

ACMSF Forward Work Plan 2012/13

Last reviewed January 2012

This work plan shows the main areas of ACMSF's work over the next 12 to 18 months. It should be noted that the Committee must maintain the flexibility to consider urgent issues that arise unpredicted and discussions scheduled in the work programme may therefore be deferred.

ACMSF Terms of reference

To assess the risk to humans of microorganisms which are used, or occur, in or on food, and to advise the Food Standards Agency on any matters relating to the microbiological safety of food.

Topics for consideration on 19 January 2012

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
1	Horizon scanning	The Committee will consider changing food preparation techniques in the hospitality sector that may impact on microbiological food safety.
2	ACMSF risk assessment	The Committee will consider potential approaches to ACMSF risk assessments.

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
3	Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) report on the quality, safety and use of digestate in UK agriculture	ACMSF received a presentation on WRAP's risk assessment on the quality, safety and use of digestate in UK agriculture in September 2011. A subgroup of Members have provided ACMSF's draft response to the risk assessment for consideration.
4	EFIG	The Committee will receive an update on the work of EFIG ¹ .
5	STEC and seeds/sprouted seeds	The Committee will be updated on current activities in relation to the microbiological safety of sprouted seeds, following the Shiga-toxin producing <i>Escherichia coli</i> (STEC) outbreaks in France and Germany. The Committee will also be invited to comment on EFSA's scientific opinion on seeds/sprouted seeds.
6	ACMSF work plan	The Committee will be invited to discuss the Committee's work plan and a process for approving/updating it.
7	Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees	The Secretariat will update Members on changes to the 2011 revised Code of Practice.

¹ Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group

Topics for consideration on 29 May 2012

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
1	Horizon scanning	New/emerging horizon scanning topics will be discussed.
2	Use of source segregated composts and anaerobic digestates in UK agriculture. Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) reports.	ACMSF provided comment on WRAP's report on the use of source segregated composts in agriculture at its September 2010 meeting. A revised version of the report will be provided for ACMSF approval.
3	Internalisation of pathogens by plant hosts	The Committees' views have previously been sought on food safety advice in relation to fresh produce. Research on the internalisation of foodborne pathogens in plant hosts and any implications for advice on their safe preparation will be considered by the Committee.
4	Toxoplasma in the food chain	The <i>Ad Hoc</i> Group on Vulnerable Groups have drafted their risk profile on toxoplasma in the food chain. The Committee approved the draft for consultation. An amended final report addressing any consultation responses will be presented to the Committee for endorsement.

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
5	Food safety behaviour in the home	The findings from research into food safety behaviours in the home will be presented.
6	Application of Molecular Epidemiology to Investigations of Outbreaks	The outcomes of the workshop on the Application of Molecular Epidemiology to Investigations of Outbreaks will be provided to the Committee.
7	Newly Emerging Pathogens	The Newly Emerging Pathogens subgroup will consider any human health risks through the foodchain from Bovine Neonatal Pancytopenia (BNP) and report back to the Committee.
8	EFIG	The Committee will receive an update on the work of EFIG.

Topics for consideration on 27 September 2012

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
1	Burden of foodborne disease.	The results of research to estimate the burden of foodborne disease will be presented to the Committee

Topics for consideration in January 2013

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
1	Foodborne Viral Infections	<i>The Ad Hoc</i> Group on Foodborne Viral Infections are currently gathering evidence for their report. The subgroup is expected to present its draft report to the Committee by January 2013.

Ongoing Topics

	DISCUSSION ITEMS	ACTIVITY
1	Microbiological Surveillance of food	The Surveillance Working Group will consider the protocols for forthcoming surveys on <i>Campylobacter</i> in chicken and <i>Listeria</i> in cooked meat by December 2012.
2	Newly Emerging Pathogens	The Working Group on Newly Emerging Pathogens will continue to keep a watching brief on developments concerning the risks to human health and CTX-M extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) producing <i>E.coli</i> in the food chain.
3	Microbiological Incidents and outbreaks	The views of the Committee will be sought where necessary and updates provided on outbreaks of significance.