

## PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Edited by  
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### FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020.** Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020; 320 p. ISBN 9789251329016. The number of people affected by hunger globally has been rising since 2014. This report complements the usual assessment of food security and nutrition with projections of what the world may look like in 2030, if trends of the last decade continue. Projections show that the world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 and, despite some progress, most indicators are also not on track to meet global nutrition targets. The food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable population groups is likely to deteriorate further due to the health and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report also introduces new analysis of the cost and affordability of healthy diets around the world, by region and in different development contexts. It presents valuations of the health and climate-change costs associated with current food consumption patterns, as well as the potential cost savings if food consumption patterns were to shift towards healthy diets that include sustainability considerations. This report then concludes with a discussion of the policies and strategies to transform food systems to ensure affordable healthy diets, as part of the required efforts to end both hunger and all forms of malnutrition.

**OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2020-2029.** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020; 330 p. ISBN 9789251325391. The OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook presents a consistent baseline scenario for the evolution of agricultural and fish commodity markets at national, regional and global levels over the coming decade (2020-2029). This Outlook thus focuses on the medium term, complementing both short-term market monitoring, outlook publications, and long-term projections. This current edition of the Outlook was being finalised under the unique circumstances generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the full impact of the pandemic on agricultural and fish markets remain uncertain, at least in quantitative terms, they were not incorporated into the baseline projections. The Outlook projections are inevitably uncertain because they extend ten years into the future and are based on assumptions regarding economic and policy conditions. These uncertainties are discussed in detail at

the end of each of the commodity chapters.

**Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020.** Main report. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020; 184 p. ISBN 9789251329740. Since the first assessment in 1948, the report has evolved into a comprehensive evaluation of forest resources and their condition, management and uses, covering all the thematic elements of sustainable forest management. This report examines the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990-2020. The information provided by FRA presents a comprehensive view of the world's forests and the ways in which the resource is changing. Such a clear global picture supports the development of sound policies, practices and investments affecting forests and forestry. One of the key findings in this edition is that while deforestation continues, it has been reduced in the last five years.

**Exposure of humans or animals to SARS-CoV-2 from wild, livestock, companion and aquatic animals.** Qualitative exposure assessment. FAO animal production and health papers series. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2020; 81 p. ISBN 9789251330081 This assessment looks into risks, current knowledge gaps, evidence for susceptibility of different animal species to SARS-CoV-2, species prioritization for further research, and recommendations for targeted One Health investigations. Understanding the risk of exposure of humans or animals to SARS-CoV-2 from animals and their products is essential for containing virus spread, prioritizing research, protecting food systems, and informing national One Health investigations and mitigation measures. Results can inform country-level risk assessment and provide the evidence base for targeted SARS-CoV-2 investigations in animals and mitigation options. In detail, this publication provides an assessment of the risk of human or animal exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through contact with, handling or consumption of wild, domestic and aquatic animal species or their products; the identification of current knowledge gaps regarding the zoonotic origin or animal-human spill over of SARS-CoV-2 and recommendations on priority studies; a summary of available evidence for SARS-CoV-2 susceptibility of different animal species; evidence-based recommendations on how to prioritize animal species for targeted field investigations or research studies; and recommendations for targeted One Health investigations and epidemiological, laboratory, anthropological or seasonality studies to fill critical knowledge gaps evidenced by this exposure assessment.

## ISC (INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL)

**Open Science for the 21st Century.** Draft ISC Working Paper. Paris: International Science Council (ISC). 2020; 30 p. This document is a response to the UNESCO global consultation on open science. It brings together strands of work that have developed within the International Science Council's (ISC) community to create a draft working paper that will be further developed through consultation with the Council's members as a formal ISC position paper on open science. The paper describes the rationale for and the origins of the modern open science movement, its dimensions and its applications. It makes recommendations to scientists, to universities, to UNESCO and to other science systems stakeholders about changes that are necessary for the effective operation of open science. The paper includes, at the end of relevant sections, an indication of ISC projects and programmes that are designed to support aspects of open science. The appendix includes answers to specific questions posed by UNESCO for which the detailed arguments are presented in the main text.

**Hazard definition & classification review.** Technical Report. Paris: International Science Council (ISC). 2020; 88 p. This report is the result of an international collaborative effort between the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Science Council (ISC) to identify the full scope of hazards relevant to the Sendai Framework as a basis for countries to review and strengthen their risk reduction policies and operational risk management practices. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 ('the Sendai Framework') was one of three landmark agreements adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The other two being the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This Technical Report supports all three by providing a common set of hazard definitions for monitoring and reviewing implementation which calls for "a data revolution, rigorous accountability mechanisms and renewed global partnerships".

## EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY (EFSA)

EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA). **Safety of *Schizochytrium* sp. oil as a novel food pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/2283** EFSA Journal. 2020;18(10):e06242 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6242. Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) was asked to deliver an opinion on the safety of *Schizochytrium* sp. oil as a novel food (NF) pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2015/2283. *Schizochytrium* sp. is a single-cell microalga. The strain WZU477, used by the applicant (Progress Biotech bv), was found to belong to the species *Schizochytrium limacinum* and was obtained in a ma-

rine environment from rotted mangrove forest leaves. The NF, an oil rich in docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), is isolated from the microalgae by mechanical extraction. The applicant proposed to use the NF in infant formulae (IF) and follow-on formulae (FOF). The use level defined by the applicant was derived from Regulation (EU) 2016/127, which states the mandatory addition of DHA to IF and FOF at the level of 20-50 mg/100 kcal. The intake of DHA resulting from the use of the NF in IF and FOF is not expected to pose safety concerns. The composition of the NF indicates the absence of marine biotoxins in the NF. Furthermore, *Schizochytrium limacinum* was attributed the qualified presumption of safety (QPS) status with the qualification 'for production purposes only'. Based on the information provided, the microalga is not expected to survive the manufacturing process. Toxicological tests conducted with the NF were not performed. However, based on the available toxicological data on various forms of oils derived from *Schizochytrium* sp., the QPS status of the source of the NF, the production process and the composition of the NF, the Panel considers there are no concerns with regard to toxicity of the NF. The Panel concludes that the NF is safe under the proposed conditions of use.

EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA). **Safety of chia seeds (*Salvia hispanica* L.) subject to thermal processing in relation to the formation of process contaminants as a novel food for extended uses** EFSA Journal. 2020;18(9):e06243 doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6243. Following a request from the European Commission, the EFSA Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) was asked to deliver an opinion on the safety of chia seeds in foods subject to thermal processing which may result in the formation of process contaminants. The safety assessment of this novel food (NF) is based on previous assessments of chia seeds by the EFSA NDA Panel, information received from a public call for data by EFSA and information retrieved from an extensive literature search performed by EFSA. In 2019, during the overall safety assessment of chia seeds, the NDA panel retrieved one reference which, among others, investigated the formation of process contaminants, i.e. acrylamide, hydroxymethylfurfural and furfural, in wheat flour-based biscuits with added chia seeds flour. Based on this study, the Panel considers that there is a potential for substantial acrylamide formation in biscuits with 10-20% added chia seeds flour with low residual moisture contents ( $\leq 2\%$ ). The Panel is not aware of further scientific evidence corroborating these findings. The extensive new literature searches performed by EFSA did not show any relevant articles regarding either asparagine content or formation of process contaminants in chia seeds and products thereof. Information received from the call for data were either limited or inconclusive. The available evidence does not provide a basis to conclude whether or not the addition of chia seeds to foods undergoing heat treatment (at temperatures above 120°C) results in increased formation of acrylamide as compared to these

foods without chia seeds. Reported concentrations of hydroxymethylfurfural and furfural in heat-treated chia seeds do not pose a safety concern. No information on other process contaminants in chia seeds was found.

#### UNEP (UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME)

**Frontiers 2018/19. Emerging issues of environmental concern.** Nairobi: United Nations Environmental Programme. 2019; 80 p. This report series identifies and provides an insight into a broad range of emerging environmental issues that require attention and action from governments, stakeholders, decision makers as well as the public at large. Frontiers 2018/19, launched on 4 March 2019 prior to the fourth UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, covers five key emerging issues: the latest developments in synthetic biology, the critical advantages of landscape connectivity, the complex interactions and vulnerability of permafrost peatlands, the challenges of widespread nitrogen pollution, and the hazards of maladaptation in a world of climate change.

#### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

**The double burden of malnutrition: priority actions on ending childhood obesity.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2020; 115 p. ISBN: 978-92-9022-789-2. Despite the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity in children, responses in addressing the problem range are inadequate in many countries in WHO South-East Asia Region where undernutrition is common. In these settings, prevention of childhood obesity is not a priority despite the clear links between undernutrition and overweight and obesity and an ever increasing burden of noncommunicable disease. This technical report provides regional and country data on the double burden of malnutrition, and particularly on childhood overweight and obesity, highlights the need for an integrated approach to address overweight and obesity through integration into existing programmes while supporting the improvement of food environments. This report highlights the value of applying WHO-recommended double-duty actions. In line with the double-duty approach, countries should develop common programme packages for obesity and overweight that can be integrated into programmes that currently focus on undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Special efforts should be made to include overweight and obesity considerations in the provision of quality mater-

nal and antenatal care and diets; support breastfeeding and ensure optimum complementary feeding for young children; and promote healthy diets in older children and adolescents, along with adequate physical activity across all age groups.

**Managing the COVID-19 infodemic. A call for action.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2020; 43 p. ISBN: 9789240010314. This report highlights the public impact of the “infodemic” or overabundance of information – some accurate, some not – that is spreading alongside the COVID-19 pandemic. Around the world, this overabundance of information confuses people about what actions to take to protect themselves and those around them from disease outbreak. This Report arises from a workshop held in April, in which the WHO convened with over 1300 field experts to develop guidance to help individuals, community leaders, governments and private sector understand what 50 key actions they can take to manage the COVID-19 infodemic.

**Global tuberculosis report 2020.** Geneva: World Health Organization. 2020; 232 p. ISBN 978-92-4-001313-1 (electronic version) ISBN 978-92-4-001314-8 (print version). The World Health Organization (WHO) has published a global tuberculosis (TB) report every year since 1997 with the purpose of providing a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic in order to progress in the response to the epidemic, at global, regional, and country levels. The 2020 global TB report showcases the progress made towards ending the TB epidemic, and puts in stark perspective the current and potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in eroding the hard-won gains of recent years. In recognition of the enormous health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report includes a provisional assessment of how the pandemic will affect the TB epidemic, people with TB and progress towards global TB targets. In 2020, data were reported by 198 countries and territories that accounted for more than 99% of the world's population and estimated number of TB cases. Globally, the annual number of people reported to have accessed TB treatment has grown from about 6 million in 2015, to 7 million in 2018 and 7.1 million in 2019. Access to TB preventive treatment has also increased, from 1 million in 2015, to 2.2 million in 2018 and 4.1 million in 2019. More positively, the WHO European Region has almost reached the 2020 milestone, with a reduction of 19% in the TB incidence rate between 2015 and 2019, and the African Region has made good progress, with a reduction of 16%.