

4. Assessment against the *Criteria for the establishment of work priorities*

Consumer protection from the point of view of health, food safety, ensuring fair practices in the food trade and taking into account the identified needs of developing countries:

The project would provide additional guidance for countries to use in assessing the food safety of the low-level presence of unauthorized recombinant-DNA foods, thus evaluating the underlying safety of the food and appropriate protection of consumers. The project could particularly assist countries that have limited experience with food safety risk assessments.

Diversification of national legislations and apparent resultant or potential impediments to international trade:

The project would provide internationally recognized scientific guidance and information and data exchange mechanisms that countries may use to establish individual standards or guidance. Such internationally agreed guidance can help ensure consistent approaches for the food safety assessment for such foods.

Scope of work and establishment of priorities between the various sections of the work:

The scope of the work relates to work previously undertaken by the Task Force on a high priority basis.

Work already undertaken by other organizations in this field:

The project does not duplicate work undertaken by other international organizations, and is an extension of work developed in the first Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology.

5. Relevance to Codex Strategic Objectives

This proposal is consistent with the following strategic goals presented in the Codex Draft Strategic Plan 2008-2013:

- Promoting Sound Regulatory Frameworks; and
- Promoting Widest and Consistent Application of Scientific Principles and Risk Analysis;

6. Information on the relation between the proposal and other existing Codex documents

The work product would be an Annex that complements and extends the Codex *Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Food Derived from Recombinant-DNA Plants* (CAC/GL 45-2003).

7. Identification of any requirement for and availability of expert scientific advice

None identified.

8. Identification of any need for technical input to the standard from external bodies that this can be planned for

None identified.

9. The proposed timeline for completion of the new work, including start date, the proposed date for adoption at Step 5 and the proposed date for adoption by the Commission; the timeframe for developing a standard should not normally exceed 5 years

It is expected that the work can and should be completed within the remaining timeframe for the Task Force.

If the proposal is approved as new work by the 30th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (July 2007) a proposed draft Annex would be circulated for comments at Step 3 and be considered by the Task Force at its next Session (2007) at Step 4.