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FAO/WHO to develop scientific advice on pathogens of concern in infant formula

New work will begin to provide Codex and member countries with expert scientific advice on the risk posed by pathogens in infant formula and means of reducing this risk. To initiate this work, a call for data on pathogens of concern in infant formula, their incidence characteristics, the illnesses they cause, etc is being issued. A joint FAO/WHO Workshop on Enterobacter Sakazakii and Other Microorganisms in Powdered Infant Formula will be held in Geneva, 2-5 February 2004. For more details or to submit any relevant data, please visit

<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/meetings/feb2004/en/>

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Antimicrobial resistance from the use of antimicrobials in agriculture

A joint first FAO/OIE/WHO expert workshop on Non-human Antimicrobial usage and antimicrobial resistance was held from 1st to 5 December in WHO Headquarters. The workshop focused on providing a scientific description of the problems related to the use of antimicrobials in food production (e.g. treatment, prophylaxis, growth promotion). The outcome will serve as input to a second meeting (March 2004) involving stakeholders. This meeting will look at specific management options. The Executive Summary of the workshop is posted (and final report will be posted by 19 December) at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/meetings/nov2003/en/>.

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Provision of scientific advice to Codex – electronic forum archive

The joint FAO/WHO Forum on strengthening the provision of scientific advice to Codex and Member countries is now completed. The substantial ideas and recommendations received will be used during the next step of the review process. All comments received, background papers and initial report are posted at http://www.fao.org/es/esn/proscad/index_en.stm. At an FAO/WHO workshop (Geneva, 27-29 January 2004) a group of experts will consider priority issues to be improved and possible options for implementation.

More information about the workshop is available at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/workshop/en/>.

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FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund - First call for applications for 2004

The first call for applications for 2004 will be circulated by end December 2003, in order to allow for speedy processing of requests as soon as the fund becomes operational. The call for applications, which will be distributed to National Codex Contact Points, is available at <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/codex/trustfund/en/index2.html>

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Foods derived from GM animals

A joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on the safety assessment of foods derived from genetically modified animals, including fish, was held at FAO from 17 to 21 November 2003. The Consultation focused on discussing what strategies are appropriate and applicable to the food safety assessment of GM animals. Additionally, it addressed specific issues originating from the production of GM animals as well as environmental and ethical issues. The Executive Summary of the consultation is available at: http://www.who.int/foodsafety/biotech/meetings/ec_nov2003/en

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Manual on the analysis of food samples for the presence of genetically modified organisms

This manual, used in joint EC/WHO training courses provides the theoretical and practical information on methodologies and protocols covering a wide variety of techniques for GMOs detection, identification, characterization and quantification. It also includes key background theoretical information for working in the field of GMO detection.

The manual is available at: http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/Progs/FOS/Assistance/20030728_1

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Food safety activities in Central Europe

For details please refer to the WHO Euro website at: <http://www.euro.who.int/foodsafety>

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New publication available: Present State of Foodborne Disease in OECD Countries

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/foodborne_disease/oecd/en/

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