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Abstract: Global Regulatory Standards & Trade Facilitation - Industry Initiatives

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Plenary 3 - Global Regulations & Feed Trade Facilitation

The International Feed Industry Federation represents the global feed industry as an essential participant in the food chain that provides sustainable, safe, nutritious and affordable food for a growing world population. Overall, IFIF members represent over 80% of the compound animal feed production worldwide.

One key part of IFIF's mission is to promote a balanced regulatory framework to support a fair global playing field to facilitate market access and support the competitiveness of the feed and livestock industries. IFIF's work aims to support worldwide trade and ensure that future demands for feed and food can be met efficiently. Key initiatives include:

- IFIF FAO Feed Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry
- International Feed Regulators Meetings (IFRM)
- IFIF Regulatory Convergence Efforts
- CODEX work relevant to animal feeding
- OIE collaboration

IFIF FAO Feed Manual of Good Practices for the Feed Industry

In order to support the spreading of good manufacturing practice and higher feed safety standards around the globe IFIF published this manual together with the FAO. The publication of the Feed Manual is meant to increase safety and feed quality at the production level both for industrial production and on farm mixing with a particular focus on the developing world.

This manual provides comprehensive information and practical guidelines to assist producers and all stakeholders along the production and distribution chain to comply with the regulatory framework, which have or will come into force in response to the Codex Alimentarius Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding.

The application of this Code is an important step for the expansion of international trade in feed products as well as in products of animal origin. Both food exporting and importing countries can benefit from a more level playing field to support the trade of safe food products. This publication is intended to guide managers of feedmills and the feed industry as a whole.

International Feed Regulators Meetings (IFRM)

IFIF has a strong collaborative relationship with the FAO dating back many years, and IFIF and the FAO Animal Production and Health Division organize the annual International Feed Regulatory Meeting (IFRM).

The IFRM continues as a successful joint effort to bring together government officers, intergovernmental organizations, academia and feed and food companies and organizations from around the world to discuss key issues of relevance, including mutual recognition and global feed safety standards.

Codex Alimentarius

Feed safety is relevant to Codex Alimentarius work as it impacts on the safety of food. IFIF is a Codex Alimentarius recognized NGO and was actively involved in the development of the Codex Code of Practice of Good Animal Feeding, as well as a member of the ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (TF AF).

Codex work on animal feed continues in individual Committees (within their mandate) and the participation of IFIF feed experts in Codex work contributes to keep feed safety on Codex agenda. Currently IFIF is a member of the CCRVDF eWG on the carry-over of unintentional residues of veterinary drugs in feed.

IFIF Regulatory Convergence Efforts

In July 2013 IFIF launched the "Comparison of Regulatory Management of Authorized Ingredients, Approval Processes, and Risk-Assessment Procedures for Feed Ingredients" report that covers Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, South Africa, and United States. This study was drafted based on expert input and support by government feed regulators and feed and feed ingredients associations in the 7 regions covered.

In 2014 IFIF launched the global Convergence Project with the overall long-term objective to enable the convergence of the technical requirements for the safety assessment of feed ingredients between jurisdictions globally. In the interest of assuring global acceptance of novel ingredients and to ensure the uninterrupted supply of safe food, IFIF has an interest in harmonizing or converging the authorization process and risk assessment of novel feed ingredients across regulatory jurisdictions.

IFIF collaboration with the OIE

In October 2012, IFIF signed a Cooperation Agreement with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), based in Paris, France. This agreement aims to facilitate and strengthen cooperation between the two organisations, in particular with the regards to the prevention and management of infectious diseases, including zoonotic disease, as well as the support for the development, updating and implementation of OIE standards and guidelines.

The cooperation further aims to strengthen links between feed safety and food safety and IFIF works with the OIE to contribute to improved animal health and productivity, which in the end leads to a positive contribution to public health.