

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – May 2014 meeting

This paper provides Members with an update on the work of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) and other items of general interest.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (**ACAF**)

<http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACAF met on 9 May 2014. Discussion items on the agenda included:

- Antimicrobial resistance – work of National Office of Animal Health;
- Horse Feed issues;
- New Plant Breeding Techniques;
- Food and Veterinary Office (FVO): Audit to Great Britain January 2014;
- Implementation of Earned Recognition in the Feed Sector;
- EU developments;
- Update on the work of other Advisory Committees; and
- Meeting summary of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate Antibiotic Resistance Engagement Forums.

ACAF's next meeting is scheduled for the 22 October 2014 in Aviation House, London.

Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (**ACMSF**)

<http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/>

ACMSF will meet on 26 June. It is expected that the following items will be on the agenda:

- The response to the public consultation on the ACMSF's update on viruses in the food chain
- Domestic kitchen practices. A presentation by the FSA of the findings of recent research.
- A presentation on the Infectious Intestinal Disease 2 attribution study

Members will also receive an update on the work of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group and the ACMSF Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (**ACNFP**)

<http://www.acnfp.gov.uk/>

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to take place on 26 June.

1. The last meeting was held on 16 April. Items discussed included:
2. A discussion on the following novel food applications:
 - i. Sporopollenin shells
 - ii. D-Ribose
 - iii. Cycloastragenol
 - iv. Chia Seeds
3. The Committee considered possible research areas following a workshop which took place in March (2014) on GM omics research.
4. The Committee was provided with information on the Food Standards Agency's new security markings.

General Advisory Committee on Science (**GACS**)

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

The last GACS meeting was held on 19 March 2014. It was preceded by the GACS annual spring dinner on 18 March. Draft minutes of the open meeting will be available soon. Meeting papers are available at <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>
Agenda items included:

- Report on Science in the FSA
- Science in the SACs - update on SAC activities
- FSA evidence portfolio
- Report and recommendations from Working Group on Data Exploitation
- Report and recommendations from Working Group on Use of Science in Emergencies
- Report from new joint GACS/SSRC Working Group on Use of Evidence
- Presentation from UK Champion for Global Food Security, Professor Tim Benton
- GACS work plan (information item) - It was agreed a new working group would be set up to advise on development of the FSA's next science and evidence strategy.
- FSA Strategy workshop (closed business session) - Members of GACS and of SSRC held a closed session on the FSA strategy led by FSA Chief Executive Catherine Brown.

The GACS Chair will present his annual report to the FSA Board on 23 July 2014. The autumn GACS meeting is scheduled for 29 October 2014.

Secretariat
May 2014