

PUBLICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Edited by

Anna Maria Rossi

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Trade and food standards. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 72 p. Job Number: I7407 ISBN 978 92 510 9793 9 This publication explains how international food safety standards are set through the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme – the Codex Alimentarius Commission – and how these standards are applied in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement). Through the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius, members establish science-based, internationally agreed food standards. The publication describes the two organizations, how they operate together, and how countries can and should engage to keep international food standards up to date and relevant, and to resolve trade issues. The publication also highlights the need to invest in domestic capacities to be prepared now and in the future to keep food safe and to ensure that trade flows smoothly. It also illustrates some of the drivers of change in the area of food regulation, underlining the need for governments to be constantly attentive and ready to pick up on challenges and new opportunities, be they related to human health, consumer preferences or evolutions in technology.

Meybeck A, Redfern S, Hachem F, *et al.* (Eds.). **Proceedings of a Technical Workshop. Development of voluntary guidelines for the sustainability of the Mediterranean diet in the Mediterranean region. 14–15 March 2017 CIHEAM-Bari, Valenzano (Bari).** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 154 p. ISBN 978 92 510 9832 5 Within the international debate on a shift towards more sustainable food systems and diets, interest in the Mediterranean diet as a model of a sustainable diet has increased. The notion of the Mediterranean diet has undergone a progressive evolution over the past 50 years – from that of a healthy dietary pattern for the heart to a model of a sustainable diet. The Mediterranean diet is a significant part of Mediterranean food systems, from consumption to production – not just a diet, but more as a lifestyle, an expression of the diversity of Mediterranean food systems and cultures and their different culinary systems. Despite the fact that the Mediterranean diet has been acknowledged as a healthy diet, it is paradoxically becoming less the diet of choice in most Mediterranean countries. Mediterranean countries are

passing through the “nutritional transition” in which problems of undernutrition coexist with overweight, obesity and food-related chronic diseases. The erosion of the Mediterranean diet heritage is alarming as it has undesirable impacts not only on health but also on the social, cultural, economic and environmental trends in the Mediterranean region. The workshop will contribute to strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders to consolidate the role of the Mediterranean diet as a lever to improve the sustainability of food systems and consumption patterns in the Mediterranean region, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda’s goals for this region.

van Dam, J. **The charcoal transition: greening the charcoal value chain to mitigate climate change and improve local livelihoods.** Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2017; 184 p. Job Number: I6935 ISBN 978 92 510 9680 2 Charcoal is widely used for cooking and heating in developing countries. The consumption of charcoal has been at high level and the demand may keep growing over the next decades, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Some preliminary studies indicate that among commonly used cooking fuels, unsustainably produced charcoal can be the most greenhouse gas intensive fuels and simple measures could deliver high GHG mitigation benefits. Through the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in 2015, countries set themselves ambitious targets to curb climate change, and forest-related measures have an important role to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Over 70% of the countries who have submitted their (intended) nationally determined contributions (NDCs) mention forestry and land use mitigation measures. Despite the importance of woodfuel in many countries, few have explicitly included measures to reduce emissions from woodfuel production and consumption. Many of the NDCs that include forestry do not yet provide detailed information on how mitigation is to be achieved. The overall objective of the publication is to provide data and information to allow for informed decision-making on the contribution sustainable charcoal production and consumption can make to climate change mitigation.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION (ILO)

Boris E, Hoeltker D, Zimmermann S (Eds.) **Women’s ILO: Transnational networks, global labour standards and gender equity, 1919 to present.** Geneva: ILO. 05 February 2018; Sw.fr.35.00/US \$ 35.00

ISBN 978 92 213 0073 1 What is the place of women in global labour policies? This book gathers new research on a century of ILO engagement with women's work. Women's ILO explores issues like equal remuneration, home-based labour and social welfare internationally and in places such as Argentina, Italy and Ghana. It scrutinizes the impact of both geopolitical relations and transnational feminisms on the making of global labour policies in a world shaped by colonialism, the Cold War and post-colonial inequality. It further charts the disparate advancement of gender equity, highlighting the significant role of women experts and activists in the process.

World employment and social outlook: Trends for women 2017. Geneva: ILO. 14 June 2017; vi + 63 pp. Sw.fr.35.00/US \$ 35.00 ISBN 978 92 213 0833 1 This report provides a portrait of the situation of women in the world of work today and their progress over the past 20 years. This report examines the global and regional labour market trends and gaps, including in labour force participation rates, unemployment rates, employment status as well as sectoral and occupational segregation. It also presents a global in-depth analysis of the key drivers of female labour force participation by investigating the personal preferences of women and the societal gender norms and socio-economic constraints that women face. A key finding of this report is that closing these labour market gaps would yield significant economic benefits in terms of GDP growth while at the same time improving individual welfare in multiple dimensions. However, the report finds that there are significant socio-economic and gender norm constraints influencing a woman's decision to participate. Accordingly, the report introduces a comprehensive framework to address the drivers of these gender gaps and outlines a series of policy recommendations to improve the labour market outcomes of women.

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

How's Life? 2017. Measuring well-being. Paris: OECD. June 2017, 340 p. ISBN 978 92 642 8390 9 doi:10.1787/how_life-2017-en The volume charts the promises and pitfalls for people's well-being in 35 OECD countries and 6 partner countries. It presents the latest evidence from 50 indicators, covering both current well-being outcomes and resources for future well-being, and including changes since 2005. During this period there have been signs of progress, but gains in some aspects of life have been offset by losses elsewhere. This fourth edition highlights the many faces of inequality, showing that gaps in people's achievements and opportunities extend right across the different dimensions of well-being. It exposes divisions according to age, gender, and education, and reveals pockets of inequality in all OECD countries. It also brings to light the many well-being disadvantages that migrants face in adapting to life abroad. Additionally, the report exam-

ines governance as seen from the citizen's perspective, revealing gaps between public institutions and the people they serve. Finally, it provides a country-by-country perspective, pinpointing strengths, challenges and changes in well-being over time in 41 country profiles.

Alberini, A. **Measuring the economic value of the effects of chemicals on ecological systems and human health.** Paris: OECD. March 2017, 46 p. (OECD Environment Working Papers; 116) doi:10.1787/9dc90f8d-en This paper reviews and discusses the existing methods for placing a value on the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment. It surveys both methods and non-market methods, discussing their advantage and limitations. For example, when valuing non-fatal illnesses, the cost-of-illness approaches captures labour income lost to illness and medical expenditures undertaken to mitigate the illness, but fails to account for the value of the disutility of the illnesses. The paper also discusses mortality risk valuation, and the widely used metric termed the Value of a Statistical Life, the difficulties associated with estimating it, and the appropriateness of any adjustments for futurity, age, and the nature of the risk itself. Finally, the paper takes up the issue whether the source of the health risks (e.g., chemicals versus other forms of pollution versus others) affects how much the public values reducing those risks.

Dudley, S. **Retrospective evaluation of chemical regulations.** Paris: OECD. March 2017, 34 p. (OECD Environment Working Papers; 118) doi:10.1787/368e41d7-en OECD countries rely on regulatory tools to manage potential risks from exposure to targeted chemicals. Ex-ante regulatory impact assessment has a long tradition in many OECD countries, with established analytical steps and oversight as well as opportunities for public engagement to hold governments accountable for conducting analysis before regulations are issued. But ex-ante analyses necessarily depend on unverifiable assumptions and models of how the world would look absent the regulation, and how responses to regulatory requirements will alter those conditions. In essence, ex-ante analyses are hypotheses of the effects of regulatory actions. Better ex-post regulatory evaluation would allow agencies and others to test those hypotheses against actual outcomes. This would not only inform decisions related to the cost-effectiveness of existing policy, but would provide feedback that would improve future ex-ante analyses and future policies. This paper addresses the challenges to evaluating regulatory outcomes and learning from those evaluations. Drawing on experience in OECD countries, it reviews the practices used to understand the likely impacts of regulations aimed at reducing chemical risks both before and after they are issued. It examines why efforts at retrospective review have lagged behind prospective regulatory analysis, and offers recommendations for addressing methodological and incentive challenges to better evaluation.

Friedrichs S, van Beuzekom B. **Revised proposal for the revision of the statistical definitions of biotechnology and nanotechnology.** Paris: OECD. January 2018, 22 p. (*OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers*; 2018/01) doi:10.1787/085e0151-en Agreement on a harmonised application of clear statistical definitions of technologies is pertinent to the delineation of technology fields both with regard to each other and within the context of wider economic developments. Biotechnology and nanotechnology are both enabling technologies, which find applications and give rise to innovations in many industry sectors, contributing to determine wide ranges of economic and societal impact. This document revises the OECD's statistical definition of biotechnology, which had last been reviewed in 2008, and proposes the adoption of a statistical definition of nanotechnology in the same format. The statistical definitions proposed in this document are indicative rather than exhaustive and are expected to change over time as biotechnology and nanotechnology activities evolve.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Communicating risk in public health emergencies. A WHO guideline for Emergency Risk Communication (ERC) policy and practice. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2017, 78 p. ISBN 978 92 415 5020 8 The recommendations in these guidelines provide overarching, evidence-based guidance on how risk communication should be practised in an emergency. The recommendations also guide countries on building capacity for communicating risk during health emergencies. Recent public health emergencies, such as the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa (2014–2015), the emergence of the Zika virus syndrome in 2015–2016 and multi-country yellow fever outbreaks in Africa in 2016, have highlighted major challenges and gaps in how risk is communicated during epidemics and other health emergencies. The challenges include the rapid transformation in communications technology, including the near-universal penetration of mobile telephones, the widespread use and increasingly powerful influence of digital media which has had an impact on 'traditional' media (newspapers, radio and television), and major changes in how people access and trust health information. Important gaps include considerations of context – the social, economic, political and cultural factors influencing people's perception of risk and their risk-reduction behaviours. Finally, guidance is needed on the best approaches for strengthening emergency risk communication (ERC) capacity and sustaining them for potential health emergencies.

Iodine thyroid blocking. Guidelines for use in planning and responding to radiological and nuclear emergencies. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2017, 52 p. ISBN 978 92 415 5018 5 These

guidelines provide a recommendation on iodine thyroid blocking (ITB), via oral administration of stable iodine, as an urgent protective action in responding to a nuclear accident. This recommendation aims to support emergency planners, policy makers, public health specialists, clinicians and other relevant stakeholders, in order to strengthen public health preparedness for radiation emergencies in WHO Member States as required by the International Health Regulations (IHR) and in line with the international safety standards (GSR Part 7). The scope of the guidelines is confined to public health aspects of planning and implementation of ITB before and during a radiation emergency, such as dosage and timing of ITB administration, adverse effects of stable iodine, its packaging, storage, and distribution.

WHO guidelines on protecting workers from potential risks of manufactured nanomaterials. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2018, 89 p. Sw.fr.25.00/US \$ 30.00 ISBN 978 92 415 5004 8 Order no. 19300374 WHO has developed these guidelines with recommendations on how best to protect workers from the potential risks of manufactured nanomaterials (MNMs). The recommendations are intended to help policy-makers and professionals in the field of occupational health and safety in making decisions about the best protection against potential risks specific to MNMs in workplaces. These guidelines are also intended to support workers and employers. However, they are not intended as a handbook or manual for safe handling of MNMs in the workplace because this requires addressing more general occupational hygiene issues beyond the scope of these guidelines.

Quality assurance of pharmaceuticals 2017. WHO guidelines, good practices, related regulatory guidance and GxPs training materials. Geneva: World Health Organization. 2018. Sw.fr.150.00/US \$ 180.00 ISBN 978 92 415 5002 4 Order no. 19900066 Quality assurance of pharmaceutical products is a continuing concern of the WHO. Despite efforts made around the world to ensure a supply of quality and effective medicines, substandard products still compromise health-care delivery in many countries. To respond to the global need for adequate quality assurance of pharmaceuticals, WHO's Expert Committee in Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations has, over the years, made numerous recommendations to establish standards and guidelines and to promote the effective functioning of national regulatory and control systems, and the implementation of internationally-agreed standards by trained personnel. More than 80 relevant international guidelines, standards and good practices endorsed by the Committee are reproduced in this volume, providing guidance covering all aspects of quality assurance, including good manufacturing practices (GMP). This CD-ROM also includes a study pack with a huge set of training materials reflecting the various GXP texts, good practices for manufacturing and quality control.