



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS
Eleventh Session
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 – 7 April 2017**

To be held at the Windsor Marapendi Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON PRIORITIES

Agenda Item 14

**REPORT OF THE IN-SESSION WORKING GROUP ON PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND
NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS PROPOSED FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA**

I. Introduction

The in-session working group (WG) was held on 4 April 2017 and chaired by Dr. Paul South (United States). Dr. Eileen Abt (United States) served as Rapporteur. Dr. Markus Lipp (FAO/JECFA Secretariat), Dr. Angelika Tritscher (WHO/JECFA Secretariat) and Dr. Vittorio Fattori (FAO/JECFA Secretariat) assisted the Chair.

II. Current Priority List

The current Priority List includes: 1) dioxins, 2) inorganic arsenic, 3) scopoletin, and 4) ergot alkaloids. Countries provided the WG with status updates on contaminants and natural toxins on the current Priority List to ensure understanding between CCCF and JECFA on the nature of the scientific requests. The information provided by countries included the rationale for the request, the information being requested, how the information will be used, and the status on available data (see table below).

III. New Proposals for Priority List

Three new proposals for the Priority List are:

1. Ciguatoxins:

Ciguatera fish poisoning is one of the most common food-borne illnesses related to finfish consumption. The General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995), the Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products (CAC/RCP 52-2003) and other Codex standards for fishery products, currently do not provide any guidance on ciguatera management and control. Analytical methods for detection and quantification of ciguatoxins are not harmonized and maximum limits for ciguatoxins are not established. A full evaluation is needed to assess the risks of ciguatoxins, including information on geographic distribution of the toxins, rates of illnesses, methods of detection, and types and distribution of congeners.

2. Trichothecenes, T-2 and HT-2.

This recommendation stems from the 83rd JECFA evaluation of diacetoxyscirpenol that was included within the group provisional maximum tolerable daily intake (PMTDI) for T-2 and HT-2. T-2 and HT-2 were last evaluated by JECFA in 2001. An updated assessment of T-2 and HT-2, including exposures to T2, HT2 and DAS, is needed.

3. Mycotoxins in spices.

Mycotoxins in spices will be considered during its discussion at agenda item 11.

Conclusions

The WG agreed to add a full evaluation of ciguatoxins and an updated assessment of T-2 and HT-2 to the Priority List.

IV. Recommendation to the Committee

1. The 11th session of the CCCF should consider including contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants identified in the table below on the priority list of contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants proposed for evaluation by JECFA.

PRIORITY LIST OF CONTAMINANTS AND NATURALLY OCCURRING TOXICANTS FOR EVALUATION BY JECFA

Contaminants and Naturally Occurring Toxicants	Background and Question(s) to be Answered	Data Availability (When, What)	Proposed By
Dioxins ¹	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) to update 2001 JECFA assessment and incorporate data on developmental effects from in utero exposures.	EFSA assessment available end 2017/early 2018 Canada: occurrence data on foods of animal origin.	Canada
Inorganic Arsenic	2001 JECFA evaluation based on cancer effects. This evaluation would focus on non-cancer effects (neurodevelopmental, immunological and cardiovascular) and could inform future risk management needs. NOTE: needs to be put in context to cancer risk assessment.	US: occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal US: rodent behavioral study has been proposed Brazil: occurrence data in rice; poultry and pork total As Japan and China: occurrence data on rice and rice products (already submitted to GEMS/Food) NZ: total diet study; rice and products. India: occurrence data in rice	USA
Scopoletin	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment) in fermented Noni juice	CCNASWP still working on standard for noni juice and data availability US: literature based quick review, limited data to derive HBGV	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and South-West Pacific (CCNASWP)
Ergot alkaloids ²	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment)	EFSA (2012) report EU: occurrence data (collecting); assessment on exposures to ergot alkaloids (EFSA report May 2017) Canada: occurrence information (commodity-specific data, i.e., grading standards)	EU; Canada

Ciguatoxins ³	Full evaluation (toxicological assessment and exposure assessment), including geographic distribution and rate of illness; congeners; methods of detection	India EU: Eurocigua project, RASFF US: occurrence data (outbreak management) Australia: illness data	CCCF
Trichothecenes (T2 and HT2)	Update of risk assessment, including exposure assessment (T2, HT2, DAS)	<i>To be confirmed</i>	83 rd JECFA, recommendation supported by CCCF11.
<i>Mycotoxin in spices³</i>			<i>To be confirmed after discussion of agenda item 11.</i>

¹Lower priority: JECFA evaluation to build on the ongoing work at national and regional re-assessment of dioxins.

²Ergot is mentioned in quality chapter, suggestion for integration into GSCTFF.

³Proposals from CCCF11 for new contaminants and naturally occurring toxicants for JECFA Priority List.