

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

ROYAL SOCIETY/FSA WORKSHOP: SOCIAL SCIENCE INSIGHTS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

Issue

Members are asked to note the draft report of this Royal Society/FSA Workshop which took place on 30 September 2005.

At the 24 November 2005 meeting, the Chairman provided an oral update on a workshop hosted by the Royal Society that he had attended on 30 September 2005. The aim of this workshop was to examine the role that social science plays in the risk assessment process for foods. The Secretariat agreed to bring the report of this workshop to the attention of the Committee when it became available.

The draft report is the result of an analysis of the workshop's transcripts and highlights five emerging principles that may enable more effective risk assessment and related management and communications processes.

These are:

- Consult stakeholders and the public (where appropriate) on the framing of questions to be put to expert scientific advisory committees;
- Develop a cyclical process to inform risk assessment, management and communication;
- Acknowledge assumption and uncertainty in risk assessment;
- Broaden out public and stakeholder engagement at the different stages of the process, particularly on issues of controversy and/or high uncertainty; and
- Be clear about your audiences and communicate the things that matter to them.

The final report is expected to be published by the Royal Society in April.

**Secretariat
March 2006**

Annex attached:

Annex 1: Draft – Social science insights for risk assessment: findings of a workshop held by the Royal Society and Food Standards Agency – 30 September 2005. (*Restricted*)