

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

71st Meeting of ACAF on 27 October 2016

Information Paper

Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees

**Secretariat
October 2016**

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 Committee met on 30 June 2016; the following items were discussed:
 - the final draft of the Ad Hoc Group on Eggs' report was approved and the report was published on 25 July 2016;
 - the Committee commented on a draft risk assessment related to Zika virus exposure via the food chain and it was agreed that the Emerging Pathogens Group would consider this further;
 - the Committee discussed the FSA's work in relation to rare burgers; and
 - the Animal and Plant Health Agency gave a presentation on the animal microbiome; the FSA and Royal Veterinary College gave a presentation on EU funded work on Toxoplasma.

Subgroups

- a new Ad Hoc Group on *Campylobacter* held meetings in May and July. Its terms of reference and membership can be found on the ACMSF website;
 - the Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group has discussed the FSA's risk assessment on Livestock Associated Meticillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (LA-MRSA) in the food chain, colistin resistance in the food chain, an FSA Board Paper on AMR, and the work of the EU RONAFA Working Group (Reduction of Need of Antimicrobials in Food Producing Animals); and
 - the Surveillance Working Group has provided comments to the FSA on an amended methodology for the *Campylobacter* retail survey.
3. The next meeting of the ACMSF is on 20 October 2016. Provisional agenda items for this meeting include:
 - VTEC associated with the food chain;
 - *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*; and
 - Foodborne viral infections (initial response to the ACMSF virus report).

Committee sub-groups updates

- Ad Hoc Group on Campylobacter
Prof Sarah O'Brien will update members on the group's activities.
- Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group
Prof David McDowell will provide an update on the group's activities.
- Surveillance Working Group
Prof John Coia will update members on the group's activities.
- Horizon Scanning

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

4. The last meeting of the ACNFP took place on 14 September 2016 and the next meeting is scheduled on 24 November 2016. Details of both meetings will be available on the ACNFP website: <http://acnfp.food.gov.uk>

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

5. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) held an 'open' meeting in on 8 September in Edinburgh. They discussed a number of recent reports, namely, National Academies report on: Genetically Engineered Crops: Experiences and Prospects; National Academies report on gene drives. 'Gene Drives on the Horizon: Advancing Science, Navigating Uncertainty, and Aligning Research with Public Values'; and, a Royal Society Report: GM crops Questions and Answers.
6. Since the previous meeting ACRE has considered EFSA advice on applications to import (but not cultivate) GM soybean and maize for food and feed uses. In both cases ACRE agreed with EFSA that the GMOs pose no greater risk to the environment than their non-GM counterparts. Also since the previous meeting, Defra has authorised two small-scale GM field trials; the decisions were made on the basis of scientific advice from ACRE.
7. The next meeting of ACRE will be on 27 October 2016.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

8. The COC met on 21 July 2016, and items discussed included:
 - guidance statements – G07: Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay;
 - IATA Non-Genotoxic Carcinogens;
 - mode of action/human relevance framework;
 - guidance statement – G09: Assessing the risk of less than lifetime exposure to carcinogens; and
 - frailty and cancer.

9. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 17 November 2016 and provisional agenda items include:
- further assessment of IGF-I and cancer risk;
 - horizon scanning; and
 - guidance statements.

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

10. Items discussed at the last meeting held on 16 June 2017 included:
- environmentally induced epigenetic toxicity – potential health concerns; and
 - epigenetics: the transgenerational effects of vinclozolin.
11. The next meeting of the COM is scheduled for 20 October 2016. Provisional agenda items for the meeting include:
- discussion of methods in quantitative risk assess of genotoxins, the use of bench mark dose modelling as a means to determine genotoxic potency; and can genotoxic potency be used as a means to determine carcinogenic risk; and
 - the committee will be asked to review the health effects of emissions to air from municipal waste incinerators (MWI), specifically evidence from animal and in vitro genotoxicity studies. This item has been referred to COM by Public Health England (PHE) and the PHE secretariat will produce a paper to support the discussion.

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

12. COT met on 1 September 2016 and agenda items discussed are below:
- first draft statement on potential risks from acrylamide in the diet of infants and young children;
 - third draft statement on the introduction of allergenic foods to the infant diet and influence on the risk of development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease (reserved business);
 - second draft statement on evidence regarding maternal and infant dietary exposures and risk of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease (reserved business);
 - first draft addendum to the 2015 COT statement on potential risks from PBDEs in the infant diet;

- first draft addendum to the 2015 COT statement on potential risks from hexabromocyclododecanes in the infant diet; and
 - EFSA consultation on draft guidance document on the use of the benchmark dose in risk assessment.
13. The next meeting of COT is on 6 December 2016 and provisional agenda items include:
- vitamin A;
 - dioxins and brominated flame retardants in obesity;
 - iodine;
 - shisha pipes; and
 - cadmium, chromium and, nickel.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

Update on GACS for ACAF October 2016

14. The last GACS meeting was held on 24 March 2016. The agenda, papers and final minutes are published on the GACS website.
15. The GACS Chair attended the FSA Board on 18 May¹ at the invitation of the FSA Chair, to relay directly to the Board the concerns which GACS had raised with regard to the Triennial Review of the SACs² at its meeting on 24 March 2016.
16. The GACS is being replaced by a new FSA Science Council which will be set up in response to Recommendation 3 of the Triennial Review. The GACS and its working groups will continue to operate within their current remit until such time as they hand over to the new Council once it is established.
17. There are no further meetings of the GACS planned. The Committee continues to operate by correspondence.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

18. The SSRC discussed the Triennial Review at the 17th meeting, the last meeting of the Committee in its current form. The FSA is implementing the Review's recommendations, currently by drafting the new terms of reference.

Appointments and Recruitment exercises

¹ <http://.food.gov.uk/about-us/our-board/meetings>

² <http://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/triennial-review-sac.pdf>

Appointments

ACMSF

- There are six vacancies on the Committee: a clinician with expertise in public health medicine; an expert in clinical microbiology; an enforcement officer with expertise in environmental health; a medical microbiology; a commercial caterer; and an expert in consumer issues. The closing date for these posts was 30 August. The post of Chair of the Committee is also being advertised with a closing date of 14 October.

ACNFP

The Committee has recently recruited 4 experts in the following fields:

- allergy - one expert with clinical experience;
- microbiology with particular emphasis on the gut;
- food production methods; and
- toxicology.

**ACAF Secretariat
October 2016**