



FAO/WHO WORKSHOP

Applying the Risk Analysis Framework to address problems of Mycotoxins on foods

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), with support from the Codex Trust Fund, and in collaboration with the Coordinator of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa (Ghana Standards Board, Ghana) will be holding a one-day Regional Workshop on “*Applying the Risk Analysis framework to address problems of Mycotoxins on foods*”.

The workshop will take place on 23 February 2009, at the Accra International Conference Centre, where the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Africa will also take place immediately after the workshop from 24 to 27 February 2009. The workshop will be conducted in English and French, with simultaneous interpretation.

The **objective** of this workshop is to enhance participants’ practical understanding of the risk analysis framework showing how the assessment, management and communication (the three components of risk analysis) of food safety risks are carried out at international level particularly within the Codex Alimentarius Commission and in the work of related bodies. A better understanding of the processes by which international food safety standards are developed will allow member countries to participate more effectively and have greater influence in the work of Codex at various levels.

The workshop aims at improving the involvement and participation of member countries in the African region in Codex work through their practical understanding of how to apply the risk analysis framework in dealing with food safety issues. In particular, the workshop will emphasise how they can best make use of existing tools and resources to support risk analysis and highlight possibilities for sharing of expertise and resources in carrying out such work.

In particular, the workshop will provide answers to the following questions:

- How risk analysis is applied in international forums (FAO / WHO, Codex Alimentarius Commission), who are the evaluators, how are they chosen, what are their working tools and who are the managers;
- What is the distribution of tasks between assessors and risk managers and what is the nature of interactions between these two groups;
- How member countries participate in such proceedings;

- What international rules apply to food safety standards in international trade in cases where no Codex standard exists or in cases where standards are more severe than those of the Codex Alimentarius (WTO-SPS Agreement and Codex).

The workshop will involve presentations utilising concrete examples of high relevance to the countries. The programme will be designed to allow ample time for discussion and knowledge sharing. The examples will be based on two mycotoxins: aflatoxins and ochratoxin A.

The **provisional program** of the workshop is the following:

Monday, 23 February 2009

Time	Topics	Presenter
8.30 – 9.00	Arrival, registration of participants	
9.00 – 9.30	Introduction of the workshop (health burden of Mycotoxins)	Dr. Patience Mensah, WHO/AFRO
9.30 – 10.00	Risk Analysis of Mycotoxins in the International Organizations (Part 1: risk assessment, by JECFA)	Dr Gordon Shephard, Medical Research Council, South Africa
10.00 – 10.30	Risk Analysis of Mycotoxins in the International Organizations (Part 2: risk management , by Codex)	Mrs Verna Carolissen, FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00 – 11.30	Discussion	
11.30- 12.30	Presentation of two country case studies on the national experience with Mycotoxins control	Dr Ardjouma Dembele, LANADA, Côte d’Ivoire Dr Gordon Shephard, MRC, South Africa
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 14.30	Presentation by FAO: coffee project	Mrs Catherine Bessy, Food Quality and Standards Service, FAO
14.30 – 15.00	Discussion	
15.00 - 15.30	Being an active member of Codex: rights and responsibilities	Dr Noriko Iseki, FAO/WHO Codex Secretariat
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee Break	
16.00 – 16.45	Making use of the SPS Agreement and Codex	Mrs Catherine Bessy, Food Quality and Standards Service, FAO
16.45 – 17.30	Discussion and Conclusion of the workshop	Mrs Catherine Bessy, FAO

If you require any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Bessy (Catherine.Bessy@fao.org) at FAO.

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