CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

World Health Organization

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy - Tel: (+39) 06 57051 - E-mail: codex@fao.org - www.codexalimentarius.org

Agenda Item 17 **CF12/CRD02**

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

Twelfth Session
Utrecht, The Netherlands, 12 - 16 March 2018

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

I. Introduction

The in-session working group (WG) was held on 13 March 2018 and chaired by Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin (United States). Dr. Eileen Abt (United States) served as Rapporteur. Dr. Markus Lipp (FAO/JECFA Secretariat) and Dr. Angelika Tritscher (WHO/JECFA Secretariat) assisted the Chair.

II. Current Priority List

The current Priority List includes: 1) dioxins, 2) inorganic arsenic, 3) scopoletin, 4) ergot alkaloids, 5) ciguatoxins, 6) and trichothecenes (T2 and HT2).

Based on a Circular Letter request (CL 2017/80-CF) and discussion during the WG, countries provided the WG with status updates on contaminants and natural toxins on the current Priority List. The information provided by countries included updates on information being requested and the status of available data (see table below). The JECFA Secretariat also provided input on the status of their work relating to the priority list.

III. New Proposals for Priority List

No new proposals were added to the priority list. Canada asked if the data biases noted by JECFA in the 2016 impact assessment of aflatoxin in ready-to-eat peanuts could be a topic for the priority list, noting that this was relevant to the proposed draft maximum level for total aflatoxin in ready-to-eat peanuts under discussion at the 12th CCCF. The JECFA secretariat stated that the impact assessment reflected the data made available on ready-to-eat peanuts and that the results would not change without additional data that reflects more the global market situation in aflatoxin concentrations in ready-to-eat peanuts, as the majority of data were from Europe (with an enforced low maximum limit), the U.S., and Brazil. Thailand noted that it could provide data on aflatoxin in peanuts (both ready-to-eat or for further processing).

Conclusions

Given the current availability of data, JECFA stated that there is not a need for a full JECFA meeting this year. However, JECFA will carefully analyze the priority list and arrange for opportunities for more focused meetings to provide targeted scientific advice to support CCCF.

IV. Recommendation to the Committee

1. The 12th Session of the CCCF should consider including the 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 September 2018 Canada and Brazil: 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.	USA: occurrence data on rice cereals, and rice and non-rice products; 2016 risk assessment; 2016 draft action level for inorganic arsenic in rice cereal USA: conducting neurodevelopmental study in rats to assess impact of arsenic on behavior; study to be completed in 2019, results expected in 2020 Brazil: iAs occurrence data in rice; submitted total As data on poultry, pork, fish, and cattle meat Japan and China: occurrence data on rice and rice products (already submitted to GEMS/Food) AU/NZ: total diet study; occurrence data in rice products. India: occurrence data in rice Turkey: 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	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 published in May 2017) Canada: occurrence data (commodity specific and unprocessed cereal grains) NZ: occurrence data on cereals (2-year collection, will provide data from first year)	EU; Canada

Ciguatoxins	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 Japan: Data available and will reach out to FAO secretariat regarding submission. Japan can provide information on methods. FAO/WHO scientific meeting scheduled for November 2018. To support this meeting, there has been a call for data and experts.	CCCF
Trichothecenes (T2 and HT2)	Update of risk assessment, including exposure assessment (T2, HT2, DAS)	Brazil: occurrence data in cereals Canada: occurrence data (commodity specific and unprocessed cereal grains) EU: Report by EFSA on dietary exposure published in July 2017. Data will be made available to GEMS/food database.	83rd JECFA, recommendation supported by CCCF11.

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

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