



# FOOD SAFETY NEWS



Issued by the Food Safety Department  
World Health Organization

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## **Evaluation of the Codex Alimentarius and FAO/WHO Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex**

The Evaluation Report has now been submitted to FAO and WHO for consideration by the governing bodies of both Organizations. A short report on the subject is being submitted by the Director-General of WHO to the Executive Board at its forthcoming session end January 2003. It is hoped that those who have an interest in this matter will have an opportunity to brief their official representatives to the WHO Executive Board accordingly. Evaluation report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac25/alx3\\_03e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac25/alx3_03e.pdf)  
EB document: [http://www.who.int/gb/EB\\_WHA/PDF/EB111/eeb11129.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/EB_WHA/PDF/EB111/eeb11129.pdf)

The FAO/WHO Consultative Group for the Trust Fund recently held its first meeting in Rome and a progress report has been submitted to the Extraordinary Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be held in Geneva on 13-15 February 2003. The two substantive items on the agenda for this Session are consideration of follow up to the Evaluation and the Codex Trust Fund. Trust Fund progress report: [ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac25/alx3\\_04e.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/codex/cac/cac25/alx3_04e.pdf)  
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## **Biotechnology**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the WHO summary report "Modern food biotechnology, human health and development: An evidence based study" is now available for comments. This draft report, accessible through the internet by password only, is open for an interactive discussion, from 6-31 January 2003. Participation is open to all interested parties, who may gain access to the discussion forum by sending an e-mail to: [biotechquest@who.int](mailto:biotechquest@who.int). We encourage you to register and also invite other interested persons to register. We hope for a constructive and exciting discussion.

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## **Risk Assessments of Salmonella in eggs and broiler chickens – A New Joint FAO/WHO series on Microbiological Risk Assessment**

FAO and WHO's new series on microbiological risk assessments is being launched this month with the publication of the risk assessment of Salmonella in eggs and broiler chickens and of its interpretative summary. Both documents are available electronically from the following ftp site or in hard copies on request.

<ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/ES/Upload/Salmonella/Final-MRA/>

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## **Guidelines for use of microbiological risk assessments in standard settings**

The report of the joint FAO/WHO Consultation, held in Kiel on 18 – 22 March 2002, on "Principles and Guidelines for incorporating microbiological risk assessment (MRA) in the development of food safety standards, guidelines and related texts", is now available. Due to the limited experience in this area it has been decided to retain the guidelines in draft format for the moment to provide further opportunity for their review in the coming year and if possible better address some of the more difficult issues. Electronic copies are now available on the Food Safety website: [http://www.who.int/fsf/Documents/Report\\_Kiel.pdf](http://www.who.int/fsf/Documents/Report_Kiel.pdf)

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## **Answers to the 20 most common Questions on Genetically Modified (GM) Foods**

As announced in edition No 3 of *Food Safety News*, WHO has, in view of recent controversy and debate, developed these questions and answers which are now available in Arabic, Russian and Chinese in addition to English, French and Spanish at: <http://www.who.int/fsf>

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## **New WHO Food Safety Department**

The WHO Director-General, Gro Harlem Brundtland, announced the creation of the Food Safety Department (FOS) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002. The creation of the Department will contribute to raising the profile of public health aspects of food safety at the international level. Dr Jørgen Schlundt has been appointed Director of the new Department.

## **General announcement to experts**

From time to time, the Food Safety Department of WHO needs to recruit short-term consultants for projects and activities on food safety related matters (food control, food regulations, biotechnology, training in food safety, chemical and microbiological risk assessment, foodborne disease surveillance, risk communication, advise on specific foodborne hazards, food safety systems, etc.) Recruitment for these activities maybe done through either WHO Headquarters or its regional offices. Interested individuals with theoretical and practical experience and preferably with some international experience are invited to submit their completed Personal History Form (this may be downloaded from the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/employment/apply/en/>)

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## **Terrorist Threats to Food: Guidance for Establishing and Strengthening Prevention and Response Systems**

The Guidelines will be available on line at: <http://www.who.int/fsf>, as from Friday, 17 January 2003