Climate Change and Emerging Risks for food safety, including plant and animal health (CLEFSA)

About this consultation

Consultation period: 14th February 2018 - 7 March 2018

Target group

All stakeholders and EU/UN institutions and research centres with an interest/expertise in effects of climate change on food safety, including plant and animal health, are welcome to contribute to this consultation.

Background

The sensitivity of pathogens, potentially toxigenic microorganisms and other pests to climate factors suggests that changes in these factors have the potential to cause, enhance or modify the occurrence and intensity of some food-borne diseases, as well as the possibility, area of establishment and the impact of invasive alien species and other diseases harmful to plants and animals.

It is therefore clear that the impact of climate change is increasingly relevant in almost all areas of EFSA’s scientific work. Climate change may pose future challenges for food safety and risk assessment and EFSA’s Strategy 2020 calls for the Authority to be prepared.

EFSA has started a new pilot project (CLimate change and Emerging risks for Food SAfety - CLEFSA project). It aims to develop a method for identifying, ranking and prioritizing emerging risks in the EU for food/feed safety, as well as plant and animal health, potentially related to climate change.

Objective of the consultation

The first phase of the project consists of the collection, via horizon scanning, of a broad list of potential emerging issues related to effects of climate change on food/feed safety, including plant and animal health.

We are keen to hear about your views on what you consider a potential emerging issue related to climate change, considering that an emerging issue is associated with the probability of harm to human, animal and/or plant health, resulting from:

• a newly identified hazard (which may be an agent of physical, chemical or biological nature) to which a significant exposure of the target organism may occur, or from

• an unexpected new or increased significant exposure and/or

• new or increased susceptibility to a known hazard

through the food chain for humans, through the feed chain and the environment for animals and through the environment for plants.

Please indicate all possible issues you may think of except the following ones, as these were already identified and considered by EFSA previously:

* Occurrence of ciguatoxic fish in European marine waters
* More frequent and more intense cyanobacteria blooms
* Increased occurrence of β-Methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) producing cyanobacteria, diatoms and dynoflagellates
* Increased potential for growth of marine bacteria producing tetrodotoxins
* Increased norovirus contamination of coastal waters
* Increased risk of contamination of mycotoxins in maize, wheat and rice
* Increased area of potential establishment and spread of bemisia tabaci and the viruses it transmits
* Northwards expansion of wild boar (reservoir of pathogens such as the African Swine Fever virus)

The CLEFSA discussion group – experts from the major international EU/UN institutions with an interest/expertise in climate change – will analyse, filter and prioritise the issues. The results of the survey will be disseminated in the final project report (publication expected by September 2019).

You are kindly invited to freely express any thought and indicate any potential emerging issue for food safety related to climate change. Even if you doubt whether an item is "worth" submitting, we strongly encourage submitting it as we want to include all possible potential issues in this first phase. You won’t be asked for your identity, just the country where your organisation is based or if you reply in your personal capacity, the country of residence.

View the questionnaire

The questionnaire is published on-line [here](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ClimateChange_Survey_2018).

How to submit your response

Your views are important. Please tell us what you think and fill the short online questionnaire. It will not take more than 10 minutes of your time. Please feel free to pass it forward to colleagues who might be interested.

Once you have submitted your answers, you will be able to download a copy of your completed questionnaire. Questions marked with an asterisk are compulsory.

Additional information

For further information write to:

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