

Conclusions and Recommendations of the
OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Feed Safety
(Tokyo, Japan, 12-15 July 2010)

Considering that:

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-APHCA) have been working in the field of feed safety in the Region by jointly organizing the Workshop on Food and Feed Safety in 2004 and the Workshop on Food Safety (Animal Origin) in 2007.
2. The OIE and FAO-APHCA recognise that the supply of safe feed is an essential factor for animal health, which in turn is important for food safety and human health.
3. The Codex Alimentarius Commission has developed a number of important standards on feed in relation to classification, contaminants, residue limits and codes of practice in a number of areas, including the reduction of dioxin and dioxin-like PCB contamination in foods and feed, reduction of aflatoxins in raw material and supplemental feeding stuffs for milk-producing animals and the seminal Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, which was adopted in 2004
4. The FAO initiatives on feed and food safety focused on providing the scientific basis for Codex texts, developing guidelines and documents on animal feeding and food safety, providing scientific reviews and expert consultations, undertaking communication and information exchange and implementing capacity building initiatives.
5. The OIE developed a chapter in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code on feed safety, “Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed”, in 2009, to complement the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. This has provided a better foundation for countries to implement feed safety regulations. Similarly, the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code 2010 contains a chapter entitled “Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds”.
6. The Food and Agriculture Materials Inspection Center (FAMIC) of Japan was designated as the first OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis in 2009 to improve technical competency in this field. This coincided with the designation of a new OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety, which was the first in the Region.
7. With these developments as background, the OIE/FAO-APHCA Regional Workshop on Feed Safety “Feed borne Disease Prevention” was organized from 12 to 15 July 2010 to encourage regional members to move forward towards better feed safety, which is essential for both animal health and human health.
8. The main objectives of the Workshop were to;

- a. identify feed safety issues in the Region;
 - b. reinforce an understanding/appreciation that feed safety is an essential prerequisite for both animal health and food safety;
 - c. raise awareness of the relevant international standards and standard-setting procedures;
 - d. inform participants about the role and function of the relevant OIE Collaborating Centres in the Region
 - e. discuss and document the key issues that may impede the introduction of feed safety measures.
9. The Workshop discussions highlighted the different status of countries in terms of regulatory framework, analytical capability and information gathering on feed safety.
10. In order to improve animal health, and in turn to contribute to food safety for products of animal origin, the Workshop identified five important feed safety issues:
- a. establishing a functional regulatory framework on feed safety with a view to improve animal health as well as food safety;
 - b. improving the type and standard of analytical methods to include accurate inexpensive screening methods for contaminants
 - c. improving access to hazard information through information-sharing mechanisms.
 - d. implementing a risk-based preventative approach to mitigating risks associated with feed safety, including promoting the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54 – 2004) and relevant chapters of the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes
 - e. raising awareness amongst farmers, feed producers, food processors and government authorities on feed and food safety and their linkages.

The Workshop recommends that:

1. Countries in the region with an existing regulatory framework should review and improve their respective frameworks and that countries with no regulatory framework should commence establishing one. Such regulatory frameworks should be based on the existing international standards of the OIE and Codex, and OIE Guidelines on veterinary legislation as well.
2. National governments should establish suitable mechanisms for food safety agencies, agriculture departments, veterinary services and other authorities as appropriate to work together in determining the best policies and actions with regard to ensuring the safety of terrestrial and aquatic animal feed.
3. In conjunction with the enhancement or introduction of regulatory frameworks, each country should gain support from the local feed production industry and other groups associated with the food chain by informing them of the importance of feed safety and emphasizing the responsibilities of each key player.

4. In order to have their concerns on feed safety accommodated, countries in the Region must become more actively involved in the international standard-setting procedures of the OIE and Codex
5. A regional information exchange should be formed by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis to collect and distribute the results of feed safety monitoring programmes conducted in the region to keep each country aware of the important hazards that may threaten feed safety.
6. Practical methods of surveying the food chains, identifying existing and emerging hazards and critical control points and prioritizing feed safety hazards should be developed by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety in collaboration with the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis, with cooperation between the OIE and the FAO, and that this information be made available to all countries in the Region.
7. A central registry of hazard profiles associated with feed safety should be developed to guide and facilitate the risk profiling process by the OIE Collaborating Centres for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis and for Food Safety with cooperation between the OIE and FAO.
8. New analytical methods that are practical and applicable in the Region for prioritized hazards should be developed and validated as fit for purpose by the OIE Collaborating Centres for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis and for Food Safety.
9. The OIE and FAO should assist the countries in developing or reviewing their regulatory framework. An OIE legislation mission following a PVS Evaluation should be of help in meeting such needs. The OIE and FAO should also advise on suitable coordination mechanisms amongst and between different offices dealing with feed safety.
10. The FAO and OIE should develop and advise countries on practical screening methods for the detection of contaminants and residues in animal feed and feed ingredients.
11. The OIE Collaborating Centres for Animal Feed Safety and Analysis and for Food Safety should provide technical support to regional members through the design and conduct of training needs analysis and capacity building programs, conduct of research and dissemination of research results, and promotion of laboratory networking among testing facilities and research laboratories on feed safety in the region.
12. The FAO should strengthen its capacity building initiatives in the Region, especially on assistance to countries in
 - a) reviewing and updating their legislation & procedures in relation to feed safety,
 - b) harmonizing feed standards with Codex standards,
 - c) developing Food Safety Emergency Response Plans to include animal feeds,
 - d) developing and strengthening their test facilities,
 - e) studies & applied research,

f) supporting the implementation of systems in their feed industries including GAPs at farm level and on-farm production and use of feed and feed ingredients.

13. FAO should continue to encourage countries to support the implementation of safety and quality management and assurance in feed safety, guide countries in raising awareness among different feed safety stakeholders on feed and food safety and promote the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding.

14. The OIE and FAO-APHCA should consider holding a follow-up workshop on feed safety within two to three years.