Follow up to these meetings	<u>Ongoing</u> - A Survey is being implemented to see if countries are following the recommendations of the York meeting on minimum data requirements for establishing MRLs, and the Zoning meeting.	10,000	Report to 37 th CCPR, April 2005 and OECD

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁽¹⁾	Advice to be Used by Codex for
13	Establishment of MRLs for spices	CCPR	35 th Session ALINORM 03/24A paras 187 – 200; 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/24, paras 177-188 and Appendices IV, VII	Work began at JMPR, September 2004, work will continue in future sessions of JMPR	<u>Ongoing</u>	10, 000 per meeting	37 th CCPR, April 2005
14	Use of lactoperoxidase system for milk and milk products – potential risks and benefits	FAO Global Lactoperoxidase Group of Experts CAC	ALINORM 04/27/41 para. 45	FAO/WHO Expert review on the use of lactoperoxidase system for milk and milk products in international trade	<u>In preparation</u> - to be implemented late 2005	100,000	Code of Practice for milk and milk products Outcome to be reviewed by the 39 th Session of the CCFH in 2006.
15	Guidance document for the application of HACCP in small and/or less developed businesses	CCFH	35 th Session ALINORM 03/13, paras 31-33.	Develop a guidance document based on CX/FH 03/4 and recent experience from FAO/WHO Member Countries	<u>Ongoing</u> - Draft presented at the 37 th CCFH, 14 – 19 March 2005. Final document under peer review.	80,000	Codex and FAO/WHO Member Countries (to improve food production) and food safety programs Report to 37 th CCFH, 14 – 19 March 2005.

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁽¹⁾	Advice to be Used by Codex for
16	Joint JECFA/JMPR Project Updating the principles and methods of risk assessment	Melbourne Conference	Melbourne Conference Report	Develop and update FAO guidelines on the submission and evaluation of residues of pesticides and veterinary drugs for the establishment of MRLs/tolerances	<u>In preparation</u> November 2005	150,000	General guidance on data submission and evaluation for the establishment of Codex MRLs ,Improvement in MRL setting
		CCPR	35 th Session ALINORM 03/24A paras. 20 - 31	Intake assessment for chemicals in food	Workshop <u>held</u> 2–6 May 2005,	60,000	Haromization and improvement of intake assessment methodologies
				Specifications of food additives	<u>Planning</u> for June 2005	80,000	
17	Provide advice on the use of antimicrobials in aquaculture	FAO/WHO	FAO/WHO Technical Workshop on Residues Without MRL	Joint FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Meeting on the use of antimicrobials in aquaculture	<u>Planning</u> stage (FIU and ESNS)	130,000	CCRVDF Code of Conduct for Aquaculture

#	Request for Advice	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ^[1]	Advice to be Used by Codex for
18	Develop practical guidance for the application of microbiological risk management strategies based on risk assessment outputs.	FAO / WHO CCFH	The need for guidance in this area has been identified through FAO/WHO activities in member countries and participation in Codex working group meetings 37 th Session ALINORM 05/28/13, para 133.	FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on practical risk management strategies	<u>Initial planning stage.</u> - establish working groups in summer 2005 and implement meeting in early 2006.	80,000	National Governments and Codex, in particular the CCFH in the elaboration of Annexes to three texts currently ready for advancement to step 5

^[1] Total costs for FAO/WHO, including publication of reports, but excluding staff costs.

^[2] 25th CCNFSU (ALINORM 04/28/25) stated that the issue of functional foods could be also addressed in the framework of health claims rather than as a separate category of foods. At the 14th CCASIA (ALINORM 05/28/15) there was no clear request from the Committee, rather a request from one or two countries.

Table 2 : Other initiatives undertaken by FAO/WHO in relation to the Provision of Scientific Advice

#	Request	Originator	Reference	Required Action by FAO/WHO	Status of Planning/Implementation	Estimated Cost (US\$) ⁽¹⁾	Advice to be Used by Codex for
1	Request to convene a consultation to review the status and procedures of the expert bodies and advice on additional ways to improve the quality, quantity and timeliness of scientific advice to the Commission	CAC CCEXEC CCEXEC CAC	24 th Session ALINORM 01/41 Para. 61 25 th Session ALINORM 03/25/5 Para. 23 ALINORM 04/27/3 paras 55-85 27 th Session ALINORM 04/27/41 Paras 197 - 208	Identify additional resources to implement the activity. Conclude organization of workshop and final expert consultation.	FAO/WHO workshop with stakeholders implemented from 27 to 29 January 2004 Following up recommendations. Establishment of internal FAO/WHO task force pending • Preparation of framework/procedure manual on ProScAd ongoing • In depth analysis for selection of experts, openness of meetings: use of data, etc pending • Technical discussion on enhancing developing countries capabilities/ participation - initiated • FAO/WHO intergovernmental meeting to be organized if resources available	300, 000	Report to 28 th CAC, July 2005
2	Work-sharing of pesticide residue and toxicology evaluation at national and international level	CCPR	35 th Session ALINORM 03/24A Para. 19	Joint FAO/WHO pilot project in collaboration with OECD countries	Report presented to 37 th CCPR, 18 – 25 April 2005 Second pilot study to be initiated in 2006.		Decreased workload for JMPR Experience to be used by JECFA