



Nutrition and Food Safety News

12 July 2024

Dear Subscribers

Welcome to our Nutrition and Food Safety newsletter. In this issue, we present new publications, key meetings, and notable events in the field of nutrition and food safety from April to June 2024. For further details, please click on the related hyperlinks.

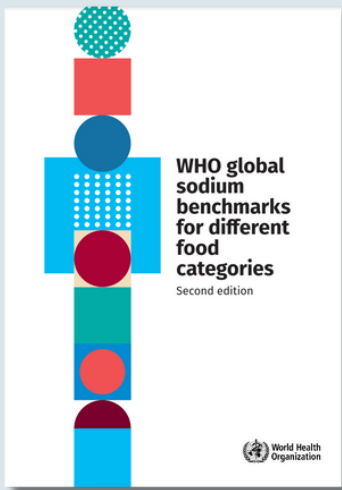
New Publications

WHO global sodium benchmarks for different food categories

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the second edition of the global benchmarks for sodium levels in 70 food subcategories as part of its efforts to reduce sodium intake in populations. This is a very important step to facilitate reformulation of food products, which contributes to driving progress in sodium reduction.

WHO launches new guideline on fiscal policies to promote healthy diets

This WHO guideline provides Member States with recommendations and implementation considerations on fiscal policies to promote healthy diets, including food and beverage taxation and food subsidies that primarily intend to change consumer behaviour by lowering prices of targeted products at retail level.



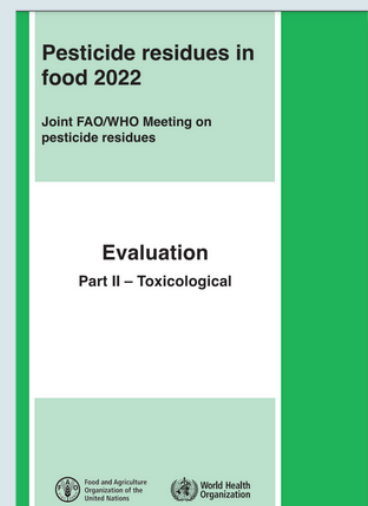
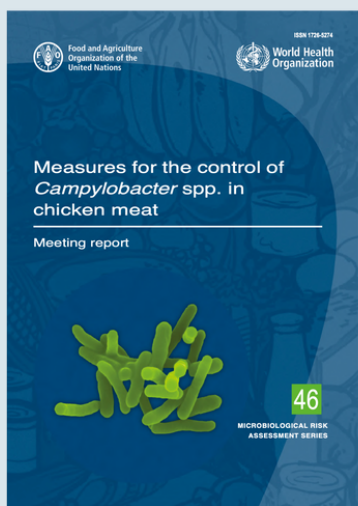
Measures for the control of *Campylobacter* spp. in chicken meat: Meeting report

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) convened a meeting in Rome, Italy in February 2023 to review the available data on *Campylobacter* control.

This report, published on 10 May, outlines the outcomes of the expert meeting. It provides valuable advice for risk assessors and risk managers at national and international levels, as well as professionals in the food industry working to control the hazards in poultry.

Pesticide residues in food 2022: Joint FAO/WHO meeting on pesticide residues: Evaluation part II - Toxicological

A joint meeting of the UN Food and Agriculture (FAO) Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment and the WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome (Italy), from 13 to 22 September 2022. FAO Panel Members met in preparatory sessions from 8 to 12 September. The meeting report was published on 11 April.



Guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally

The FAO, UNICEF and the WHO, have joined forces to chart a way forward via the Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative (HDMI). This is the first version of the guidance for monitoring healthy diets globally, which provides an overview of healthy diet measurement purposes, types of surveys suitable for the monitoring purpose, appropriate dietary assessment methods, relevant dietary data types and potential healthy diet metrics for national and global monitoring purposes.



Evaluation of certain food additives: ninety-seventh report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

The Ninety-seventh report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, was published on 8 April. The report represents JECFA evaluation of technical, toxicological and epidemiological data,

Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding practices published in Arabic, Russian and Chinese

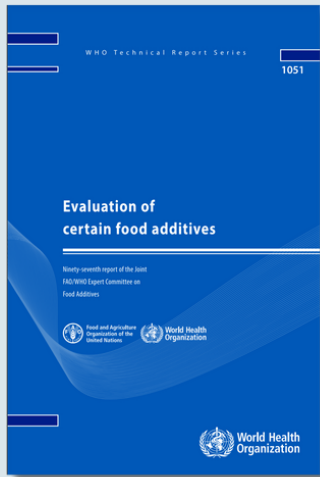
This guidance document, now in Chinese, Russian, and Arabic, provides tools for the collection and calculation of the indicators. It is intended for use by managers of large-scale population-based surveys that will collect information on the status of feeding practices among infants and young children under 2 years of age.



WHO 5-year milestone report on global trans fat elimination illustrates latest progress up to 2023

WHO has published the fifth milestone report on progress towards global trans fat elimination, covering the period from 2018 to 2023. As of 2023, 53 countries had best practice policies in place for tackling industrial trans fat in food.

including the occurrence of and dietary exposure to the food additive titanium dioxide.



These policies have vastly improved the food environment for 3.7 billion people, or 46% of the world's population, and could help save approximately 183,000 lives per year.



Key Events and Meetings

77th World Health Assembly (WHA)

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 27 May – 1 June 2024.

This year's Health Assembly theme was: All for Health, Health for All. Sessions can be found via this [link](#).

The NFS team participated in the [Walk the Talk event](#), which provided a healthy kickstart to the 77th World Health Assembly launch on 26 May.



Several WHA77 side events addressed nutrition and food safety topics

On 28 May, the Ministers of Health of Spain and Jordan hosted a high-level event around the WHO Acceleration Plan to STOP obesity. This aimed to highlight the need to accelerate the global response to the obesity epidemic and increase the political commitment to combat this significant public health challenge.

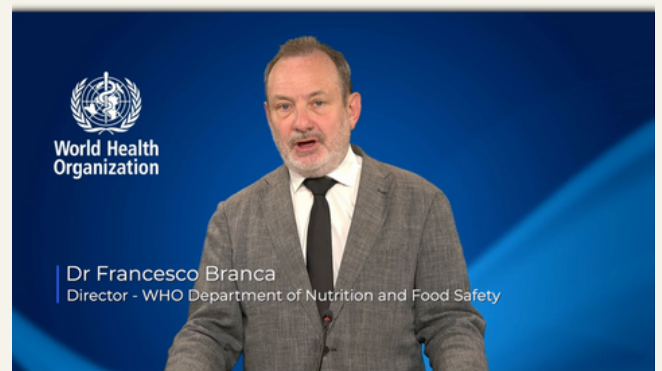


Resolve to Save Lives, and NCD Alliance collaborated with WHO on 28 May for an in-person side event emphasizing the integral need for sodium reduction within comprehensive food policies.

A side event on Digital marketing of breastmilk substitutes highlighted the concerning rise of aggressive digital marketing of breastmilk substitutes, shedding light on its pervasive and misleading impact on pregnant women, parents and society.

World Food Safety Day 2024

In 2024, WHO and FAO jointly coordinated the World Food Safety Day campaign, launched on 7 March 2024 with the announcement of the theme “Food safety: prepare for the unexpected”, to highlight the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents. On 6 June, WHO hosted a Ask WHO Live Q&A on WHO X, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube platforms, inviting the online audience to ask FAO and WHO experts questions on maintaining food safety during unexpected events. On 7 June, WHO and FAO jointly participated in the Geneva press briefing organized by the United Nations Information Service. The World Food Safety Day website, hosted by Codex, features information about many events and initiatives that took place worldwide.



WHO and FAO developed the World Food Safety Day 2024 Communication toolkit to present information about the sixth World Food Safety Day and share ideas on how to participate in the celebrations.



Interested in contributing?

Call for data

Lead in food commodities: call for data on lead in spices, dried bark, and dried culinary herbs.

Deadline of submission: 31 October 2024

Tropane alkaloids in food commodities: call for data on occurrence in food and feed at different production

Deadline of submission: 31 October 2024

Others

Public notice and comments on the Guideline Development Group for WHO rapid advice guideline on the use and indications of GLP1 RAs for management of adults living with obesity

Deadline for public comments: 15 July 2024

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