



ABSTRACT

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Scientific Issues Related to Codex Goals

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HISTORY OF SAFE USE: APPLICATION IN NOVEL FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT

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Very few traditional foods that are consumed have been subjected to systematic toxicological and nutritional assessment, yet because of their long history and customary preparation and use and absence of evidence of harm, they are generally regarded as safe to eat. This long 'history of safe use' of traditional foods forms the benchmark for the comparative safety assessment of novel foods and foods derived from genetically modified organisms. Important factors in establishing a history of safe use include: the period over which the traditional food has been consumed; the way in which it has been prepared and used and at what intake levels; its composition and the results of animal studies and observations from human exposure. The presentation will discuss the practical application and use of the concept of 'history of safe use' to assist the safety evaluation and regulation of novel foods and foods derived from genetically modified organisms. The international regulatory perspective will also be considered.

* Constable *et al* (2007) Food and Chemical Toxicology 45: 2513-2525