

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

78th Meeting of ACAF on 27 February 2019

Information Paper

Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees

ACAF Secretariat

February 2019

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to ACAF.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

2. The ACMSF last met on 18 October 2018. The agenda included:
 - a request from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the Committee to review its opinion on the risk from Shiga toxin producing E.coli (STEC) in raw and ready-to-eat foods to support decision making regarding the safety of these products;
 - an update on current evidence on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods and ongoing work taking place on this subject at the Quadram Institute;
 - a presentation on the FSA's revised food surveillance system;
 - an update on the outcome of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting held on 27 July 2018; and
 - a discussion on how to take forward outputs from the January 2018 horizon scanning workshop.

Committee subgroups

Changes to Plant Protection Products Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs): potential impact on food safety

The ACMSF has setup a subgroup to analyse industry's responses to the Committee's request for evidence on industry's concerns on the implications of changes to the MRLs for quaternary ammonium compounds, chlorates and biocidal actives used as disinfectants/sanitiser in food processing.

Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter

ACMSF agreed to setup the group in June 2015 but they had their first meeting in June 2016. The group's report is expected to be issued for public consultation early in 2019.

Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

The group has resumed its activities following the publication of the following report: AMR in the food chain; research questions and potential approaches (produced by the fixed term task and finish group on AMR) that was presented to the FSA Board in September 2018. The group met on 29 November 2018.

Ad Hoc group on risk assessment

The group was setup in May 2018. It has agreed its terms of reference and its approach. Next meeting is planned for 14 February 2019.

Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens

This sub-group is currently considering the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta.

3. The draft minutes of the October 2018 ACMSF meeting are available at:

https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_min_92.pdf

4. The Committee's work plan can be found at:

https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_1287_workplan.pdf

5. The next plenary meeting is scheduled for 11 April 2019.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

6. The last meeting of the ACNFP was held on 14th November. Items discussed at the meeting included;

- an update on the experience of the traditional foods authorisation process under 2283/2015 EU and the handling of the way forward for recent applications seen by the Committee;
- an update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products;

- consideration of the committees' future ways of working in light of the changing context for novel food and GM food and feed risk assessment. A risk assessment framework for the UK document was discussed;
 - consider the latest overview document of action taken by the FSA following ACNFP advice;
7. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 13 February 2019. However, this is now potentially being held as a teleconference to allow flexibility to respond to traditional foods applications as they are validated at EU level.
8. Details of this and other meetings will be/are available on the ACNFP website:
<https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/>

Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)

9. Formally established in April 2018, the Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS) provides expert strategic advice to the FSA on the use of the social sciences. The Committee met for the second time on 4 Dec 2018 and heard updates from the three ACSS Working Group's (summarised below).
- Food and You – This group has been asked to conduct a wholesale review of the Food and You survey and provide recommendations to the ACSS and FSA for the future direction of the survey. In October-November, the group carried out a consultation exercise with a range of individuals (including Food and You stakeholders, researchers working across Government and external research agencies). The group is currently pulling together the final report and recommendations, which will be presented to the ACSS in March.
 - Risk Communications – This group has been asked to support the development of the risk communications elements of the FSA's risk analysis framework. The group met in October 2018 to conduct a gap analysis on the Principles for Communicating Risk and Uncertainty developed by the Science Council. This fed into the Board's discussion of the proposed risk analysis frameworks for the FSA post-EU Exit.
 - Behavioural Science – This group has firstly been asked to conduct a review of relevant behavioural science frameworks. This work, which is being conducted by Kris Patel, an FSA research fellow, is well underway. The group is also working with

the FSA to help prioritise issues or questions arising from workshops being run by the FSA's Social Science Team with staff across the agency. The workshops are now complete, and the group met in January 2019 to discuss which ideas would benefit most from a behavioural science approach and should be taken forward.

10. The next meeting will be on 2 April 2019, where the Committee will hear further updates from the Working Groups and discuss future projects.
11. Further information on the Committee can be found on the ACSS website:
<https://acss.food.gov.uk/>

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

12. ACRE has assessed European Food Safety Authority opinions on applications to market the following genetically modified (GM) products for food and feed uses, import and processing as follows:
 - insect resistant soybean MON87751;
 - herbicide tolerant maize MZHG0JG;
 - insect resistant and herbicide tolerant maize lines MON87403, 4114, MON87411, and Bt11xMIR162x1507xGA21;
 - insect resistant and herbicide tolerant cotton lines GHB614xLLCotton25xMON15985, and GHB614xT304-40xGHB119
13. ACRE assessed, and advised the Government on GM research trial applications as follows:
 - Rothamsted Research - a small-scale field trial of GM *Camelina Sativa* that have GM traits to produce omega-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids, the pigment astaxanthin (which is present in a range of marine micro-organisms and is included in the diets of farmed fish), wax ester production in seed, and increased photosynthetic efficiency. Further information about the trial is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-rothamsted-research-18r0801>
 - The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine – the main objective of the trial is to determine whether healthy volunteers inoculated with the genetically modified bacterium, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* go on to develop an improved immune response to *S. pneumoniae*, which causes pneumonia. Further information about the trial is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-liverpool-school-of-tropical-medicine-18r5101>

14. Additionally, ACRE is currently assessing an application from the Oxford Vaccine Group to explore the bottleneck hypothesis of the pathogenesis of bacteraemia in an ambulatory outpatient human experiment infection of Salmonella Typhi. Following ACRE's advice, Defra is due to issue a decision on the application by 24 March 2019. Further information about the clinical trial application is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-oxford-vaccine-group-18r4801>

15. ACRE's 2017 Annual Report was published on 31 August 2018 and may be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advisory-committee-on-releases-to-the-environment-acre-annual-report-2017>

16. More information about ACRE is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-releases-to-the-environment>

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

17. COC meetings were held on 12 July and 8 November 2018 and details from each of these meetings can be found below:

12 July 2018 – Items covered included:

- potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (EN(N)DS – e-cigarettes) – overview of available data on carcinogenicity Development of a framework (algorithm) for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure Risk Assessment of the Effects of Combined Exposures to Chemical Carcinogens - an update Updated Guidance Statements -The Use of Biomarkers in Carcinogenic Risk Assessment (G04) – second draft version 1.1;
- Cancer Risk Characterisation Methods (G06) – second draft version 1.1;
- defining a Point of Departure and Potency Estimates in Carcinogenic Dose Response (G05) – third draft version 1.1; and
- COC Guidance Statement Introduction – third draft version 1.0.

8 November 2018 – Items covered –

- A presentation on Immunological and stromal cell modulations relevant to cancer risk by Professor Nigel Gooderham;
- development of a framework for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure Risk assessment of the effects of combined exposures to chemicals on carcinogenicity Horizon Scan (including information on work of other organisations); and
- a guidance Statement G07c – updated draft.

18. The next meeting is on the 28 March 2019.

19. Items on the agenda will include:

- effect of combined exposure to chemicals on carcinogenicity;
- less-than-lifetime exposure to carcinogens;
- annual report;
- follow up to horizon scan;
- information on work of other organisations; and
- overarching guidance statement (G01).

- Also published Guidance statements:
 - Hazard identification and characterisation: animal carcinogenicity studies
 - The use of biomarkers in carcinogenic risk assessment.

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

20. Items discussed at the last meeting held on 18 October 2018 included:

- the COM response to the EFSA Consultation on Genotoxicity of Mixtures;
- COM guidance series update;
- a presentation on CRISPR Technology; and
- a presentation on Selection of Tissues in-Vivo Genotoxicity Testing.

21. COM are scheduled to meet on 28 February 2019 and items on the agenda for this meeting include:

- COM guidance – update document;
- QSARS guidance – present first draft statement;
- nanomaterials genotoxicity testing guidance – present first draft discussion paper;
- guidance on use of 3D models – present first draft discussion paper;
- OECD Test Guidelines – present any update; and
- Annual Horizon Scan – discussion.

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

22. COT has held 4 meetings since the last ACAF meeting, please see below for items discussed at each meeting:

2nd July 2018

- folic Acid- Establishment of the original Tolerable Upper Level by IOM, EVM and EFSA;
- potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (e-cigarettes):
 - a. Follow up to paper 3: additional information on 13-week inhalation studies in rats of propylene glycol aerosol (Suber et al., 1989) and glycerol aerosol (Renne et al., 1992)
 - b. Paper 4: Toxicological and epidemiological evaluations of E(N)NDS aerosol exposures
 - c. Paper 5: Preliminary overview of nicotine toxicity
Scoping paper on the potential risks from energy drinks in the diet of children and adolescents; and
- review of potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years:
 - a. Tropane alkaloids
 - b. Zinc
 - c. Selenium
 - d. Phthalates.

11th Sept 2018

- first draft interim position paper on potential risks from “energy drinks” in the diet of children and adolescents;
- review of potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years:
 - a) Perchlorate
 - b) Chlorate
 - c) Furan
- discussion paper on the potential risks from chromium in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years;
- discussion paper on the EFSA Opinion on “Risk to human health related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid in food. Reserved Business; and
- EFSA public consultation on the MIXTOX guidance.

23 Oct 2018

- first draft statement on the EFSA Opinion on “Risk to human health related to the presence of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and perfluorooctanoic acid in food” – Reserved Business;
- submission of data on PSI PRO irritant spray- Reserved Business;
- Phosphate-Based Flame Retardants and the Potential for Developmental Toxicity: A Scoping Paper;
- discussion paper on the basis for the Upper Level for Folic Acid;
- scoping paper on the potential risks from energy drinks in the diet of children and adolescents; and
- a discussion paper on the EFSA opinion on “Risk for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food” - Reserved Business

4th Dec 2018

- risks from a veterinary product in the diet - Reserved Business;
- potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes):
 - a. A review of data relating to developmental toxicity in offspring following parental exposure to nicotine
 - b. Additional information on developmental toxicity studies of E(N)NDS aerosols
 - c. Paper for information on COM and COC consideration of genotoxicity and carcinogenicity risks
 - d. Potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes). Recent paper hypothesising role of nicotine in schizophrenia spectrum disorders
- draft overarching statement on the potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years;
- folic acid – statement on the tolerable upper level (TUL);
- first draft statement on the potential risks from energy drinks in the diet of children and adolescents; and
- review of potential risks from 4, 15-diacetoxyscirpenol in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.

23. The COT will be meeting on 6 February 2019.

24. Further details on the work of COT can be found at the Committee’s website:

<https://cot.food.gov.uk/cot-meetings>.

FSA Science Council

25. The Science Council met on the 12th December 2018. Items included:

- update to members on the FSA Board meeting on [5th December](#), where the FSA's Executive response to the recommendations arising from the Science Councils Working Group's on [Capability & Assurance](#) and [Risk & Uncertainty](#) were endorsed. The Science Council will receive an implementation progress report in June 2019;
- a report from the Chief Scientific Adviser on his priorities and seeking Science Council advise on making the most effective use of the FSA's Strategic Evidence Fund;
- an update from Rick Mumford, Deputy Director of Science on the priorities of the FSA's Science, Evidence and Research Directorate; and
- updates and discussion for the [Horizon Scanning](#) and newly formed [Data](#) Working Groups.

26. Papers and minutes and are available at: <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/science-council-meetings>

27. As part of the Science Council's Data Working Group investigation, the Council is holding regular sessions throughout January and February with FSA teams to explore how they are and could use data and technology to support FSA objectives.

28. The Science Council will next meet in 'Working Group Configuration' on the 6th March 2019, where it will explore the outcomes of the exploratory data sessions and finalise recommendations of the Horizon Scanning Working Group.

29. The Horizon Scanning Working Group Report will then be handed over to the FSA for development of an Executive response, to be made available June 2019.

30. Professor Sandy Thomas will present a Science Council Chair's Annual Report to the FSA Board on the 13th March 2019.

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