

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**79th Meeting of ACAF on 27 June 2019**

**Information Paper**

**Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees**

**ACAF Secretariat**

**June 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 Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food will meet on 27 June 2019. Items on the agenda include:
  - FSA's guidance on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods with respect to *Clostridium botulinum* (the Committee will be updated on current evidence on vacuum and modified atmosphere packed chilled foods);
  - Ad Hoc Group on Risk Assessment Report (the Committee will receive a presentation on a proposed new risk assessment framework);
  - Ad Hoc Group on *Campylobacter* Report (the draft final report will be considered by the Committee);
  - an update on the activities of Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group;
  - an update on the activities of the Working Group on New Emerging Pathogens who recently considered the FSA's literature review on risks of consuming human placenta;
  - an update on the activities of Antimicrobial Resistance Working group;
  - Review of alternative interventions in poultry processing - the Committee will discuss the FSA's literature review of alternative interventions in poultry processing (Reserved business);
  - an update on the activities of the Ad Hoc Group on quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), Biocides and Chlorine-Based Disinfectants used in food processing; and
  - Update for SACs on work being undertaken on risk analysis (Reserved Business).

### **Advisory Committee for Social Science (ACSS)**

3. 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.
  
4. The Committee met for the third time on 2 April 2019 to discuss the following agenda items:
  - o Working group updates – The Risk Communication and Behavioural Science Working Groups gave updates on activities since the last Committee meeting held in December 2018). Update papers can be found on the ACSS website: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/acss-meetings/acss-meetings/acss-meeting-2nd-april>. The Risk Communication group has reviewed the risk communications guidance which will sit alongside the FSA’s new risk assessment framework. The Behavioural Science group have identified three priority areas for the FSA to design and pilot behavioural interventions: allergens; business registration; and Caloriewise. Both groups will be formally wrapped up over the next few months, but will continue to advise on risk communication and behavioural science matters on an ad hoc basis going forward.
  - o Review of Food and You – the Chair of the Food and You Review Working Group, Professor George Gaskell, presented recommendations on the future direction of the FSA’s Food and You survey. The full report and recommendations can be found on the ACSS website: <https://acss.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fandyousurvey.pdf>. It was agreed that this working group will formally wrap up but will be replaced by a ‘task force’ to implement the recommendations from the review.
  - o Future priorities – The Committee agreed to establish three new working groups looking at EU exit, emerging technologies, and assurance. The Committee will be presenting a paper at the September FSA Board meeting to provide assurance to the FSA Chair on social science in the FSA.
  
5. Minutes from the meeting have been published on the ACSS website <https://acss.food.gov.uk/>. The next meeting is likely to be in Nov 2019 (date tbc).

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)**

6. The ACNFP met on 7 May 2019 and discussed the following items.
  - o three traditional food summaries that will be uploaded to the ACNFP website to support the openness of the Committee’s discussion of notifications under the traditional foods process;
  - o a new traditional food application;
  - o the ACNFP received an update on the future arrangements for risk assessment of regulated products (Reserved Business); and

- o the 2018 Annual report.
7. The Committee are due to meet on 10 July. The agenda is subject to applications that are received ahead of the meeting but are likely to include discussion of notifications for traditional food from third countries.
  8. Further details on the ACNFP can be found at: <https://acnfp.food.gov.uk/>

### **The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)**

9. Since the last ACAF meeting, the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) has assessed European Food Safety Authority opinions on applications to market maize lines genetically modified (GM) for insect resistance and herbicide tolerance for food or feed uses, import or processing as follows:
  - o MON89034 x 1507 x NK603 x DAS40278-9
  - o MON89034 x 1507 x 88017 x 59122 x DAS40278-9
10. ACRE has assessed, and advised Government on GM applications for research purposes as follows:
  - o The John Innes Centre – a small-scale trial to better understand the role of a gene (Myb28) involved in producing glucosinolates in Chinese kale/ broccoli. Further information about the trial may be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-john-innes-centre-19r5201>
  - o The John Innes Centre – a small-scale trial to study GM wheat plants with improved nutritional quality, namely higher iron content in the grain. Further information about the trial is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-john-innes-centre-19r5202>
  - o Rothamsted Research – a small-scale field trial of camelina sativa plants modified to produce more oil and/ or oil with improved characteristics, i.e., omega-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids; oleic acid; and sinapine. More information is available about the trial here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-rothamsted-research-19r0801>
  - o Oxford Vaccine Group – in this study *Salmonella* Typhi Quail's strain has been genetically modified to remove the main elements causing enteric/ typhoid fever. The modified bacterium will be used to investigate the 'Bottle-neck' theory in causing enteric fever. Further information about the trial is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-oxford-vaccine-group-18r4801>
11. Additionally, ACRE is currently assessing an application from The Sainsbury Laboratory for a small-scale field trial involving potatoes that have been modified to

resist *Phytophthora infestans* and the potato cyst nematode, and with improved tuber quality (reduced bruising). The application is published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/genetically-modified-organisms-the-sainsbury-laboratory-19r2901> and the decision on the application will be published in due course.

12. More information about ACRE, and the work of the Committee is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-releases-to-the-environment>

### **The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)**

13. The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC) met on 28 March. Items discussed included:
- chemical carcinogenicity – papers of interest;
  - guidance statement G01 – A strategy for risk assessment of chemical carcinogens
  - First draft “Challenges for risk assessment of the effects of combined exposure to chemicals on carcinogenicity”;
  - revised draft “Framework for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure”;
  - experimental and pan-cancer genome analyses reveal widespread contribution of 2 acrylamide exposure to carcinogenesis in humans” – recent paper;
  - Horizon Scan Topics; and
  - draft COC Annual Report
14. COC are to meet next on 11 July and items on the agenda include:
- effect of combined exposure to chemicals on carcinogenicity;
  - immunological and stromal cell modulations relevant to cancer risk; and
  - microbiome.

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

15. The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM) met on 28 February. Items discussed included:
- COM guidance series – update;
  - test strategies for manufactured nanomaterials;
  - guidance statement on the use of QSAR models to predict genotoxicity;
  - 3D models for genotoxicity testing;
  - test strategies for germ cell mutagens;
  - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) updates;
  - Horizon Scan; and
  - draft Annual Report 2018.

16. A Special COM workshop –will be held on 12 and 13 June. The meeting/workshop will be the first of a series of events aimed at exploring the challenges facing genetic toxicology from a regulatory perspective in the next decade.

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

17. The COT met on 7 May and items discussed included:

- male reproductive toxicity of a novel feed additive, 3-nitro-oxypropanol (3-NOP) (Reserved Business);
- update on work being undertaken on risk analysis in preparation for EU exit (Reserved Business);
- review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Fusarenon-X;
- review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Cyclopiazonic acid (CPA);
- review of potential risks from mycotoxins in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years. Patulin;
- review of potential risks from 2-MCPD, 3-MCPD and glycidol and their fatty acid esters in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years;
- scoping paper on the potential risks from polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years;
- review of potential risks from contaminants in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years – Additional information on tropane alkaloids;
- Committee statement on phosphate-based flame retardants and the potential for neurodevelopmental toxicity – second draft;
- potential toxicological risks from electronic nicotine (and non-nicotine) delivery systems (E(N)NDS – e-cigarettes):
  - Toxicity assessment of flavourings used in E(N)NDS: Vanillin
  - Toxicity assessment of flavourings used in E(N)NDS: Cinnamaldehyde

18. The next COT meeting will be held on 2 July.

### **FSA Science Council**

19. The Science Council (SC) last met on 9th March in 'Working Group Configuration'. The main items discussed included:

#### **Working Group 4 (data usage and digital technology)**

- The group heard from the FSA Head of the Surveillance as the last of a series of exploratory interviews on data usage across the Department.;
- Working Group 4 also heard from the FSA Data Fellow, Dr Anatol Wegner, and ACSS members Julie Hill and George Gaskell, in relation to data interest cross-over in the ACSS's Food and You Survey review and as wider good committee practice.;
- The Working Group 4 Chair, Prof Patrick Wolfe, is working with the Secretariat to produce a short Phase 1 report, collating key reflections from discussions thus far; and
- The Working Group 4 Chair, the CSA and Secretariat are in discussion with The Alan Turing Institute and the Internet of Food Things Network with respect to Phase 2 commissions.

### **Working Group 3 (global food systems risks and horizon scanning)**

- The Group is finalising its report for hand over to the FSA;
- Working Group 3 discussed its drafted recommendations to the FSA and any required alterations or additions; and
- The Working Group 3 final report and an initial FSA response will be available to the FSA Board in June 2019. <sup>1</sup>

20. The next Science Council meeting is on 27 June and the provision agenda includes the following items:

- an implementation update by the Executive following hand-over and response to Working Group 1 & 2 recommendations at the Board in December 2018; and
- discussions of what SC can do in the allergen space.

ACAF Secretariat

June 2019

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<sup>1</sup> The final report has subsequently been handed to the FSA. This report will be discussed at the next FSA Board meeting on 19th June.