

Proposed work plan of INFOODS for 2011 to 2013

Prepared by Ruth Charrondiere, INFOODS coordinator since June 2011

To be discussed and agreed to at regional INFOODS meetings and at INFOODS task Force meeting at 9th IFDC in Norwich, UK

Objective

- Increase INFOODS activities and visibility

Assumptions

- INFOODS can only be as active as members are willing and able to contribute
- FAO has very limited funds available and can finance only very few activities in the regions, mostly through TCP (FAO Technical Cooperation Programme) for which the countries need to prepare a proposal
- Funding needs to be sought from other than FAO sources
- Collaboration as IUNS task force will increase

Data Centres and INFOODS secretariat

- Hold at least one regional data centre meeting per year (in 2011 two meetings are planned: ASEANFOODS meeting in July and AFROFOODS in September), preferable in conjunction with existing conferences or meetings to make them cost-effective
- Each regional and sub-regional data centre develops an annual or biannual plan of action (also over e-mail, skype or telephone)
- Annual or biannual reports should be published at INFOODS website, and at the regional data centre websites if existing
- Give regular input into the development and update of INFOODS standards, databases and websites (e.g. on tables and databases or data centre coordinators)
- Each data centre to present a document with the defined roles of national and regional data centre coordinators, election process and duration of terms (if this is desired by data centres). This documents should be put on the INFOODS and regional data centre web pages
- Common reflection on how to assure funding for food composition, biodiversity and sustainable diets at national, regional and international level
- Biennial Regional Data Centre meetings of coordinators at IDFCs
- Short biennial report to IUNS on global activities and progress of INFOODS and present a more comprehensive report at ICNs (in 2012 in Granada)

Standards

- In collaboration with all INFOODS members and EuroFIR, update INFOODS tagnames
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, develop guidelines for food matching (done in July 2011)
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, develop guidelines for conversions
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, develop guidelines for selection of most appropriate food composition table/database
- Periodically, INFOODS to provide comments on relevant CODEX and other standards to ensure harmony between international standards

Capacity development

- INFOODS members to collaborate with universities to introduce food composition and biodiversity into the curricula of nutritionists, food scientists etc (e.g. by using the Food Composition Study Guide)
- FAO to publish in 2011 the French and Spanish translation of the Food Composition Study Guide (done in July 2011)
- FAO to publish in 2011 the second revised version of the Food Composition Study Guide in English (done in July 2011)
- FAO will offer two to three six-months-on-the-job-training opportunities on the compilation of a national/regional food composition table/database in Rome through e.g. the special programme (needs co-funding from national institutes)

Food Composition tables/databases

- Publish at least one new national or regional food composition table/database per year with FAO/INFOODS technical support (in 2011 FC T published for Armenia and West African Food Composition Table to be published)
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, update annually the FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, develop, publish and update regularly a FAO/INFOODS Database on Amino Acid Composition and Protein Quality
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, develop, publish and update regularly a FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database containing solely analytical data
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members develop and publish a fish user database
- FAO has a volunteer programme (no financial compensation) and an internship programme (700 USD/month) which can be used to populate databases with analytical data

Advocacy at international conferences and meetings

- INFOODS members to present posters and oral presentations or to organize symposiums on food composition, food biodiversity and sustainable diets
- Publish success stories on the INFOODS and regional data centre websites, if existing
- Identify an 'Ambassador' for INFOODS

Nutrition Indicators for Biodiversity

- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, FAO will revise the templates for reporting on the nutrition indicator for biodiversity on food composition
- In collaboration with all INFOODS members, FAO will report annually on the nutrition indicator for biodiversity on food composition

Analytical capacities for food composition

- Assist in developing TCPs, sometimes in conjunction with food safety or food control, to strengthen analytical capacities on food composition

Funding

- Together with INFOODS coordinators write a grant proposal for INFOODS

Any comments and suggestions are welcomed.