

Abstract for the presentation of Eva Reinhard GFFC

The importance of feed safety was highlighted by the introduction of the food chain approach, which recognizes that responsibility for the supply of safe, healthy, and nutritious food is shared along the entire food chain. Developments such as improved feed production systems for food-producing animals, better sampling and analytical techniques and, importantly, the risk analysis framework provided by Codex Alimentarius (C.A.), facilitates the implementation of risk-based measures to prevent and to control hazards in the field of animal feeding. However, food safety hazards and trade problems continued to arise as a result of insufficient awareness and knowledge of potential risks related to the production and handling of feed, countries establishing different national tolerances for residues, and sometimes from the lack of international standards.

Therefore, the C.A. Commission expended efforts to improve feed safety by developing standards and guidelines to protect the health of consumers and to ensure fair trade practices in the food industry. The first Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP54-2004) was published in 2004. In 2013 two new standards were adopted in the 36th session of the CAC committee in Rome 2013:

- CAC/GL 80-2013 Guidelines on the Application of Risk Assessment for Feed, and
- CAC/GL 81-2013 Guidance for governments on prioritizing hazards in feed.

C.A. standards aim to help governments and stakeholders to practice Risk Analysis in an effective and internationally harmonized way. In an attempt to evaluate whether the new standards helped to establish and improve national regulations and capacities, Switzerland, together with FAO/WHO and C.A., conducted an online survey. Member Nations and Associate Members of C.A., FAO and WHO answered to questions regarding the implementation of the new standards including the underlying reasons for success stories, eventual problems or still remaining gaps. Also the need for further instruments and information exchange fora was addressed.

The survey received great interest within governments and industry. Preliminary results indicate that the activities in the context of the C.A. had a positive effect on animal feed safety. Approximately half of the respondents used the two standards as bases for the establishment of their own legal texts or guidelines. Even when not directly implemented in texts, these two standards were perceived helpful in augmenting animal feed safety. The majority of the participants have identified the specific risks that apply for their country or region. In the discussion on possibilities to enhance capacity building for the feed safety, the main areas of interests are contaminants, analytical methods, laboratory equipment, risks associated with novel feeds like insects or biofuel by-products, and anti-nutritional factors. Further results will be presented in the respective presentation.

The information received by the survey will be of great importance to develop the “Capacity building for Feed Safety” platform that was created subsequent to the TFAF by the FAO, the C.A., several governments and representatives of stakeholder groups.

The presentation will give the participants the possibility to discuss the improvement of animal feed safety with concrete elements from governments and stakeholders.