

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACAF on 3 December 2009**

**Discussion Paper**

**GACS Workshop – Future action by ACAF**

**Action: The Committee is asked to consider suggestions for future work and agree work streams it can take forward as a result of ideas generated at the GACS horizon scanning workshop held on 24 June 2009**

**Secretariat  
November 2009**

## **GACS Workshop – Future action by ACAF**

1. This paper seeks the Committee's views on suggestions for future work.

### **Background**

2. At its 23 September 2009 meeting, the Committee was asked by a Member of the Agency's Chief Scientist Team to consider work streams it can take forward on ideas generated from the GACS horizon workshop held on 24 June 2009.
3. GACS has recognised the importance of horizon scanning as a mechanism for considering future scenarios and how to respond to them. In particular, GACS was interested in exploring ways to support cross-boundary working on horizon scanning between different scientific advisory committees (SAC).
4. Members of the Committee who attended the workshop have considered the emerging ideas from the workshop and a summary table is attached (see Annex).

### **Action**

5. The Committee is asked to consider and agree workstreams it can take forward as a result of ideas generated at the GACS horizon scanning workshop held on 24 June 2009.

**ACAF Secretariat  
November 2009**

## Annex

## ACAF work streams

|                                                                    | <b>Origins for suggesting these work streams</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Likely actions and final outcomes it should take/reach on these work streams</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Work streams that ACAF should carry out in liaison with other SACs</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| More linked-up thinking regarding 'sustainable' animal production. | Increasing concerns regarding environmental impact of livestock; opportunities for reducing the carbon footprint of livestock production; greater focus on ruminant livestock production in areas unsuitable for producing human food (e.g. uplands) | There will be increasing pressure to reduce the environmental footprint of livestock food production. This may be achieved by increasing livestock productivity, involving the use of novel feeds or additives.                                                                                                | Defra (Sustainable Livestock Production)                                  |
| GM technology: the future?                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public concerns regarding the acceptability of GM technology.</li> <li>• Opportunities for enhancing the productivity of crops or the nutritional value of crop products.</li> </ul>                        | <p>ACAF need to maintain a watching brief on GM modifications of crops, as they may affect both their nutritional quality and the availability of different feed materials.</p> <p>Identify beneficial and acceptable routes to use biotechnology to provide a recognised nutritional improvement in food.</p> | ACNFP                                                                     |
| Import and export of food.                                         | Increasing international trade in food; impact on UK food production.                                                                                                                                                                                | Unlikely to have a significant impact on animal feedingstuffs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                           |

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| Biofuel production: impacts on food costs and by-products.             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of the use of food materials for biofuel production that might otherwise be used for human food or animal feed;</li> <li>• The availability of ‘novel’ co-products as livestock feeds.</li> </ul> | Globally, the use of feeds crops, e.g. maize, wheat and oilseeds have had an impact on the cost of feed and food. This has had impacts on the price and availability of feeds used. ACAF needs to be kept aware of developments of biofuel production, including the use of new feedstocks, and co-products that might be available for use as livestock feeds. |                                                                    |
| Global increase in demand for livestock products will drive up prices. | Increasing global demand for food and feed has and will affect the price and availability of livestock feeds, and what and how UK livestock are fed.                                                                                              | ACAF needs to be kept aware of developments. A representative of a EU feed trade organisation (FEFAC) might be invited to address ACAF on how increasing demand for food is likely to impact on feedingstuff use/supplies in the EU.                                                                                                                            |                                                                    |
| Primary production cannot keep pace with changing demand.              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                    |
| Enhancing selenium content of livestock produce (milk, meat, eggs)     | Dietary intakes of selenium in the UK are marginal, with possible human health implications. There are opportunities for enhancing the nutritional value of animal products.                                                                      | These should be part of an overall work stream - keeping the Committee updated on strategies for improving the nutritional properties of livestock derived foods.                                                                                                                                                                                               | These developments need to be considered in conjunction with SACN. |
| Enriching foods with PUFAs                                             | Addressing concerns regarding the role of animal products, in particular saturated fats, on human health.                                                                                                                                         | Should also encompass other nutrients, e.g. folate, vitamins D, B12.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                    |
| Developing foods with increased levels of                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Need to consider consumer attitudes re: enriching foods with PUFA using                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                    |

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| omega-3 through feed or ingredients in foods                                                                    |  | GM crops as feed is inefficient. |  |
| Livestock feeding regimes that are designed primarily to improve the nutritional quality of products.           |  |                                  |  |
| Supplement animal feed with requirements for a healthy diet (e.g. omega-3) that go through into the end product |  |                                  |  |

