

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**54<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACAF on 1 June 2011**

**Information Paper**

**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES**

**Secretariat  
May 2011**

## 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 next full ACMSF meeting will take place on 27 June 2011.
3. Items on the draft agenda for the June 2011 meeting are as follows:
  - presentation of the findings of the Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID2) Study;
  - survival of *mycobacterium bovis* in raw milk cheeses and consideration of the risks associated with *mycobacterium bovis* and unpasteurized milk and milk products;
  - the draft report of the Ad Hoc Group on Vulnerable Groups' risk profile in relation to toxoplasma in the food chain; and
  - a presentation by the FSA on the Food and You Survey.
4. The ACMSF has recently been the subject of a quinquennial review. The independent reviewer interviewed the Chair and several members of the Committee, as well as a range of the Committee's stakeholders and the Secretariat. The Review concluded that there was a continuing need for the ACMSF with value to the FSA, other Government departments and stakeholders, and made several recommendations. The quinquennial review and a draft response to the recommendations will also be discussed on 27 June.

### Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)

5. ACRE met on 17 March 2011. The main items discussed were as follows:
6. ACRE had finalised advice by email prior to the meeting on the GM or non-GM status of herbicide tolerant oilseed rape developed by a US company, Cibus, using oligo-directed site mutagenesis. The Committee concluded that the oligo-directed site mutagenesis technique used by Cibus was a form of mutagenesis that does not involve the use of recombinant nucleic acid molecules and could therefore be excluded from the GMO Deliberate Release legislation in accordance with Annex 1B of Directive 2001/18/EC. The UK competent authority agreed to respond to the company, based on this advice from ACRE along with legal advice.

7. A report on the ACRE workshop on GM insects held in October 2010 was published on the ACRE website in March 2011.
8. ACRE considered an application from AVEBE (Dutch Company) for the marketing of AV43-6-G7starch potato for cultivation. The application includes food and feed use to allow by-products from the starch processing industry to be used for animal feed and to ensure safety should accidental entry into the food chain occur. The potato produces little/no amylose starch. Amylopectin starch, the form favoured by the starch industry, is produced. ACRE was generally content but noted the post-market monitoring questionnaire provided a basis for monitoring, but further modifications would be needed increase its suitability for monitoring for unanticipated effects which could result from the cultivation of a GM crop.
9. ACRE also considered an application from Syngenta for cultivation of insect resistant MIR604 maize in the EU. MIR604 produces a modified Cry3A protein, which confers resistance to the Western Corn Root Worm (WCRW), and the phosphomannose isomerase enzyme, used as a selectable marker. This GMO received EU approval for import and processing, food and feed use in 2009. At its March 2011 meeting, ACRE assessed the current MIR604 cultivation dossier and was generally content.
10. The Committee recommended that the applicants should provide information on the total number of treatments, state the power of the trials and provide further information as to how they reached their recommendation for a 20% refuge, and on the sensitivity of the analysis and levels of uncertainty. ACRE considered that the applicants had conducted a thorough analysis considering a wide range of non-target organisms and that the farmer questionnaire was generally fit for purpose.
11. The Committee did, however, consider that the options for the response to some questions were unnecessarily basic and uninformative, and felt that questions on the use of insecticides and the timing of application should be included. ACRE did not consider that more detailed questions on biodiversity could usefully be included in the farmer questionnaire.
12. The first meeting of ACRE's new sub-group on post-market environmental monitoring was held on 17 March. This will advise ACRE on implementation of post-market environmental monitoring of genetically modified crops according to the Deliberate Release Directive 2001/18/EEC and EFSA guidance, and build on the 2004 ACRE guidance on post-market monitoring plans, to provide further advice on robust and proportionate monitoring measures needed to identify any anticipated or unanticipated adverse effects resulting from commercial cultivation of GM crops. It will identify data gaps in existing environmental surveillance networks, which could be important for effective monitoring of GM crop cultivation, and provide suggestions as to how these could be

addressed. It will also provide ACRE with advice, setting out a range of options which could be adopted for post-market monitoring in England, and advise on the EFSA guidance on post-market environmental monitoring of GM crops, which is currently being revised.

### **Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)**

13. At its meeting on 14 April 2011, the Committee discussed:

- Genome Wide Association Studies – Bladder Cancer and Colorectal Cancer;
- update of COC guidance statements – 2nd draft of overarching statement;
- para-occupational exposure – draft joint statement (with COT) on the systematic review of epidemiological literature on para-occupational exposure to pesticides and health outcomes;
- role of miRNA Related Effects and Chemicals on Cancer;
- COC Annual Report for 2010; and
- risks to health from climate change.

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

14. At its meeting on 10 March 2011, the COM discussed:

- COM Strategy for Genotoxicity Testing and Mutagenic Hazard Assessment of Chemicals: responses from consultation exercise;
- genotoxicity testing of impurities;
- human health significance of chemical induced mutagenicity;
- COM Annual Report for 2010; and
- risks to health from climate change.

### **General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)**

15. GACS had an open meeting on 3 March 2011. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- Report from the Agency's Chief Scientist - FSA strategic evidence needs and evidence management – challenges and ideas;
- Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees;

- Report from Professor Peter Gregory, Chair of the ACNFP, on challenges and cross-cutting issues in the safety assessment of novel foods;
  - summary of SAC activities and forward agendas – to identify areas that would benefit from cross-SAC working;
  - Food and You Survey – presentation on the results of Wave 1 from Professor Peter Jackson, acting Chair of the SSRC and Dr Siân Thomas, FSA Social Science Research Unit;
  - FSA Science and Evidence Strategy – proposed revisions to the Strategy were agreed by GACS and the FSA Board in March 2011 and the updated Strategy has now been published;
  - Report from Professor David Coggon on the outputs of the Working Group on data and funding from other sources - the framework produced by the Working Group was agreed by GACS and endorsed by the FSA Board in March. A full public consultation on the framework will launch in May 2011;
  - Report from the Working Group on risk assessment and risk management; and
  - Presentation on the Global Food Security Initiative Research Strategy by Dr Paul Burrows, BBSRC.
16. The agenda, papers and draft minutes are available on the GACS website – <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>
17. The next GACS meeting is planned for Wednesday 9 November 2011.

### **Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)**

18. The SSRC held its 7th meeting on the 24th March 2011. Agenda items discussed included an update on the Food and You Survey, work contributing to the review of meat controls, commissioning evidence reviews and a discussion on the Agency's forward evidence plan. The Committee were also given a presentation on the Agency's new Food Framework for commissioning social science research.
19. The Food and You Survey, the Agency's new flagship survey on public attitudes and behaviours was published on the 3 March 2011. Further details can be found at:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/socsci/surveys/foodandyou/foodyou10>

The SSRC was instrumental in setting up this new and robust source of social science evidence.

### **Appointments and Recruitment Exercises**

#### **ACRE**

20. In March 2011 Ministers appointed Prof. David Hopkins to a long-standing vacancy on ACRE in the field of soil ecology. Prof. Hopkins is Professor of Environmental Biology and Head of the School of Life Sciences at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh.

#### **ACMSF**

21. Interviews have taken place to fill four vacancies on the Committee: experts in microbiology, virology, food retailing, and epidemiology. The successful candidates will be announced after new Ministers in the devolved administrations are in place, following the elections in May 2011.

#### **SSRC**

22. The SSRC has appointed a new Chairman, four expert members and one lay member. Further details are available at:

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/aboutus/ssrcnewstaff>

**ACAF Secretariat  
May 2011**