

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

ACAF Meeting 15 December 2010

CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

Discussion Paper

Action required:

The Committee is invited to:

- a. note the future work items for the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding; and
- b. make suggestions on risk assessment methodologies and a possible global list of feed hazards in order to inform the UK negotiating line.

**ACAF Secretariat
December 2010**

CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

Purpose

1. The aim of this paper is to inform the Committee of two work items assigned to the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding. It also aims to seek advice and suggestions from the Committee on how to progress the two main work areas, which will help the Agency to formulate the UK negotiating stance at next year's Codex Task Force meeting.

Background

2. The Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding completed its initial work programme – the elaboration of a Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding – in 2004. Since 2004, a number of items have been suggested for future work that the Task Force could take forward.
3. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its 32nd Session (29 June - 4 July 2009) gave full support for further Codex work on animal feeding. The CAC agreed to the establishment of an electronic working group which would:
 - a) review existing Codex risk analysis principles as to their applicability to animal feed;
 - b) review Codex texts on emergency situations and the exchange of information on rejected food and its applicability to animal feed; and
 - c) propose suitable mechanisms for: the development of guidelines for Governments on the application of risk assessment methodologies to the various types of hazards related to contaminants/residues in feed ingredients; the development of a prioritized list of hazards in feed and feed ingredients for governments; and the establishment of criteria for the global identification and notification of emergency situations affecting feed.
4. As regards points (a) and (b) above, the electronic working group made recommendations for revision of a number of Codex texts on risk analysis principles, guidelines on exchange of information and on a code of practice to reduce food contamination (see Annex I).
5. The working group recommended inserting an overarching statement in the Codex Procedural Manual to clarify that the nine Codex texts applied to both feed and feed ingredients as they impact on food safety; that the term "food chain" was inclusive of feed inputs; and that the terms "animal feed" and "feed" referred only to food-producing animals.
6. At its 33rd Session (5 - 9 July 2010) the CAC agreed that the existing Codex texts would be referred to the relevant Codex Committees (CCGP¹, CCFA², CCCF³, CCPR⁴, CCRVDF⁵ and CCFICS⁶) for review. The CAC also agreed to

¹ The Committee on General Principles

² Codex Committee on Food Additives

³ Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food

⁴ Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

⁵ Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods

the request that the CCGP should ensure consistency of the risk analysis texts after they have been reviewed by the relevant Committees.

7. The CAC also agreed that work on criteria for the global identification and notification of emergency situations affecting animal feed should be referred to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).
8. The CAC agreed to establish a Codex ad hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding with the Terms of Reference set out in Annex II.
9. At the Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety held in October 2007 in Rome, the Group agreed that the risk assessment of microbiological and chemical hazards in feed and feed ingredients should be developed according to the Codex texts at Annex I. The group also proposed a list of feed safety hazards and criteria to help select hazards of current importance to feed.
10. The ACAF Secretariat has sought and obtained views from stakeholders on how the two work items could be progressed; some of these are set out below.

Risk Assessment methodologies

11. As regards risk assessment methodologies, it has been suggested that:
 - guidelines that are in place for food safety should also be applicable for feed safety, and that an ‘overarching’ approach would be appropriate;
 - there is already JECFA⁷ guidance on maximum permitted levels for feed contaminants/residues in feed ingredients (including additives). These need to be extended and revised when new data emerge, but the issue seems already well addressed by that mechanism;
 - for hazardous substances in animal products arising from contaminated feed there is a need to address the issue first of all in terms of likelihood of consumer exposure. If specific substances give rise to residues which accumulate in tissue then a full risk assessment is needed. This should take particular note of consumer exposure from other sources. If there are no demonstrable residues then there may be no need for further consumer safety assessment;
 - any contaminants/residues suspected of having potential adverse consumer effects should be fully evaluated by the JECFA process in order to identify an ADI and, if possible, a Maximum Residue Level (MRL). This may require residue and metabolic data. Tissue levels then need to be established, under conditions of normal use, to identify whether the presence of the substance in feed needs specific control to ensure consumer exposure is at safe levels; and
 - the strategy for consumer safety should consider exposure as the driver for data requirement. Essentially, if there is no exposure even to a very hazardous substance, the risk is zero. One of the weaknesses in that procedure, which has been identified for the EU by EFSA, is the lack of good quality intake data for foods of different types in all countries. A second weakness in current international approaches is the general tendency to adopt the precautionary approach, suggesting potential minor contaminants as possible high risk concerns.

⁶ Codex Committee on food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems

⁷ Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

Global list of feed hazards

12. Suggestions for the global list include:

- hazards present in feeds – (e.g. toxins or other undesirable substances), rather than hazards associated with manufacture – may be naturally present in a crop, or introduced/increased as a result of husbandry practices, climate change, processing, transportation and storage. It may be difficult to prioritise these in terms of risk, because they will be different for different feeds, processes and substances. Reductions in control procedures and official monitoring will increase the risk irrespective of the origin of the feed or the processing it is exposed to. The scale of contamination is clearly important, and it is important that the contaminants are expressed in terms of concentrations and related to acceptable daily intakes (ADI), and the risks they pose.
- use of unauthorised feed additives and feed materials on farm by small producers, due to low profitability of livestock production.
- quality of chemical supplies from developing countries.
- further work on the controls on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.
- reductions in government budgets leading to:
 - inability to sustain control procedures;
 - reduced frequency of inspection; and
 - inadequate import controls.
- lack of re-investment in feed production facilities leading to:
 - increased disease rates resulting from poor quality/contaminated feed;
 - reduction in product quality;
 - reduced production efficiency leading to possible safety issues; and
 - increased rates of supplement use.
- lack of feed materials as demand for food use increases, particularly when cereal production suffers from climatic fluctuations.

Action required:

13. The Committee is invited to:

- note the future work items for the Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding; and
- make suggestions on risk assessment methodologies and a possible global list of feed hazards in order to inform the UK negotiating line.

List of Codex Texts to be revised

- i. Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius;
- ii. Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Food Additives and the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods;
- iii. Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues;
- iv. Risk Analysis Principles Applied by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods;
- v. Principles and Guidelines for the Conduct of Microbiological Risk Assessment (CAC/GL 30-1999);
- vi. Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Food Safety for Application by Governments (CAC/GL 62-2007);
- vii. Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejection of Imported Food (CAC/GL 25-1997);
- viii. Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Food Control Emergency Situations (CAC/GL 19-1995); and
- ix. Code of Practice for Source Directed Measures to reduce Contamination of Food with Chemicals (CAC/RCP 49-2001).

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE *AD HOC* CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

Objectives

With the aim of ensuring the safety of foods of animal origin, the Task Force should develop science based guidelines or standards specific to the following terms of reference.

Terms of Reference

- (a) The development of guidelines, intended for governments on how to apply the existing Codex risk assessment methodologies to the various types of hazards related to contaminants/residues in feed ingredients, including feed additives used in feedingstuffs for food producing animals. The guideline should include specific science-based risk assessment criteria to apply to feed contaminants/residues.

These criteria should be consistent with existing Codex methodologies. The guidelines should also consider the need to address the establishment of rates of transfer and accumulation from feed to edible tissues in animal-derived products according to the characteristics of the hazard. The guidelines should be drawn up in such a way as to enable countries to prioritise and assess risks based upon local conditions, use, exposure of animals and the impact, if any, on human health.

- (b) (b) Develop a prioritised list of hazards in feed ingredients and feed additives for governmental use. The list should contain hazards of international relevance that are reasonably likely to occur, and are thus likely to warrant future attention. In doing so, due consideration should be given to the prioritised list of hazards as recommended by the FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Animal Feed Impact on Food Safety. Clear criteria should be used to prioritise the list of hazards and take account of the potential transfer of contaminants/residues in feed to edible animal products (e.g. meat, fish meat, milk, and eggs).

Time frame

Starting in 2011, two sessions with an option of a third session, if required, to complete the work on the above terms of reference.