



Work of the OIE on Animal Production Food Safety

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**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points on
Animal Production Food Safety, Tunisia, 4-6 April 2011**

History of the APFSWG

- 3rd OIE Strategic Plan (2001-2005) recommended that “*OIE should be more active in the area of public health and consumer protection*” and noted that “*this should include zoonoses and diseases transmissible to humans via food , whether or not animals are affected by such diseases*”.
- In 2002 the Director General of OIE established a permanent **Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (APFSWG)** to coordinate the food safety activities of the OIE.
- 4th OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010) and 5th OIE Strategic Plan (2011-2015) support continuation of this mandate.
- First WG meeting held December 2002: ten meetings to date.

Objectives of the APFSWG

To help to reduce food-borne risks to human health due to hazards arising from animal production by:

- Coordinating OIE activities related to animal production food safety, which have the goal of “*reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products*”.
- Providing advice to the Director General and the OIE Specialist Commissions.
- Strengthening cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and its subsidiary bodies to avoid duplication, overlap and contradictions and to address gaps in standards.

Membership of the APFSWG

- Members proposed by OIE Director General and endorsed by the OIE World Assembly of Delegates.
- Based on scientific expertise, with balanced geographical representation as an important secondary consideration.
- Experts are expected to contribute objectively to discussions and not represent the views of a particular country, section or organisation.

Membership of APFSWG

- **Members:** Prof. H. Aidaros (Egypt), Dr C.A. Correa Messuti (Uruguay), Dr K. de Balogh (FAO), Dr S. Doyran (CAC Secretary), Dr A. McKenzie (New Zealand), Dr A. Randell (Italy), Mr M. Scannell (European Commission) , Dr S. Slorach (Sweden), Dr R. S.Thwala (Swaziland), Dr M. Younes (WHO).
- **Other participants and observers:** Dr A.Thiermann (President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission), Dr K. Huleback (Chairperson of the CAC).
- **OIE Headquarters:** DG Dr B. Vallat, Dr S. Kahn, Dr G. Mylrea and other staff from the OIE International Trade Department (Secretariat) and staff from other OIE Depts.

Terms of Reference (1)

APFSWG's Terms of Reference include:

- Consideration of all food-borne hazards arising from animals before slaughter.
- Primary focus on food safety measures applicable at farm level.
- Consideration of food safety measures applicable elsewhere, e.g. during animal transport & harvesting wild animals.
- Work priorities that take into account global food safety priorities of relevant internat. orgs., esp. CAC, FAO and WHO.
- Taking into account food safety standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, especially the CAC.

Terms of Reference (2)



- Support for the work of the OIE Specialist Commissions on pre-slaughter animal production food safety.
- Advising OIE DG on all issues related to APFS, for example:
 - establishing *ad hoc* Groups to address specific tasks
 - linking at the working level with CAC, FAO and WHO
 - ensuring pre-slaughter APFS is integrated in Specialist Commissions' and *ad hoc* Groups' activities
 - providing technical input into work of Specialist Comm.
 - enhancing communications, information sharing and consultation
 - issues related to good governance, incl. veterinary education.

Main issues dealt with (1)

1. Horizontal issues

Meat inspection

Role of the *Veterinary Services* in food safety

Guide to good farming practices

Animal identification and traceability

Certification, model certificates

Animal feeding

Antimicrobial resistance

Biotechnology

Biosecurity procedures in poultry production

Main issues dealt with (2)

2. Disease-specific OIE texts

- Bovine tuberculosis
- Bovine brucellosis
- Salmonellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
- Zoonotic parasites

3. Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE

Meat inspection

- The *Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* constitutes the primary international standard for meat hygiene and incorporates a risk-based approach to the application of sanitary measures throughout the meat production chain.
- APFSWG developed OIE text to complement this Code.
- After going through the usual OIE procedure, a text was adopted and incorporated into the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* as Chapter 6.2. *Control of biological hazards of animal and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.*

Guide to good farming practices

- *OIE-FAO Guide to Good Farming Practices for Animal Production Food Safety (GGFP)*. Initiated by APFSWG and further developed by an *ad hoc* Group. Text finalised in 2008 and published in the *OIE Bulletin* (2008-3) and available on the OIE website

(http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Food_Safety/docs/pdf/GGFP.pdf)

- GGFP is designed to minimise animal health and food safety risks arising at the farm level during animal production.
- GGFP comprises sections on hazards and corresponding control points, general farm management, animal health management, veterinary medicines and biologicals, animal feeding and watering, environment and infrastructure, animal and product handling and implementation.

Animal identification and traceability

- APFSWG was involved in the development of OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* Chapters:
 - 4.1. *General principles on identification and traceability of live animals* (adopted in 2006) and
 - 4.2 *Design and Implementation of Identification Systems to Achieve Animal Traceability* (adopted in 2008).

Certification, Model Certificates

- APFSWG has been involved in the development of OIE Model Certificates, including *Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 5.10 Model Veterinary Certificates for International Trade in Live Animals, Hatching Eggs and Products of Animal Origin* , which was adopted in 2008.
- APFSWG emphasises need for close cooperation between the work of the OIE and work on certification carried out by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).
- APFSWG will monitor developments in certification, in particular electronic certification, in CAC, OIE, etc.

Animal feed

- Following a recommendation from APFSWG, an *ad hoc* Group drafted a text on *Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed*, to complement the *Codex Guidelines on Good Animal Feeding*. Separate texts for terrestrial and aquatic animal feed were then developed.
- The text on feed for terrestrial animals (Ch. 6.3. in the *Terrestrial Code*) was adopted in 2009 and revised in 2010.
- In November 2009 APFSWG reviewed a draft text on *Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds*: final text was adopted in May 2010 as Chapter 6.1 in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*.

Antimicrobial resistance

- Chapters 6.6 -6.10 of the *Terrestrial Code* deal with antimicrobial resistance. Aquatic Code Commission is developing texts for the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* similar to these Chapters. Ch. 6.2. *Introduction to recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance* adopted in May 2010.
- Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance has developed *draft Guidelines for risk analysis of foodborne antimicrobial resistance*, which will be considered for adoption by CAC in 2011.
- WG is kept updated on OIE, Codex, FAO and WHO work and encourages OIE to continue to engage closely with Codex, FAO, WHO and VICH on this important topic.

Biotechnology

- Priority issues for the *ad hoc* Group on vaccinology will be the use of biotechnology-derived vaccines on animals and OIE will first consider animal health implications and then the food safety implications of the use of this technology.
- Codex has requested that OIE address the issue of possible food safety implications of biotechnology-derived vaccines in food-producing animals.
- APFSWG considered that broad scientific expertise is needed to address this issue and recommended that OIE, FAO and WHO all be involved in this work.

Disease-specific texts

- APFSWG has reviewed a number of texts on bovine tuberculosis, bovine brucellosis, salmonellosis and zoonotic parasites intended for incorporation into the *Terrestrial Code*.
- APFSWG reviewed a draft *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on *Prevention, detection, control of Salmonella in poultry* and recommended inclusion of an additional text on eradicating (or significantly reducing) *Salmonella* Enteritidis from egg-producing flocks. Final text adopted in 2009 and revised 2010.
- OIE collaborates closely with Codex Committee on Food Hygiene on work on salmonellosis and campylobacteriosis, in particular in poultry meat. Also new work on zoonotic parasites.

Focal points for APFS

APFSWG recommendations:

- All OIE Members should appoint a national Focal Point for Animal Production Food Safety (APFS).
- OIE Members should participate more actively in development of OIE standards by commenting on draft standards.
- Each OIE Focal Point should communicate with the Codex Contact Point and other relevant contact points for food safety and SPS domains in their country to coordinate standard setting activities of OIE and CAC at the national level.

Future work

In addition to the areas mentioned above, APFSWG work programme for 2011 includes the following issues:

- Follow-up of literature reviews on non-poultry *Salmonella* and Verotoxigenic *E.Coli* (VTEC).
- Animal production food safety in veterinary education, following recommendations from the OIE conference held in October 2009 and the OIE *ad hoc* Group.
- Follow up the literature review of scientific evidence on relationship between animal welfare and APFS (together with OIE Animal Welfare Working Group).
- Importance of animal production food safety for food security.

Further information

- Further information about the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group, including its membership, *modus operandi* and the reports of all its meetings, can be obtained by going to the OIE website (www.oie.int) and clicking on “Food Safety”.
- The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code* can also be accessed via the OIE website.
- New developments in the food safety area are also reported in the *OIE Bulletin*.
- Codex documents can be accessed via the Codex website (www.codexalimentarius.net) or obtained via your national Codex Contact Point (contact details on the Codex website).