



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
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World Health  
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# **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION**

## **FOODS DERIVED FROM BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**Sharing information on safety assessment of foods  
derived from rDNA plants**

**Tom Heilandt**  
**Secretary**

**Codex Alimentarius Commission**  
**8<sup>th</sup> CCNE, FAO, Rome, June 2015**

# **CODEX** **ALIMENTARIUS**

## **Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-level Presence of Recombinant- DNA Plant Material in Food**

### **Sharing information on safety assessment of foods derived from rDNA plants**

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## **CODEX was established**

- ⊗ To protect consumers' health**
- ⊗ To ensure fair trade practices in the food trade**

**Harmonized standards facilitate trade**

# Codex Alimentarius Commission

## Executive Committee

Secretariat

### Horizontal/ general Committees

General Principles (France)	Food Labelling (Canada)
Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (Australia)	<b>Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (United States)</b>
<b>Food Additives (China)</b>	<b>Pesticide Residues (China)</b>
<b>Contaminants in Foods (Netherlands)</b>	<b>Food Hygiene (United States)</b>
<b>Methods of Analysis and Sampling (Hungary)</b>	Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (Germany)

### Vertical/commodity Committees

active	
Fish and Fishery Products (Norway)	Processed Fruits and Vegetables (United States)
Fats and Oils (Malaysia)	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Mexico)
Sugars (Colombia)	Spices and culinary herbs (India) <b>NEW</b>
Milk and Milk Products (New Zealand)	
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Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (United States)	Meat hygiene (New Zealand)
Natural Mineral Waters (Switzerland)	Vegetable Proteins (Canada)
Cocoa Products and Chocolate (Switzerland)	

### Ad-hoc intergovernmental task forces

active	
dissolved	
Fruit Juices (Brazil)	Foods derived from Biotechnology (Japan)
Processing and Handling of Quick Frozen Foods (Thailand)	Antimicrobial Resistance (Republic of Korea)
Animal Feeding (Switzerland)	

### FAO/WHO Coordinating Committees

Africa (Cameroon)	Asia (Thailand)	Europe (Netherlands)	Latin America and the Caribbean (Costa Rica)	North America and South West Pacific (Papua New Guinee)	Near East (Lebanon)
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# TFFBT: Objectives and Facts

- **Objectives:** *Develop guidance for foods derived from biotechnology or traits introduced into foods by biotechnology, on the basis of scientific evidence, risk analysis and having regard, where appropriate, to other legitimate factors relevant to the health of consumers and the promotion of fair trade practices.*
- Worked from 1999-2003 and 2004-2008 – hosted by Japan
- Developed principles and three guidelines
- Coordinated with other Codex Committees as appropriate and took into account of existing work carried out by national authorities, FAO, WHO, other international organizations and other relevant international fora.

# Task force: Results

- Principles for the risk analysis of foods derived from modern biotechnology (CAC/GL 44-2003)
- Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA plants (CAC/GL 45-2003, Annex II and Annex III 2008)
- Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods produced using recombinant-DNA micro-organisms (CAC/GL 46-2003)
- Guideline for the conduct of food safety assessment of foods derived from recombinant-DNA animals (CAC/GL 68-2008)

# Annex 3:

## Food Safety Assessment in Situations of Low-level Presence of Recombinant-DNA Plant Material in Food

### What it is intended for

- Scope: Low levels of recombinant DNA plant materials;
  - which have passed a food safety assessment according to the Codex Plant Guideline in one or more countries
  - which are present in food in importing countries in which the food safety of the relevant recombinant-DNA plants has not been determined
  - as a consequence of asymmetric authorization in different countries

## **Annex 3: What it is NOT intended for**

- For a recombinant-DNA plant that was not authorized in an importing country as a result of that country's food safety assessment.
- The guideline does not;
  - address risk management measures, which are under National authorities' responsibility
  - preclude national authorities from conducting a safety assessment according to the Codex Plant Guideline
  - eliminate the responsibilities of industries, exporters and, when applicable, national competent authorities to continue to meet countries' relevant requirements, including in relation to unauthorized recombinant-DNA plant material.



## Annex 3: Principle of approach

- Combination of
  - Food safety assessment in situations of or in advance preparation for such potential circumstances; and
  - Data and information sharing mechanisms to facilitate utilization of the guideline and to determine whether it should apply.
- (Annex paragraphs 2 and 3)

## Annex 3: Principle of approach

- **Food Safety Assessment:** Only certain elements of the Codex Plant Guidelines will be relevant as the dietary exposure will be significantly lower. (Annex paragraph 5)
- In order for Codex Members to use the Guideline, it is essential that they have access to requisite data and information.(Annex paragraph 27)
- **Data sharing:** Codex members shall make available to publicly accessible central database to be maintained by FAO information on recombinant-DNA plants authorized in accordance with the Codex Plant Guideline.

A close-up photograph of a field of golden wheat. The stalks are tall and slender, with long, thin awns extending from the grain heads. The color is a warm, golden-yellow, suggesting ripeness. The background is a bright, clear blue sky, partially obscured by the tops of the wheat. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**THANK YOU!**