

ICC Task Force on Mycotoxins and Sampling – Brainstorming Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2005
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, FL, USA

Workshops, Mycotoxins, Methods, Validation, Reference Materials

Present: Interested parties from ICC, AACC, AOAC and industry (see list on page 3), Linda Young (to take notes).

1. **The Chair** was taken by Stanley Cauvain (BakeTran and ICC President) representing the ICC Technical Director (Meinholf Lindhauer) who could not be present. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Roland Poms (ICC Secretary General) explained the background and purpose of the meeting.

2. **Background**

Roland Poms (RP) explained that there was a need worldwide for standard and validated methods for the detection of mycotoxins in cereals. There was also a need for protocols for screening methods, sampling and sample preparations. Currently individual countries are developing such methods on an *ad hoc* basis. A co-ordinated approach to the issues would be beneficial to all countries so that harmonised methods might be developed which would enable standards to be set globally and be approved by each country's approval bodies.

The purpose of the meeting was to 'brainstorm' the issues, take on board the problem issues and to take the first steps along the road to define a mechanism by which standards might be developed and which might be submitted to ISO as a global standard. A task force would be created to implement the agreed goals.

Methods

A number of steps are envisaged in order to achieve the goals:

- a. Investigation of the *status quo* – what methods currently exist or are under development. Collect all the methods that are currently used and readily applied by manufacturers.
- b. Identify any gaps – where methods are still needed, requirements which are unique to particular countries.
- c. Validation criteria – gather data on these.
- d. Publication of the information gathered in Trade Journals and Scientific Press – it is hoped that this would bring the initiative to the attention of all possible interested parties.

A proposed time schedule for this first phase was mid 2006 (June-Sept)

Once the information had been gathered then relevant, efficient, cost effective and widely acknowledged methods could be developed.

Sampling

In parallel with the development of Methods, a protocol for Sampling would be investigated. This should be representative of and relevant to the materials being tested and practical to the industry. It was envisaged that the Test Providers would play an important role.

Goals would be similar to those proposed for Methods above, with identification of gaps and publication of information.

A proposed time schedule for this would be by September 2006 to coincide with the proposed ICC Symposium on 'Sampling and its applications' at the AACC Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Task Force Deliverables

It was suggested that deliverables for the Task Force would be:

- “New Standards” or rather a “Global Agreement” of existing standards
- Guidelines
- Network of interested parties
- Validation Studies

3. Discussion

Discussion then took place by representatives attending. In summary comments made were:

- a. Protocols which existed in other areas (e.g. microbial) and being considered by other bodies (e.g. ISO) should be considered in case they might offer a way forward.
- b. Scope should be for all foodstuffs – EU is investing money for global harmonisation – Proposal ‘Harmony’ has been submitted for standardisation of test methods for mycotoxins.
- c. Communication: there should be an on-line forum/website to facilitate discussions
- d. Co-operation between bodies: AOAC were considering creating a community working on revising/validating their programs. It would be useful to keep an eye on what other bodies are doing in this context. CEN, USDA and other bodies are wanting to contribute. The joint AOAC, AOCS and AACC committee is chaired by Bruce Malone.
- e. There should be a priority list of matrices
- f. Developing countries needed training/guidance to raise awareness of the problems in order to put appropriate methods in place to comply with global legislation. This might be achieved through workshops.
- g. Biotechnology Division of AACC is thinking of running a sampling workshop prior to World Grain Conference (17-20 Sept 06)
- h. Producers of kits: a preference would be to run defined protocols which can be used to submit to different bodies thus enabling a faster route to marketplace. Consideration of existing protocols with modification to get a generally agreed and harmonised result.
- i. USDA offered their sampling protocol for consideration as an example protocol.
- j. Consideration needs to be given to the different levels allowed (worldwide) with a clear definition of what should be reached.
- k. Guidance about hierarchy of authorities which might approve the methods
- l. Conferences – World Mycotoxin Forum – 10-11 Nov 05, The Netherlands - this would be a relevant occasion for discussions with people attending the conference.

Likewise XIIth IUPAC Mycotoxins and Phycotoxins Symposium, 21-25 May 2007, Istanbul.

AOACS Meeting April/May 06, St Louis - perhaps the Mycotoxin Committee would be willing to host a meeting.

- m. Structure of the Work Force- Workgroups will be needed for:
 - i. Sampling
 - ii. Sample preparation
 - iii. Analytical methods
 - iv. Needs of manufacturers
 - v. Validation studies

Each workgroup would have a chairperson whose responsibility would be to drive the workgroup and communicate its findings to the other workgroups. Each chairperson would be a member of the Steering Committee

4.

Outcomes and Actions

- *It was suggested and agreed that ICC act as a clearing house for the initiative.*
- *ICC agreed to contact the different organisations involved and to construct a list of current methods, detailing which are validated and which are incomplete/in progress. This would be structured into a database. ICC will contact all parties present at the meeting, those that had already expressed interest in the conference and other standardisation bodies to request input to the study.*
- *ICC will collect both analytical methods and sampling techniques.*
- *Everyone present was asked to disseminate information about the initiative to interested parties in their own country.*
- *ICC asked that key experts/players in the field be notified to them so that meetings might be set up to elicit best practise and to share ideas.*
- *ICC agreed to set up the website forum and password access for interested parties use.*
- *ICC agreed to facilitate the arrangements for future meetings linked to relevant conferences where substantial numbers of interested parties might be present.*
- *ICC requested that they be made aware of people who would be willing to take part in any of the workgroups.*
- *ICC agreed to circulate these minutes to those people attending this meeting and who had previously expressed interest in the topic.*

5.

List of participants (in alphabetical order):

1	Abecassis	Joel	France
2	Avram	Mihaela	Romania
3	Bhandari	Dhan	UK
4	Binder	Johann	Austria
5	Cantrill	Richard C	USA
6	Cauvain	Stanley P	UK
7	Chinnaswamy	Rangan	USA
8	Clapper	Gina	USA
9	Commault	Emmanuel	France
10	Cowan	Wade	USA
11	Dowell	Floyd E	USA
12	Fellinger	Alois	Austria
13	Haas-Lauterbach	Sigrid	Germany
14	Nowicki	Tom	Canada
15	Persson	Jan-Ake	Sweden
16	Poms	Roland E	Austria
17	van der Kamp	Jan Willem	Netherlands
18	van Egmond	Hans P.	Netherlands
19	Whitworth	Martin	UK
20	Young	Linda	UK