



FOOD SAFETY NEWS



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FOSCOLLAB: New tool for data and information exchange

Creating links between and improving access to the various sources of food safety data can help Member States to manage food safety nationally. With this end in mind, a user-friendly, interactive on-line tool has been designed to integrate relevant data and information. The new tool, named FOSCOLLAB, should improve data-sharing to support risk assessment and decision-making in food safety. A detailed plan for the tool has been developed following consultation with Member States and WHO is now developing a prototype and securing resources for implementation. More information is available at: [FOSCOLLAB web page](#)

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Launch of a new web-interface to collect GEMS/Food data

The GEMS/Food programme is collecting data to serve the risk assessment done in particular by the JECFA and the JMPR. A particularly important component of the GEMS/Food is to collect the concentration data for chemical contaminants in food through authorized national and regional authorities. This function is now simplified by the launch of a new web-interface allowing a direct upload of occurrence data on the WHO web site at: [GEMS/Food data submissions](#)

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FERG Strategic planning meeting and kick-off event of the pilot country studies

FERG (Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group) Core Group Members and FERG Task Force Chairs met from 7 to 10 November 2011 in Durres, Albania for the FERG strategic planning meeting where a revised technical scope, objectives and timelines were agreed upon, setting December 2013 as the new deadline for global burden of foodborne disease estimates. A kick-off event of the FERG pilot country also took place, enabling the pilot countries (Albania, Japan, Thailand and Uganda) to evaluate tools developed by FERG and WHO as well as laying out individual roadmaps for study completion.

More information is available at: [FERG Albania meeting](#)

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Health Risks at the Human-Animal-Ecosystems interface

The Government of Mexico, together with, FAO, OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and WHO, convened a *High level technical meeting to address health risks at the human-animal-ecosystems interfaces* in Mexico City from 15-17 Nov. 2011. Over 100 representatives from the human and animal health, agriculture and environmental sectors, international experts, and donor organizations, representing over 30 countries, identified key elements (including political will, trust and financial support), high priority technical actions, and practical next steps for moving forward on intersectoral collaboration, coordination and communication. The meeting report is available at:

www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/HLTM_human_animal_ecosystems_nov_2011.pdf

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Antimicrobial resistance at the 30th World Veterinary Congress

The World Veterinary Association (WVA) in collaboration with FAO, OIE and WHO organized a one-day summit on 11 Oct 2011 on the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the context of the 30th World Veterinary Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa. The summit had direct relevance to WHO policies and activities in the field of AMR and offered an opportunity for FAO, OIE and WHO to strengthen their collaboration in awareness building on AMR in different sectors, in line with the recommendation made in the 2011 FAO-OIE-WHO Tripartite Annual Executive and Coordination Meeting. Presentations made at the Summit are available at <http://www.worldvet.org/node/8389>

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Codex Trust Fund - 2012 support levels for eligible countries

Applications for support from the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) in 2012 were received from 73 eligible countries. In response to recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the CTF, a new country sub-grouping was created to give two years additional support to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. These countries will "match" the support from the CTF by supporting participants using national or other sources of funding. Resources available to the CTF will allow over 200 participants to be supported in 2012 to attend Codex meetings, task forces and working groups. The CTF continues to provide increased levels of support to FAO/WHO training courses aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of participation in Codex. More information is available at: [Codex Trust Fund](#)

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Call for experts

[Campylobacteriosis – Deadline 22 March 2012](#)

New publications available on the web

- [The work of WHO in empowering consumers - Research-Europe](#)
- [Global Foodborne Infections Network \(GFN\) Strategic Plan 2011-2015](#)
- [GFN Stakeholder Meeting 2010](#)
- [Enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* in Raw Beef and Beef Products: Approaches for the Provision of Scientific Advice: Meeting Report, MRA Series 18](#)