

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**  
**INFORMATION PAPER**

**Update on work of other advisory committees**

**At a previous meeting of the Committee, members received a paper (ACM/556) providing information on the work of various other advisory committees. This paper provided a brief update of the work of the following committees: -**

- Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)
- Committee on the Toxicology of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)
- Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)
- Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

Secretariat  
June 2002

## **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION (SACN)**

The SACN has met twice since the beginning of December 2001 and discussed the following:

### **10 December 2001**

- A systematic approach to the evaluation of evidence that relates food and nutrients to health
- Working Group on Iron
- Maternal and Infant Nutrition
- Minutes of the “Quick Think” on obesity
- COT reports: Caffeine Intake in Pregnancy and Dioxins in Foods
- Update from Department of Health (England)
- Update from the Scottish Executive
- Update from FSA

### **27 March 2002**

- A Framework for Evaluation of Evidence that Relates to Food and Nutrients to Health
- Royal Society Report, ‘Genetically Modified Plants for Food Use and Human Health – An Update’
- Food Advisory Committee, ‘Review of Food Labelling 2001’
- Minutes of Salt Subgroup Meeting
- Working Group on Iron (Oral update)
- FOS/GOS in Infant Formulae
- Government Update on Nutrition Related Activities
- Food Standards Agency Low Income Diet and Nutrition Survey

Papers for information:

- The Presence of Gluten in Baby Foods before 6 Months
- The Optimal Duration of Exclusive Breastfeeding: A Systematic Review WHO 2002

Items to be discussed at the next SACN meeting:

### **20 June 2002**

- A framework for Evaluation of Evidence that Relates Food and Nutrients to Health
- Advice to FSA: on the benefits of oily fish and fish oil consumption from SACN
- Salt Subgroup Update & Minutes of meeting 18/04/2002
- Working Group on Iron Update & Minutes of meeting 08/03/2002
- ACNFP opinion on DHA Gold™
- The Role of Dietary Lipids in the Development of Cardiovascular Disease. FSA Nutrition Research Programme Workshops
- Government Update on Nutrition Related Activities

Copies of the Agendas and cover papers for these meetings can be found on the website at: [www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings.htm](http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings.htm)

## **COMMITTEE ON THE TOXICOLOGY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COT)**

The COT has held three meetings since December 2001 and has considered a range of issues.

### **4 December 2001**

Issues discussed included:

- IGHRC paper on Uncertainty Factors
- Use of PAVA (Nonivamide) as an incapacitant spray – First consideration of issue
- RCEP study of long term effects of chemicals
- PCBs in breast milk

### **27 February 2002**

Issues discussed included:

- Draft Report of the Working Group on Phytoestrogens
- Use of PAVA (Nonivamide) as an incapacitant spray – consideration of first draft statement
- Review of toxicology literature on topical insect repellent diethyl-m-toluamide (DEET)
- PIP hydrogel – pre-filled breast implants

Future discussion items for the Committee:

- Chymosin enzyme preparation derived from GM *Aspergillus niger* var. *awamori*
- COT/COC/COM Annual Report 2001

### **23 April 2002**

Issues discussed included:

- Use of PAVA (Nonivamide) as an incapacitant spray – consideration of final draft statement
- Review of toxicology literature on the topical insect repellent diethyl-m-toluamide (DEET) – consideration of neurotoxicity data
- Draft report of the Working Group on the Risk Assessment of Pesticides and Similar Substances (WiGRAMP)
- Balance of expertise within the Committee
- Joint statement on the COT/COC/COM Symposium 8 October 2001

The next meeting of the COT will take place on Tuesday 18 June in Aviation House.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES (ACNFP)

### 13 March 2002

Items discussed included:

- **Taste Trials/Human Studies** – The Committee gave further consideration to two sets of guidelines, one for Taste Trials and the other for Human Studies, clarifying the situations where such studies might be appropriate as part of the safety assessment of a novel food
- **DHA Gold** – Following discussions at its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting (14 March 2001), the Committee was asked to comment on the additional information supplied by the Company and the UK Draft initial opinion on DHA Gold
- **Rapeseed Oil** – The Committee was asked to comment on the initial opinion from the French Competent Authority on rapeseed oil rich in unsaponifiable material
- **Maize–Germ Oil** – The Committee was asked to comment on the initial opinion from the French Competent Authority on maize-germ oil in unsaponifiable material

### 16 May 2002

Items discussed included:

- **DHA Gold** – Members were asked to comment on the final draft opinion of the UK Competent Authority for DHA Gold
- **Cottonseed** – Members were asked to comment on two substantial Equivalence opinions for Cottonseed
- **Application under Directive 90/220/EEC for importation of Monsanto GM Maize line NK602x MON810** – Members were asked to consider the human health aspects of this line
- **Review of Scientific Committees** – Members were asked to comment on the FSA's report on the Review of Scientific Committees, and to discuss how the recommendations will effect the way it functions
- **SCF Opinion on Maize line GA21** – Members were asked to comment on the opinion of the Scientific Committee for Food on the safety assessment of GM Maize line GA21

Oral Updates and papers for information:

- Rapeseed oil high in unsaponifiable matter
- Maize germ high in unsaponifiable matter
- Multibene Phytosterol application
- ADM Phytosterol application
- ACNFP guidelines on Taste Trials and Human Studies

Copies of the Agendas and cover papers for these meetings can be found on the website at: [www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/novelfood/meetings.htm](http://www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/novelfood/meetings.htm)

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS (ACAF)

1 May 2002

Items discussed included:

- **On-farm feeding practice** – The Committee discussed its visits the previous day to three local farms (Surrey). It was agreed that these visits had been very useful in learning at first hand more about on-farm feeding practices at a range of premises. Members went on to consider the current legislative requirements for on-farm mixers and the role of the farmer in administering medicines and zootechnical additives via animal feed. The role of the Animal Medicines Inspectorate of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain in enforcing legislation on the use of veterinary medicines and zootechnical additives in feed was also discussed. The review will continue at subsequent ACAF meetings.
- **Feed Additive Residues** – The Committee considered the roles and responsibilities of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Food Standards Agency in monitoring and controlling the levels of feed additive residues in meat and other animal products. The Committee noted that husbandry systems, including feeding practices, would have an impact on residue levels. It was agreed that there should be closer liaison between ACAF and the Veterinary Residues Committee to ensure the completeness of advice to Government in this area.
- **Proposed EC Regulation on Feed Additives** - ACAF considered the provisions of a proposed EC Regulation on Feed Additives. Discussion focused particularly on the Commission's proposal to phase out the four remaining antibiotic growth promoters (AGPs) allowed in the EU. The scientific basis for this proposal was questioned as the Committee was aware of no link between the four AGPs and any human or veterinary medicines currently in use. The Committee was also concerned that banning the use of the AGPs as feed additives could result in more antibiotics being given to animals under prescription. It was agreed that the Committee would consider this aspect of the proposed Feed Additives Regulation in more detail at its next meeting.
- **Other items** – The Committee discussed a draft Codex Code of Practice on Animal Feeding. It was informed of an increase in the prevalence of strains of *Salmonella newport* in the USA as well as receiving its regular update on EC developments.