

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR ASIA

Seventeenth Session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 22-26 November 2010

### ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### PART I – CAPACITY BUILDING

(Prepared by FAO/WHO)

#### INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes FAO/WHO activities in the areas of capacity building and the provision of scientific advice implemented since the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA) which are complementary to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

#### TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

2 Under their respective mandates, goals and work plans, FAO and WHO are engaged in a range of food safety and quality capacity development activities at national and regional levels. These capacity development activities directly support the Codex Strategic Plan 2008–2013; in particular, activities 1.7, 2.6 and 5.4.

3. FAO and WHO capacity development activities are generally aimed at:

- upgrading the capacity of countries with transition economies in food safety, quality control and quality assurance and supporting their effective participation in the work of Codex;
- enhancing the respective roles of the agriculture and health sectors, trade and industry in ensuring the safety and quality of the food supply; and
- strengthening cooperation and collaboration between FAO and WHO and partner organizations, in the field of food safety and quality.

4. Since the last session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia, FAO and WHO (either jointly or together with partner organizations and donors) have commenced or are continuing to work with countries of the region on a range of activities (including direct technical assistance projects on food safety and quality, regional projects and events addressing food safety issues). Detailed information is provided in paragraph 10 below. More background on FAO and WHO technical capacity development activities is available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns>, <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/capacity/en/>, and <http://www.fao.org/world/regional/rap/>

5. Detailed information on capacity building activities and initiatives of global relevance was provided to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of CAC and is available in CX/CAC 10/33/15 Add.1 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac33/cac33\\_15\\_add1e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac33/cac33_15_add1e.pdf)). The working paper provides information of relevance to the all regions and describes the range of supporting materials (e.g. guidelines, manuals and online resources), global information exchange systems, international events and global projects which have been delivered or initiated since the last session. Issues of relevance include 1. Ongoing work strengthen efforts through INFOSAN and EMPRES Food Safety programme to support countries' in dealing with emerging food safety issues, and

managing food safety emergencies; 2. Availability of training materials to assist countries in implementing relevant Codex texts related to the food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant DNA plants, and maintenance of the data set for food safety assessment for r-DNA plants within the International Portal on Food Safety, Animal and Plant Health ([www.ipfsaph.org](http://www.ipfsaph.org)); 3. Continued support to countries on surveillance and detection of foodborne and other infectious enteric diseases through the Global Foodborne infections Network (GFN), formerly known as WHO Global Salm-Surv ([www.who.int/gfn](http://www.who.int/gfn)) and 4. The undertaking of country case studies to support the WHO Initiative to Estimate the Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases (FERG). The Committee is referred to CX/CAC 10/33/15 Add. 1 for further information on these and other capacity development activities.

### Special Focus on Regional Initiatives

6. Recent joint FAO/WHO capacity-building activities organized by the Codex Trust Fund in collaboration with Codex partners appear in the annual reports and progress reports of the Codex Trust Fund which were submitted to the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCEXEC and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CAC. Specific to the forthcoming 17<sup>th</sup> Session of CCASIA FAO and WHO with funding from the CTF are planning a pre-CCASIA workshop on 18-20 November 2010, to discuss the risk analysis paradigm: with emphasis on control and prevention of food safety hazards. All CCASIA members are invited to participate.

7. GFN/Asia FoodNet, in collaboration with WHO and FAO, held a national food safety emergency response planning workshop (Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 July 2010). The workshop was designed based on the draft "FAO/WHO Framework for Developing National Food Safety Emergency Response Plans". The tool will be published in November/December 2010. FAO's EMPRES Food Safety contributed to this workshop and has also organized several workshops on the same topic. Similar workshops are proposed for implementation in 2010-11. EMPRES Food Safety is also considering implementing similar workshops in other regions and countries upon official request, depending on available extra-budgetary resources. For more information on making such requests or donations, contact: [EMPRES-FS@fao.org](mailto:EMPRES-FS@fao.org)

8. WHO assisted countries in developing educational projects and health promotion campaigns with the Five Keys to Safer Food in the context of international events such as the FIFA World Cup and Shanghai Expo. The WHO Guide on Safe Food for Travellers will be distributed to all travellers to these countries as part of their efforts to prevent foodborne diseases. WHO together with the Department of Health of South Africa adopted the Five Keys to Safer Food training course to train the food handlers in preparation of the FIFA World Cup. WHO is extending the preparation of Five Keys training courses to cover the farm to fork continuum. In this context, WHO is finalizing a module on "Growing safer fruits and vegetables" pilot tested in Guatemala in September 2010. WHO was accepted as part of the Shanghai Expo at the UN Pavilion for 11-15 October 2010 under the theme: The Five Keys to Safer Food for a better life: Knowledge = Prevention.

9. Activities completed or ongoing since the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia are detailed in the following tables.

### **REGIONAL/NATIONAL EVENTS**

<b>Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)</b>	<b>Organizers</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Regional Workshop on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (GCP/RAS/222/JPN)	FAO	3-6 March 2009	Bangkok, Thailand
Training of Trainers Programme on Horticultural Chain Management for Asian Countries	FAO and UPLB	13-18 April 2009	Los Baños, Philippines
Training Programme on Introduction to Field Epidemiology, Surveillance and Rapid Response for Public Health Crises (Regional Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarian: FETPV)	FAO and DLD (MoAC)	1-26 June 2009	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional workshop on quality linked to geographical origin	FAO, Thai Intellectual property department, EU delegation in Thailand	8-11 June 2009	Bangkok, Thailand

<b>Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)</b>	<b>Organizers</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>
FAO-EC Regional Conference on Rural Development and Agricultural and Food Quality Linked to Geographical Origin in Asia: Lessons and Perspectives	FAO and the European Commission to Thailand	11 June 2009	Bangkok, Thailand
Training Course on the "EPI INFO" Software (Regional Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarian: FETPV)	FAO and DLD (MoAC)	29 June– 3 July 2009	Bangkok, Thailand
GFN provincial training course for Guangdong Province	WHO GFN and China CDC	29 June - 3 July 2009	China
Training on Regulations, Standards and Certification for Agricultural Exports	FAO	4-7 August 2009	Thimphu, Bhutan
Training Session on Sampling and Analysis for Food Inspection (GCP/RAS/222/223/JPN)	FAO	11-14 August 2009	Luang Prabang, Lao PDR
GFN national advanced workshop III for China	WHO GFN, China CDC	7-9 September 2009	Zhengzhou, Henan, China
GFN national training course for China	WHO GFN, China CDC	10-13 September 2009	Zhengzhou, Henan, China
Training on Regulations, Standards and Certification for Agricultural Exports	FAO	17-19 September 2009	Vientiane, Lao PDR
FAO Training of Trainers Programme on Horticultural Chain Management – regional	FAO, with Post-Harvest Unit of the Clean Agricultural Centre	21-25 September 2009	Vientiane, Lao PDR
Regional Workshop on Good Practices and the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (GCP/RAS/222/223/JPN)	FAO	12 October 2009	Singapore
Workshop on Nipah and Hendra viruses, Research and Public health	WHO, in collaboration with FAO, OIE, Australia Dept of Health and Ageing and Australia CRC.	13-16 October 2009	Brisbane, Australia
Regional Training Course on Risk-based Food Inspection (GCP/RAS/222/223/JPN)	FAO	27-29 October 2009	Manila, Philippines
Regional Workshop on Wholesale Market Infrastructure and Quality Management	FAO and SAG	8-12 November 2009	Zhengzhou, China
Training in how to conduct burden of foodborne disease studies for health authorities from China, Malaysia, Singapore, Viet Nam	WHO	December 2009	Brisbane, Australia
FAO Training of Trainers Programme on Fresh Cut Produce – Regional	FAO with KMUTI, Thailand as implementing partner	22-26 March 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
Training of Trainers Course on Food Import & Export Inspection & Certification (GCP/RAS/222/223/JPN)	FAO	11-13 May 2010	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Vietnam Agricultural Outlook Conference 2010	FAO, IPSARD and others	13 May 2010	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Workshop on FAO/WHO Framework for Food Safety Emergency Response Planning	WHO and GFN supported by FAO	2-4 June 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Animal Feed Safety “Feed Borne Disease Prevention”	FAO, OIE and APHCA	12-15 July 2010	Tokyo, Japan
Regional Workshop on Geographical Indications (GI)	FAO	15-16 July 2010	Bangkok, Thailand

Activity (Workshop/Seminar/Training Course)	Organizers	Dates	Venue
Workshop on FAO/WHO Framework for Food Safety Emergency Response Planning	GFN and Asia Food Net in collaboration with FAO and WHO	21-23 July 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
Regional Workshop: SPS Measures and their Impact on Food Inspection and Certification including Managerial Aspects	FAO	25-26 August 2010	Bangkok, Thailand
Technical advice and support for selected participants to ASEAN Food Safety Expert Group	WHO	2010	Under planning
Workshop on strengthening safety and quality in the food retail chain	FAO and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India	November/ December 2010	India

### **PROJECTS/DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES**

Title	FAO/WHO	Country	Status
Enhancing food safety by strengthening food inspection systems in the ASEAN countries and Support to the FAO programme on capacity building in food safety (GCP/RAS/222/JPN 223-JPN)	FAO with funding from Japan	ASEAN countries	Ongoing (1 February 2007 – August 2011)
Regional Fisheries Livelihoods Programme for Southeast Asia (GCP /RAS/237/SPA)	FAO	Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam	Ongoing (Sep 2009 - Aug 2013)
Production of Certified Fruit and Vegetables for Export from Lao PDR and Myanmar through Integrated Supply Chain Management (MTF/ RAS/242/CFC)	FAO	GMS countries	Ongoing (Apr 2009 -Jul 2013)
Regional policy and advisory technical assistance (R-PATA) Accelerating the implementation of the Core Agriculture support programme	FAO with funding from ADB	GMS countries	Ongoing (2009-December 2011)
Technical support and preparation of concept notes to build policy and institutional capacity on food safety and plant health in relevant Ministries TCPF/AFG/3203	FAO	Afghanistan	Ongoing
Formulation of proposal on food quality control and animal and plant health controls in Afghanistan (TCP/AFG/3202)	FAO	Afghanistan	Ongoing (Nov 2009 -Dec 2010)
Support to develop a project proposal for improvement of live bird market for AI prevention and control in Bangladesh	WHO/FAO	Bangladesh	Proposal developed and submitted for EC funding
Assistance in the formulation of enabling regulatory measures for research and sustainable application of biotechnology (TCP/BGD/3102)	FAO	Bangladesh	Completed March 2010
Improving food safety, quality and food control in Bangladesh (GCP/BGD/038/EC)	FAO	Bangladesh	Ongoing (1 January 200 – 31 December 2010)
Establishment of national strategy for promotion of specific quality while preserving local resources – Yak products and mushrooms	FAO	Bhutan	Ongoing
Improving Food safety and its management in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (GCP/RAS/207/NZE)	FAO	Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam	Ongoing - 1 January 2005 – 31 December 2009
Support provided to enable a survey of chloropropanol contamination of domestic and imported soy sauce products	WHO/WPR	Cambodia	Concluded

<b>Title</b>	<b>FAO/WHO</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Status</b>
Capacity building to enhance fish quality control and standardization services and contribute to poverty alleviation TCP/CMB/3204(D)	FAO	Cambodia	Ongoing
Strengthening the sanitary and phytosanitary services (TCP/CMB/3104)	FAO	Cambodia	Completed Dec 2009
Project for the Development / Revision of National Food Safety Standards (TCP/CMB/3201)	FAO	Cambodia	In formulation
Support to improve quality and safety of fish sauce	FAO	Cambodia, Myanmar	2009
Strengthening Testing Capability for Food Safety – TCP/CPR/3007	FAO/TCP	China	Ongoing
Technical support provided on food safety policy, management and on the regulatory framework for food safety	WHO/WPR	China	Concluded and provided support for a UN country strategy on food safety
World Bank agricultural products Safety Project for Jilin province	WB/FAO	China	Formulation stage
Improvement of aquaculture food safety in Hubei Province -TCP/CPR/3203D	FAO	China	Ongoing (1 August 2009 – 31 December 2010)
Technical support provided on food safety to the Olympic Games- Analysis of the legacy of the Games developed	WHO	China	Completed.
Technical support to enhancing food safety during Shanghai EXPO2010	WHO	China	August 2009-November 2010
Capacity building Needs Assessment for the Strengthening of National Food Control Systems through a Training Course (UTF/ CPR/039/CPR)	FAO	China	Completed Sep 2009
Development of a community based food complain and reporting system-Qingdao province	WHO	China	Completed.
Introduction of HACCP in municipal catering services, Nanning, Guangxi province	WHO	China	Completed.
Improving nutrition and food safety for China`s most vulnerable women and children - MDGF-1991 (UNJP/CPR/041/SPA)	FAO	China	Ongoing (Dec 2009 -Dec 2012)
Improvement of traditional live market for AI prevention and strengthening of food safety and education of stakeholders (USAID funding)	WHO	China	2009-April 2010
MDG project to improve nutrition, food safety and food security for women and children in the poorest counties of China	WHO/FAO + 6 UN agencies	China	Jan 2010-Dec 2012
Strengthening of foodborne disease surveillance system in Qingdao	WHO	China	2010
Strengthening of chemical food contaminant monitoring system in Guanxi	WHO	China	2010
Support for the implementation of national food safety law	WHO	China	2009-2010
Microbial risk assessment training course	ICD/WHO	China	April 2010
Workshop on microbiological sampling and testing in food safety management	ICD/ICMSF/ WHO	China	April 2010
Healthy markets and healthy city action planning workshop, Panzhihua	WHO	China	June 2010
GFN Enhanced <i>Salmonella</i> Surveillance programme	WHO/China CDC and partners	China	Ongoing
Assistance through the FAO/UNESCO Microbial Resource Centre for Marine Biotechnology (MIRCEN) for the organization of an ASM/FAO/UNESCO International Workshop on Molecular Techniques in aquaculture and seafood safety.	FAO/UNESCO	India	
Technical assistance to undertake total diet studies in India	WHO	India	Completed in 2009

<b>Title</b>	<b>FAO/WHO</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Status</b>
Development of training modules for wet market managers	WHO	Indonesia	Ongoing
Technical and financial assistance to promote healthy food markets in Indonesia	WHO	Indonesia	July/August 2010
Development of communication materials for promoting food safety in Indonesia	WHO	Indonesia	July/August 2010
Monitoring, prevention and control of Aflatoxin contamination in Iranian pistachio nuts (TCP/IRA/3104)	FAO	Iran	Completed, Dec 2009
Monitoring, prevention and control of Aflatoxin contamination in Iranian pistachio nuts - Phase II (TCP/IRA/3202)	FAO	Iran	Ongoing (Aug 2010 -May 2011)
Sustainable insect farming and harvesting for better nutrition, improved food security and household income generation	FAO	Laos, PDR	April 2010 – March 2012
Support for reducing fishborne trematodes in aquaculture systems	FAO	Laos PDR	2009-2010
Reviewing and revising National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan (FSER) as appropriate	WHO	Laos PDR	Planned follow-up to regional meeting
Modernizing and strengthening food inspection	WHO	Laos PDR	Initiated
Identification of capacity building needs of the Malaysian fish inspection system – TCP/MAL/3201D	FAO	Malaysia	Ongoing (July 2008 – December 2009)
Technical assistance to upgrade food safety legislation and capacity of food handlers in the Maldives	WHO	Maldives	June 2010
Capacity building for managing the national public health laboratory in the Maldives	WHO	Maldives	June 2010
Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security for Vulnerable Segments of the Population of Mongolia through Capacity Building in Small-Scale Vegetable Production (GCP/MON/ 006/EC)	FAO	Mongolia	Ongoing (Aug 2010 -Jul 2013)
Strengthening the National Codex team and establishment of secretariat office	WHO	Mongolia	Ongoing (Jan 2009 to Dec 2010)
Support to develop concept of Food safety law in the frame of updating food legislation	WHO	Mongolia	Planned to start in 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2010
Training on risk based inspection for food hygiene inspectors of 21 provinces and Ulaanbaatar city.	WHO	Mongolia	Initiated
Activating INFOSAN activities in Mongolia and link with INFOSAN network	WHO	Mongolia	Ongoing (September 2009-2010)
Support in formulation of a National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan	WHO	Mongolia	Q4/2010
Support for a mentoring programme between Malaysia and Mongolia on Codex Office operations	WHO	Mongolia	2010
Strengthening the capacity of government officials responsible for food safety, animal and plant health, and agricultural trade in Nepal to effectively implement SPS measures and related trade obligations (MTF/NEP/060/STF)	FAO with funding from STDF	Nepal	Ongoing (March 2009 – July 2010)
Three-year project to strengthen food quality and safety of fresh produce to improve quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables and upgrade production system to meet SPS measures and Codex safety requirements related to microbiological and chemical hazards in foods.	FAO	Philippines	In formulation
Enhancing income, quality and safety of fresh produce and environmental sustainability of smallholder upland farms in Bicol region through good agricultural practices (GAP)	FAO/AECI	Philippines	In formulation

<b>Title</b>	<b>FAO/WHO</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Status</b>
Strengthening national food control system for fresh produce in the Philippines	FAO/TCP	Philippines	In formulation
Meat hygiene and inspection	FAO	Philippines	In formulation
Meat hygiene and inspection – assisting national counterparts to transfer knowledge and skills to provincial and local levels	WHO	Philippines	March 2010-WHO mission. Ongoing.
Formulation of Manual of procedures for the Surveillance, Outbreak investigation and response to Microbial Agents for food and waterborne diseases	WHO	Philippines	2008
Nationwide dissemination of Layman's Guide to food and waterborne disease outbreak response	WHO	Philippines	August-December 2009
Risk assessment of Ebola reston in pork	FAO/OIE/WHO	Philippines	January 2009
Assistance in training in food safety and quality and certification	FAO	Sri Lanka	In formulation
Enhancement of laboratory capacity on food safety in primary production	FAO/TCP	Thailand	Under development
Assessment of food safety programme in Thailand	WHO	Thailand	November 2009
Capacity building for the food inspection system in Vietnam (UNJP/VIE/042/UNJ One Plan I)	FAO/TCP	Vietnam	Ongoing (September 2009 – December 2010)
Food safety information, education and communication (UNJP/VIE/043/UNJ One Plan II)	FAO/TCP	Vietnam	Ongoing (August 2009 – July 2010)
Strengthening Vietnamese SPS capacities for trade; improving safety and quality of fresh vegetables through the value chain approach (MTF/VIE/046/STF)	FAO/STDF	Vietnam	Ongoing (March 2010 – February 2012)
Safety and quality of fresh fruits and vegetables (TCP/VIE/3201 BABY02)	FAO	Vietnam	Completed December 2009
Workshops on law and its enforcement at the provincial level	VFA in collaboration with WHO	Vietnam	Ongoing
Supporting development of Decrees on (i) the division of the responsibilities among the ministries involved in food safety; and on (ii) food testing, GM food, food labelling, food with supplemented micro-nutrients, formulated food for young children, and functional food	WHO	Vietnam	Ongoing
Country capacity building in foodborne disease burden estimation, policy situation analysis and research utilisation.	WHO	Country in which pilot burden of foodborne disease study will take place (still to be selected)	Development of training modules

10. Looking ahead, priorities for the coming year in the region, which may be implemented jointly by FAO and WHO, or in association with other partner organizations, aim at strengthening national food control systems in Asian countries, including:

- providing expertise in the drafting of Codex compliant laws, regulations and standards;
- building the competent authority capacity of food inspection/certification services;
- strengthening monitoring chemical and microbiological contamination in the food chain;
- strengthening surveillance of foodborne diseases including laboratory capacity support;
- promoting risk-based food inspection systems from production to finished product;
- enhancing food analysis capacity, data collection and data management and strengthen the laboratory network at national and regional level;
- strengthening official food safety systems through the use of the risk analysis framework including risk assessment of food hazards;

- targeted training for food safety officials and technical staff (food safety managers, food inspectors, and food analysts) in carrying out their respective duties;
- supporting national Codex programmes (including Codex Contact Points and National Codex Committees) to facilitate effective participation in Codex and providing tailored Codex training to further enhance participation in Codex activities at regional and national levels;
- stimulating and reinforcing the capacity of the food industry to implement good practices (HACCP, GMP, GHP, GAP) food quality and food safety standards;
- developing tools and training materials to assist food safety and quality control activities; and
- strengthening regional and international food control information exchange and cooperation activities;
- promoting information, education and communication programmes and raise public awareness for the importance of food safety issues;
- promoting proper and timely food safety risk communication to all relevant stakeholders;
- identifying and developing mechanisms to ensure a strong collaboration between the public health, veterinary and food sectors; and
- advocating and promoting a comprehensive integrated from farm to table approach along the different steps in the food chain.

11 Capacity development activities at national and regional levels are implemented according to organization-wide strategic planning, as well as in response to direct requests from member countries.

12. ***The membership of CCASIA is invited to engage with FAO and WHO*** to provide feedback on:
- ongoing FAO and WHO activities to strengthen food safety and quality in the region
  - priority needs at national and regional level which requires further support from FAO and WHO.

## PART II – PROVISION OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

(Prepared by FAO/WHO)

### INTRODUCTION

1. FAO and WHO elaborate scientific advice through JECFA, JEMRA, JMPR and *ad hoc* expert meetings based on requests from the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and member countries.
2. The CAC is an important client for this advice, where the results are used extensively in the development of Codex texts. However, this advice may be equally valuable for member countries and can be used to strengthen decision making processes on food safety and nutrition issues at national and regional level.

### OUTPUTS OF SCIENTIFIC ADVICE PROGRAMME

3. All FAO/WHO scientific advice is available on the websites at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/> (FAO) and <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/> and <http://www.who.int/nutrition/en/> (WHO). The advice can be interpreted and applied to strengthen national food control systems and nutrition programmes. See Annex I of CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)) for details of the outputs of the FAO/WHO scientific advice programme since October 2008. Details of other related FAO/WHO activities can be found in Annex II of the same document.

#### Current issues

4. JEMRA is currently developing web-based tools to support i) decision making on the control of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in poultry and ii) assessment of the performance of microbiological sampling plans. FAO/WHO are seeking to identify countries that would be interested in pilot testing of the tools in national settings and the development of case studies on their application. **Interested parties should contact FAO/WHO** at [jemra@fao.org](mailto:jemra@fao.org) and [foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int) for more details.
5. FAO/WHO will establish an "e-Discussion Group for the Development of a Tiered Approach Diagram for Risk Assessment of Nanomaterials (NMs)". The overall objectives of the group will be to develop a decision tool to support identification of the appropriate risk assessment approach for nanomaterial categories and to review the current risk assessment approaches that are used by FAO/WHO and Codex, in order to address the specific emerging issues associated with the application of nanotechnologies in the food and agriculture sectors. For more information contact FAO ([proscad@fao.org](mailto:proscad@fao.org)) and WHO ([foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int)).
6. FAO's recently established Emergency Prevention System for Food Safety (EMPRES Food Safety) is now becoming operational and work will be required on assessment of emerging risks. Effective pooling of scientific excellence will contribute significantly to this effort thus, a new **FAO Food Safety Expert Roster will be established** in 2011. For more information, see para. 17 of Annex II, CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)), contact [empres-fs@fao.org](mailto:empres-fs@fao.org) or visit <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/>.
7. **New call for data:** The call for data for the 74<sup>th</sup> JECFA meeting, to be held in Rome, 14-23 June 2011, has been published. Data for a number of food additives, including aluminium-containing food additives, and for the food contaminants fumonisins and cyanogenic glycosides are requested by 1 December 2010. For further details refer to: <http://www.who.int/ipcs/food/jecfa/data/en/index.html>.

### RESOURCES FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

8. FAO and WHO are continually striving to increase the resources available for the provision of timely and effective scientific advice and use various mechanisms to achieve this. One such mechanism is the **Global Initiative for Food-related Scientific Advice (GIFSA)**. For more information about GIFSA, contact FAO ([mary.kenny@fao.org](mailto:mary.kenny@fao.org)) and WHO ([tritschera@who.int](mailto:tritschera@who.int)).
9. In addition, FAO has developed a Strategy for the Provision of Scientific Advice for Food Safety (2010–13) which aims to enhance the provision of scientific advice, facilitate dissemination of scientific information, strengthen national and regional scientific capacity and build scientific communities and networks. The strategy is available at [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_en.asp) (English),

[http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_es.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_es.asp) (Spanish) and [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice\\_fr.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/advice_fr.asp) (French) or for more information contact [Mary.Kenny@fao.org](mailto:Mary.Kenny@fao.org).

## HOW TO USE FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AT NATIONAL/REGIONAL LEVEL

10. The scientific advice can be used in setting up national, regional and international food-related **standards, policies and regulations** and building **food safety and quality systems** to ensure safe and nutritious food and afford adequate levels of consumer protection. As a result, the food production chain within countries can be better sustained and both local and global trade facilitated. FAO/WHO scientific advice is particularly useful **in cases where national or regional expertise or resources are lacking**.

11. Moreover, food-related scientific advice contributes towards important Millennium Development Goals, where food safety and nutrition not only enhances the health and wellness of populations, but also acts as a vital element to **ensuring food security, poverty alleviation and economic growth** through improved food production and trade.

## HOW TO REQUEST FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

12. Subject prioritization: There is an overwhelming number of nutritional and food safety issues that need to be addressed to guide decisions of national authorities. Details of the current FAO/WHO priority areas for scientific advice can be found in Annex III of CX/NASWP 10/11/3 Part 2 ([ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11\\_03e\\_par2.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/ccnaswp11/na11_03e_par2.pdf)). It is important that regions identify the priority areas and issues that are relevant to them. The Committee is **encouraged** to discuss and identify scientific advice needs in the framework of the regional Codex Strategic Plan and regional food safety initiatives.

13. The requests for advice can be proposed through various Codex Committees as well as the FAO/WHO coordinating committees. Requests that are not relevant to Codex matters are also welcome and can be addressed directly to FAO ([proscad@fao.org](mailto:proscad@fao.org)) and WHO ([foodsafety@who.int](mailto:foodsafety@who.int)). It is important to note that coordinated requests from multiple countries and regions will be prioritized.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO FAO/WHO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

14. **Generating relevant local data:** Data generated in the frame work of national food control systems are very valuable to support the work of experts in the provision of scientific advice. It is preferable to have data on for example, occurrence of contaminants in food, from as many sources as possible to underpin the evaluations at international level.

15. **Responding to and disseminating calls for data and experts:** Websites of FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/>) and WHO (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/en/>) announce calls for data and experts as needs arise. The calls are also issued through other channels including newsletters, Codex Contact Points, scientific communities and journals. Countries are strongly encouraged to be involved in this process since every single input can be valuable for the overall scientific advice. In order to adhere to the core principles for the provision of scientific advice of soundness, responsibility, objectivity, fairness, transparency and inclusiveness, it is important to include qualified experts from as many parts of the world as possible, so that geographical, cultural and gender balance can be achieved in addition to the technical and scientific qualification. Thus, countries are encouraged to disseminate FAO/WHO calls for data and experts to a wide audience.