Thursday, 21 January 2021

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FOURTH MEETING HELD ON 25th November 2020

ACNFP Secretariat
6th Floor
Clive House
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee.

Members are required to declare any personal interest in matters under discussion. Where Members have a particularly close association with any item, the Chairman will limit their involvement in the discussion. In cases where an item is to be discussed in their absence, a Member may make a statement before leaving.

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES, HELD ON 25th NOVEMBER 2020, ONLINE USING MICROSOFT TEAMS

ATTENDANCE

Committee	Dr Camilla Alexander-White	**Chair**
	Dr Anton Alldrick	**Member**
	Dr David Mela	**Member**
	Dr Hamid Ghoddusi	**Member**
	Dr Lesley Stanley	**Member**
	Dr Mark Berry	**Member**
	Dr Maureen Wakefield	**Member**
	Dr Rohini Manuel	**Member**
	Mrs Rebecca McKenzie	**Member**
	Ms Nichola Lund	**Member**
	Professor Clare Mills	**Member**
	Professor Huw Jones	**Member**
	Professor Paul Fraser	**Member**
	Professor Susan-Fairweather-Tait	**Member**
	Professor Wendy Harwood	**Member**
Apologies	Professor Susan Duthie	**Member**
	Professor Harry McArdle	**Member**
Assessor	Dr Sabrina Roberts	**Senior GM Foods Policy Advisor**
Observers (FSA)	Dr Amie Adkin	**Head of Risk Assessment**
	Dr Elspeth Ransom	**Senior Strategic Project Officer**
	Ms Natalie Coles	**Strategic Project Officer**
	Dr Joseph Shavila	**Head of Exposure Assessment team**
	Mr Philipp Seising	**Head of Ireland/NI Protocol Project**
	Dr Chun-Han Chan	**Science & Evidence Team Leader**
	Mr Paul Tossell	**Novel Foods, GM and Feed Additives**
	Mr Andrew Dodd	**Novel Foods Policy Officer**
	Ms Gemma Jones	**Novel Food & Feed Policy Advisor**
	Mr Hoa Chang	**GM Policy Advisor**
	Mrs Claire Nicholson	**Science Council**
	Ms Georgina Finch	**Food Standards Scotland**
	Ms Siobhan Watt	**Food Standards Scotland**

Ms Krystle Boss	**Food Standards Scotland**
Ms Svetlozara Chobanova	**Food Standards Scotland**
Mr Adam McDowell	**Policy Advisor FSA Wales**
Ms Kerry Gribbin	**Senior Policy Advisor NI**

Secretariat	Mrs Frances Hill	**Technical Secretary**
	Mrs Erin Oliver	**Senior Secretariat**
	Mr Richard Uchotski	**Secretariat**
	Dr Francisco Matilla-Garcia	**Secretariat**
	Dr Rachael J Oakenfull	**Secretariat**
	Ms Beth Rendle	**Secretariat Administrative Hub**

1. Apologies and announcements

Apologies have been received by Professor Susan Duthie and Professor Harry McArdle.

2. Meeting Minutes for 143rd Meeting ACNFP/143/MINS

The Committee had agreed the minutes via correspondence of the 143rd meeting of the ACNFP held on 10th September 2020 and these were published on 19th October 2020.

3. Matters Arising from the last meeting. ACNFP/144/MA

3.1 The Committee reviewed the COT/FSA position on the data limitations and information surrounding CBD. The Committee commended the COT on the position statement, stating overall that the paper is a useful document for helping the committee to understand the current knowledge on the toxicity of CBD.

3.2 The Committee was asked to compare two CBD dossiers as a training exercise. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for their comments which have been collated and will be used to assist in future appraisals of CBD applications.

3.3 The Committee were asked to consider a request for advice to CBD applicants regarding the specifications in the event of a joint application. Members generally considered that separate applications should be submitted for each product, but they could share study data and evidence between them if the use of such data can be scientifically justified as part of their risk assessment. Members highlighted that in this situation, bridging studies are likely to be necessary for each application. The Secretariat thanked the Committee for their comments which is being disseminated as required. There has been a fair amount of interest in the minutes from the CBD industry.

3.4 The Committee discussed the amended Code of Practice. Points made about the Statement of Indemnity were raised with the SACS coordination and FSA legal team, the outcome of which was emailed to members.

4. Risk Profile on Edible Insects ACNFP/143/01

In order to inform the risk management of future edible insect novel food applications, a risk profile on this type of novel food was commissioned by the Secretariat with agreement from Policy colleagues to identify available scientific safety evidence from 2015 to 2019, in line with the Risk Profile document published by EFSA in 2015. As part of the final assurance process, the ACNFP was asked to review and provide comments on the suitability and coverage of the document and any changes required prior to publication of the report.

The Committee commended the report, describing it as a useful document that builds on the EFSA Report from 2015, highlighting new literature and identifying gaps in the knowledge, especially in the remits of microbiology, toxicology and allergy. The Committee highlighted areas of concern that may be relevant for safety, provided commentary and made suggestions for improvements. The improvements were noted by the Secretariat and will be used to improving the report.

Action: To incorporate the knowledge shared by the ANCFP into the report on edible insects.

5. Genome Editing Scoping Review – the Technologies ACNFP/144/02

A horizon scanning scoping literature review was commissioned by the Secretariat with the agreement of Policy colleagues to examine the key genome editing technologies being developed for potential use in food and feed applications. Whilst we are not aware of any applications being submitted to us in the short term, we are preparing for that possibility. It aimed to provide an up-to-date analysis of genome editing technology to provide knowledge on which to develop strategies for future risk assessment and risk management. Members considered the scoping review and provided comments.

The Committee commended the document and remarked on its robust methodology and insight. It covered the range of genome editing technologies, the key areas of the research were identified and the increasing complexity of different types of gene editing technology was discussed along with their implications for risk assessment. The Committee highlighted potential areas that should be considered when assessing the safety of genome edited products, provided commentary and made suggestions for improvements to the document. The improvements were noted by the Secretariat and will be used to improve the report.

Action: These comments have been collated and will be used to assist editing of the genome report.

6. Genome Editing Scoping Review – GE and GM ACNFP/143/03

Following a court ruling by the European Court of Justice (Judgment in Case C-528/16) in July 2018, the current EU GMO directive, and the existing EFSA GMO risk analysis process, groups genome editing (GE) and genetic modification (GM) under the same GMO directive. Discussion continues as new GE technologies emerge as to whether, based on the science, such grouping remains appropriate.

A literature review was commissioned to identify available scientific literature detailing the hazards posed by existing GM and emergent GE techniques, and to compare the hazards posed by genome editing technologies to those posed by both conventional breeding and genetic modification techniques.

The Committee highlighted areas of safety concerns for GM and GE, provided commentary and made suggestions for improvements to the document. The improvements were noted by the Secretariat and will be used for improving the report.

Action: These comments have been collated and will be used to assist editing of the genome report.

7. Regulated Products Risk Assessment Template ACNFP/144/04

Members acknowledged that the template provided was necessarily generic as it will be used by several committees and for a variety of topics. However, they had some specific points that should be included in addition:

1. A very clear title and brief description on what is being assessed.
2. The beginning of the opinion should clearly state:
    - The legislation under which the regulated product is being authorised.
    - The intended form and use of the product, which could take the format of a pro-forma table, telling us what it is, how will it get used and a brief characterisation.
3. There should be a section that describes clearly how to cite the opinion

Members suggested having one sole place to publish all scientific opinions, a bit like EFSA does with their Journal, to facilitate finding the documents and accessing them later. Members understand that for the time being, the webpages of each SAC/JEG are the best place to publish those.

Action: To consider suggestions made and amend template as necessary.

8. Items for Information

8.1 Update on Exposure Assessment Protocols — Oral

The Committee was provided with a brief introduction to the data used for exposure assessment at the FSA.

8.2 Update on the NI Protocol — Oral

The Committee was provided with an update on the NI protocols and the agreements regarding NI.

8.3 Novel Food Policy Update — Written

The Committee was provided with a written update on the issues under consideration in the EU on novel foods.

8.4 GM Policy Update — Written

The Committee was provided with a written update on the issues under consideration in the EU of GM issues.

8.5 SACS Update — Written

The Committee was provided with a written update on the happening of the different SACs.

9. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for 27th January 2021. The meeting will be online due to concerns surrounding Covid-19.