



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

FAO/WHO Activities on Microbiological Hazards associated with Fresh Produce

Call for experts

Deadline 31 August 2007

Background

Problems linked with pathogens in fresh produce, including the associated public health and trade implications, have been reported in a number of countries worldwide. In noting this, the [38th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene](#) (CCFH) requested FAO and WHO to provide scientific advice (paras 224 -231 ALINORM 07/30/13) to support the development of commodity specific annexes to the Codex Alimentarius “[Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables](#)” (CAC/RCP 53-2003). Highlighting the need to address in more detail aspects related to the control of specific hazards of concern in particular fruit and vegetable products, the committee provided a terms of reference as guidance to the type of scientific advice which was needed (Appendix VI of ALINORM 07/30/13).

The terms of reference for scientific advice is extensive, spanning the whole food chain. Given the need to provide advice in a timely manner FAO and WHO propose to address the various tasks in a prioritized manner, including the specific pathogen–commodity combinations to be addressed. FAO and WHO have identified a list of data requirements (see call for data) to first assist in the ranking of priorities and secondly to be used as the basis for the elaboration of scientific advice. The scope of the scientific advice is microbial hazards in produce that is marketed fresh and often ready-to-eat. This may include produce that has been peeled, cut or otherwise physically altered from their original form but remain in a fresh state and may be intended for raw consumption.

FAO and WHO are currently seeking experts to assist them in their activities to provide scientific advice to assist in the management of microbiological hazards on fresh produce. These activities will be implemented in 2007/2008.

Expertise required

FAO / WHO are seeking people with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Foodborne illness, in particular that related to fresh fruit and vegetables (the burden of foodborne diseases related to these products)
- Production systems and post-harvest practices related to fresh fruits and vegetables for both domestic and export markets
- Hygiene practices in the production and post harvest handling and processing of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Microbial contamination of fresh produce, including sources and routes in the different steps of the food production chain;
- Impact of conditions along the food chain on survival of the microbial hazards and possible control measures;
- Application of the existing Codex “Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables”) and /or other guidelines/codes of practice etc and their impact on the control of microbiological hazards

- Management and control of microbiological hazards on fresh produce and the challenges therein.
- Water and land management for production of fresh fruits and vegetable (e.g. water for irrigation, use of farmyard manure, agriculture run-off etc.).

Due to limited resources, these activities will be conducted in English only.

Application:

Applications should be made using the electronic application form available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/roster/rox?lang=en>. A curriculum vitae including a description of education, work experience and a list of publications or other relevant types of technical output may also be attached.

For any further information on the application procedure or problems with access/using the electronic application form please use the contact details below.

Process for Selection of Experts:

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of four individuals (one from FAO, one from WHO, and two independent, internationally recognized experts agreed by both FAO and WHO) to determine whether the applicants meet the following criteria:

- Technical expertise and professional recognition in the specified areas as listed above;
- Publications, presentations in the specified areas;
- Ability to participate in group discussions; and
- Ability to draft clear and concise reports.

All applicants meeting these criteria will be considered in the selection of experts for the consultation.

In doing so FAO/WHO will consider the following:

- Diversity of experience and scientific backgrounds;
- Conflicts of interest (each participant will be asked to complete a 'Declaration of Interest' form);
- Representation from different geographic and economic regions and gender balance.

(See 'Important Notes' below for additional information)

Deadline:

In order to be considered for this activity applications must be submitted on or before August 31, 2007.

Contact Information:

For further information and to submit an application please contact either:

Food Quality and Standards Service
 Attention: JEMRA / Sarah Cahill
 Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
 00153 Rome, Italy
 Telephone: + 39 06 5705 3614
 Facsimile: + 39 06 5705 4593
 Email: jemra@fao.org

Dept. of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases
 Attention: JEMRA / Jenny Murcott
 World Health Organization
 Avenue Appia 1211
 Geneva 27
 Switzerland
 Telephone: + 41 22 791 3557
 Facsimile: +41 22 791 4807
 Email: foodsafety@who.int

Important Notes:

Experts shall be selected to participate in the expert meeting in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their country or of the institution for which they may be employed.

Selected experts will be asked to complete a 'Declarations of Interest' form in order to determine if any potential conflicts of interest exist.

FAO and WHO seek to have representation from all geographic regions including developing and developed countries.

FAO and WHO seek to have a balanced representation of women and men.

Funds for translation are not currently available. At the present time meetings and correspondence will be carried out in the English language. Applicants should have a good working knowledge of English.

Selected experts may be required to assist in the preparation of background papers for the consultation, participate in a four day meeting and provide feedback after the meeting to facilitate finalisation of the report.

Travel expenses and a per diem will be paid to all selected experts participating in the expert meeting.

No reimbursement is provided for work undertaken.