

INFOODS Report

Activities from mid-2015 to March 2017



Report on INFOODS' activities from mid-2015 to March 2017 for IUNS

Summary:

INFOODS was able to achieve a lot at the regional and global level in 2015-2016. Global efforts focused on strengthening the regional data centres; organizing one-day-training courses together with regional data centres or organizations using the *FAO/INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data* with the objective to sensitize professionals on the importance and complexity of food composition and to incorporate it into the curricula of universities and colleges; preparing grant proposals; assisting countries and regional data centres; developing new global food databases and guidelines; and including nutrition and food composition components into FAO projects and programmes.

In the regional data centres, there were some changes in coordinators and in several regional data centres, vice coordinators were elected to increase the reach and number of activities of INFOODS. Many countries generated new data, have or are publishing new food composition tables or databases (FCT/FCDB), and have regional projects on-going. Some regional data centres are preparing grants to obtain more funding while others are already part of regional projects being funded by other organizations (e.g. PAHO, EU)

I. Global INFOODS activities in this period included the following:

Standard setting and guidelines

- Advanced work on (to be published in 2017)
 - the development of the FAO/INFOODS evaluation framework and criteria on the quality of published food composition tables and databases
 - translation of FAO/INFOODS Guidelines and Databases into Spanish
 - the development of a new concept on nutrient productivity combining yield, food composition and nutrient requirements

Publications

- Many scientific articles were published by INFOODS members

Capacity development

- Many universities incorporated the *FAO/INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data* into their curricula – see published list at <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/training/en/>. Many others showed interest
- No funds assured yet for the translation of the *FAO/INFOODS e-Learning Course on Food Composition Data* into Spanish. The French version will be published in 2017
- The list of previous courses and participants as well as new courses are published at the INFOODS website <http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/training/en/>. Since 1992, the Division of Human Nutrition of Wageningen University & Graduate School VLAG (Advanced Studies in Food Technology, Agrobiotechnology, Nutrition and Health Sciences) has organized every other year the *International Postgraduate Course on the Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition* in Wageningen, the Netherlands. Participants from these courses are included in this listing as well as of other international FoodComp courses of longer duration.
- FAO/INFOODS and partners organized several training courses
 - held short courses in 2015: Tanzania (post-conference event to FANUS conference – half day), India (planned pre-conference event to 11th IFDC conference – one day) and in Dominican Republic (planned post-conference event to SLAN conference – half day), and in 2016: Morocco (pre-conference event to ANEC VII conference – one day held by AFROFOODS), India (pre-conference event to 49th Annual National Conference of the Indian Dietetic Association – IDACON 2016– one day)

Databases and tables

- Publication of
 - FAO/INFOODS Food Composition Database for Biodiversity - Version 3.0 (BioFoodComp3.0) in 2016
 - FAO/INFOODS Analytical Food Composition Database Version 1.1 (AnFoodD1.1) in 2016
 - FAO/INFOODS Global food composition database for fish and shellfish – version 1.0 (uFiSh1.0) in December 2016
 - FAO/INFOODS Global food composition database for pulses – version 1.0 (uPulses1.0)
- Advanced work on
 - data collection of analytical data in West Africa as part of the INDDEX project
 - the development of the FAO/INFOODS/IZiNCG Global Phytate Database
- The West African Food Composition Table is being updated by FAO Rome in collaboration with AFROFOODS (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, and South Africa). Data collection and compilation in the different countries are finalized. Recipe collections in Benin and Burkina Faso are ongoing. Aggregation and filling of data gaps have started. This activity is being carried out within the Gates Foundation funded INDDEX project, led by the Tufts University, where FAO is a partner. The new version is to be published in early 2018 and will include many more foods, recipes and biodiversity as well as more analytical data from the region.

Biodiversity (<http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/food-biodiversity/en/>)

- No progress reports on the two Nutritional Indicators for Biodiversity on food composition and on food consumption were published in 2014 and 2015 due to lack of funds
- The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) endorsed in 2015 the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition*. The guidelines are useful for countries wishing to pledge to include biodiversity into programmes and policies, especially in agriculture
- FAO published important guidelines including biodiversity aspects in 2016: *Designing nutrition-sensitive agriculture investments. Checklist and guidance for programme formulation*.
- FAO published in 2016 the *Guidelines on Assessing Biodiverse Foods in Dietary Surveys* to assist countries to collect food consumption data on biodiverse foods. Once more consumption data of biodiverse foods are available there will be a higher need for compositional data of biodiverse foods.
- Gave several presentations at international meetings and conferences to mobilize professionals to mainstream biodiversity in nutrition and agriculture

Communication

- The INFOODS website is regularly updated with new information http://www.fao.org/infoods/index_en.stm
- The INFOODS listserv remains an important communication tool within the food composition community. It is actively used by members to ask questions but also by FAO to inform the community about new publications and events. The number of subscribers went up from 600 in 2013 to actually over 1000 members.

International Food Data Conference (IFDC)

The 11th IFDC, organized by the National Institute of Nutrition, in Hyderabad (India) was a great success with over 300 participants. Several pre- and post-conference events were organized additionally.

INFOODS as IUNS Task Force

INFOODS is a Task Force of IUNS, chaired by Ruth Charrondiere and Henrietta Ene-Obong.

II. Activities at the Regional INFOODS Data Centres included the following

AFROFOODS

AFROFOODS is increasingly active due to dedicated coordinators and vice coordinators; funds arriving from different sources and reach out to countries.

Coordination

Several national focal points were identified which could become INFOODS national coordinators.

- Bukina Faso: Dr Ella Campaore, University Ouaga I, Pr J-K-Z, CRSBAN, UFR-SVT, Burkina Faso
- Benin Republic: Dr Nadia Fanou Fogny, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin
- Kenya: Mr. John Mwai, Ministry of Health, Kenya (elected INFOODS national coordinator).
- Mali: Ms Fatimata Quattara, Senior Nutrition Research Institut, National de Recherche en Sante Publique (INRSP), Bamako, Mali
- Nigeria: Dr Ajani Sanusi, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

AFROFOODS meetings and Capacity building

AFROFOODS fully participated in the African Nutritional Epidemiology Conference (ANEC VII) which took place between the 9th and 14th, 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. The AFROFOODS and WAFOODS coordinators were sponsored for this conference by the FAO regional Office in Ghana, while FAO Rome and Morocco were responsible for the logistics arrangements for the training workshop and participation at the conference.

Four major activities took place before and during ANEC VII:

- Pre-conference FAO/INFOODS/AFROFOODS training on food composition: this was facilitated by the AFROFOODS and WAFOODS coordinators. A total of 50 participants attended the training. There was a wider spread of participants from across African compared to previous training workshops.
- Presentation of the update of the WAFCT given by the AFROFOODS coordinator on behalf of the entire team. The effort of the team was well received by the conference participants.
- AFROFOODS meeting: This meeting was attended by 17 participants. The meeting was used as a forum to discuss food composition activities in various countries/sub-regions and to suggest the way forward. The incorporation of the e-learning into the undergraduate and postgraduate nutrition curricula was discussed and encouraged. Potentials country coordinators were identified or suggested for Ethiopia, Morocco, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. These are being followed up.
- Meeting between AFROFOODS coordinators and Dr Mohamed AgBendeche and Dr Mawuli Sablah both of the FAO Africa regional office (FAORAF) in Accra. The meeting was aimed at discussing how AFROFOODS and FAORAF will collaborate to carry out food composition activities in the continent.

Communication/visibility

In order to enhance effective communication and increase our visibility, AFROFOODS now has an email address as follows: Email: afrofoodsinfoods@gmail.com. Our website is currently being developed; the proposed web address is: <http://afrofoods.org>

Fund raising/Proposal writing

AFROFOODS is currently and actively seeking for funding and collaboration with organizations, institutions and agencies in order to achieve its objectives. An action plan has been developed and a proposal has been submitted to the FAO Regional Office in Ghana for support for some of the planned activities in the next 3 years. Also ESCA with the ESCSAFOODS coordinator are seeking for funding in their region, including the food industry.

Ongoing subregional and country activities

Efforts are also under way to produce/update other sub-regional and country-specific databases in Cameroun, Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya and Ethiopia.

ESCSAFOODS: After the Arusha conference in 2015, the ECSAFOODS coordinator in collaboration with Ms Rosemary Mwaisaka, the Food Security and Nutrition Manager of East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA HC) embarked on a project at determining the availability and status of food composition database/tables in 6 countries within ECSA HC. The main objective was to strengthen the food composition network. The countries are Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The results showed that food composition activities have been undertaken in these countries to varying extent, mostly on an ad hoc basis by individuals or institution (in Ethiopia only) but none have a focal person or funds allocated to maintain continuity. Kenya is an exception due to FAO funding. **Kenya** is producing an updated FCT, aimed to be published in October 2017. It will contain newly analysed data for some 37 foods as well as collected analysed data from other sources in Kenya. FAO Kenya is funding this project and assist in the coordination. FAO Rome provides technical support. The steering committee of many stakeholders is very active providing good inputs. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is leading the activity and collaborates with KALRO, BFN and others. In 2013, John Mwai attended the FoodComp course in Wageningen (sponsored by FAO, Rome) and is now leading the process. Several training course took place: in 2015 for 24 participants from universities, government and NGOs on food composition data; in 2016 for food samplers and handlers. **Malawi** has some support from USAID and Tufts University to generate and compile their food composition data. However not much progress due to absence of local counterpart.

WAFOODS: In **Ghana**, WAFOODS has been involved in the collection of foods for analysis in the three Northern regions of Ghana. This initiative was sponsored by Ajinomoto Inc. and the World Food Program. A total of 25 foods, including some commonly consumed foods, namely groundnuts, goat meat, guinea fowl egg, chicken egg, anchovies, shea butter and groundnut oil have been sent to Laboratories in France and India for analysis. Work on some fermented foods is also under consideration. WAFOODS is currently waiting for the results of analysis. In **Nigeria**, a new FCT will be published in early 2017 in electronic form with 279 food items, energy and all the proximate contents, 9 mineral and 12 vitamins. Most of the vitamins and minerals were borrowed from the WAFCT and USDA due to lack of such data in the literature. Unfortunately, the number of food items in the table is far less compared to Nigerian food diversity. It does not also contain soups and meals without recipes. This work started in 2013 after a training; they used FAO/INFOODS tools and guidelines.

Update of West African FCT: This activity is led by FAO Rome as part of the International Dietary Data Expansion (ININDEX) project which is supported by Tufts University's Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy who received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Food Composition experts from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and South Africa were responsible for the collection and compilation of data of foods and recipes from their countries, while the harmonization and final aggregation work is being carried out at the FAO office in Rome. The updated Food Composition Table will be completed and released in early 2018.

ASEANFOODS

ASEANFOODS has maintained its high level of activities over the past years.

Coordination

Assoc. Prof Prapasri Puwastien has been the ASEANFOODS Coordinator since 1991 to April 2016. Since then, Assoc. Prof Kunchit Judprasong (Thailand) and Mr. Le Hong Dung (Vietnam) are the new ASEANFOODS Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator, respectively, with Assoc. Prof Prapasri Puwastien as one of the ASEANFOODS Technical consultants.

ASEANFOODS meetings

During 2015-2016, ASEANFOODS collaborated with and supported by International Life Sciences Institute South East Asia Region (ILSI-SEA) in organising two ASEANFOODS workshops in Bangkok, Thailand: 1) Roundtable discussion on Food Composition Database, 17-18 December 2015; and 2) ASEANFOODS - ILSI SEA Region Workshop on Food Composition Data, 30-31 March 2016. The specific objectives of the first workshop are aimed to develop a quality evaluation system (draft) for assessing the quality of published national FCTs in ASEAN countries and to develop action plan for succeeding workshop and future activities. The detail information is available in the ASEANFOODS website (<http://www.inmu.mahidol.ac.th/aseanfoods/activities.html>). The specific objectives of the second workshop

are 1) to review the proposed plan/strategies for updating of ASEAN FCTs/FCDBs, 2) to share experience and introduce the international protocols for compilation of food composition data and 3) to discuss the feasibility of incorporating nutrient data of pre-packaged foods (branded food products database) into national FCDBs.

Ongoing subregional and country activities

At the national level, most of ASEAN countries have been actively working on generating new data. The achievement of each country (except Myanmar and Singapore) is summarised as follows: **Brunei Darussalam:** At present, there is no published National FCTs/FCDB in Brunei Darussalam. **Indonesia:** National FCD are developing; data compilation is expected to be completed by the end of 2018. **Laos PDR:** The new food consumption survey is nearly completed. The revised FCDB will be conducted by the end of 2017. **Malaysia:** Malaysia has been centralising the coordination, compilation and documentation of the laboratory analyses of nutrients by the participating institutions through a web-based system for data generators, data compilers and data users (<http://myfcd.moh.gov.my>). This online FCDB publishes partial releases of the Malaysian Food Composition Database websites since 2015. The project has also been carrying out updating of analytical methods such as method validation for fat soluble vitamins in food (vitamin D, K, A) and carotenoids (B-carotene, lutein), B vitamins (vitamin B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B7, B9, B12) and vitamin C using HPLC methods are currently conducted. **Philippines:** Current activities are on updating FCTs and web-based PhilFCT. More appropriate methods are used for sugars, vitamin B and iodine analyses. New food data, focusing on indigenous fruits and vegetables, are being generated, compiled, checked and evaluated until the end of 3rd quarter of 2017. Preparation of the camera-ready Philippines FCTs will start on the second semester of 2017 and expected to be available by 2018. For the web-based PhilFCT which was officially launched/published last February 2016 (<http://i.fnri.dost.gov.ph/fct/library>), the on-going uploading of generated food data (Na, TDF and Total Sugar) and photo documents are being operated. **Thailand:** The Thai Food Composition Tables 2015 was published in September 2015. The on-line Thai FCDB is available since April 2016 at the INMU website (<http://www.inmu.mahidol.ac.th/thaifcd/home.php>). Food composition data for new food items which include vitamins B6, B12 and folate are being developed. Collection of FCD of branded food products from food companies are on process. Training on proficiency testing based on ISO 13528: 2015 (Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison) and ISO guide 35: 2006 (General and statistical principles for certification RM) with ultimate goal to strengthen the competence of laboratories in developing FCD quality have been regularly conducted. **Vietnam:** Updating of the Vietnam FCDB is at the final preparation step which will be published by April 2017. The on-line database will be available only in PDF format at the National Institute of Nutrition website.

The ASEANFOODS website (<http://www.inmu.mahidol.ac.th/aseanfoods/>) is updated regularly. The ASEAN food composition tables as PDF and the ASEAN Manual of nutrient analysis are available at the website.

EUROFOODS (presently operating as EuroFIR)

EuroFIR is active in EU-projects and aims to expand its commercial and consultancy activities, and is involved in 4 EU-funded projects PRECIOUS, iFAAM, BACCHUS, PD_Manager and RICHFIELDS.

Meetings and trainings

The **EuroFIR Food Forum** (Brussels, 4-8th April 2016) focused on health claims and food labelling regulations in the European Union. It provided an opportunity to hold other meetings around the date: EuroFIR General Assembly; training sessions (value documentation workshop which was attended by 30 compilers); RICHFIELDS 'Food matching for dietary assessment (WP9)' workshop, exploring how resources (e.g. food consumption and food composition databases) can be integrated and interoperability assured in the medium- and longer-terms. There will also be meetings for the FoodComp & Technical Working Group, the group on EuroFIR Thesauri, and the FoodCase User Group.

The EuroFIR Food Classification Thesaurus (version LanguaLTM 2014-1.0) was added to the EuroFIR Thesaurus Manager facility (TMF) and released publicly. New functions were added to TMF. The EuroFIR Thesauri webpages were reorganised and updated.

EuroFIR hosted a session at the second **IMEKOFOODS Conference**, chaired by Paul Finglas, who also gave the keynote presentation on quality aspects of food composition data. Westenbrink (RIVM, NL) visited Gothenburg (SE) to give a presentation at the **Nordic Food Analysis Network** (19th June, 2016) entitled 'Recent developments in European databases, based on the EuroFIR activities'.

FoodCASE

Interest in FoodCASE is increasing with eight organisations including FAO considering FoodCASE, not least because of the active user group behind it. The concept of central databases for all food related data is also gaining momentum. Swiss food consumption data has been imported into FoodCASE and was linked to food composition data in 2016, making assessment of nutritional behaviours easier. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (Berlin) is using FoodCASE for their total diet study (BfR Meal Study) and is cooperating with German food compilers to facilitate better analyses.

Food composition database updates and new features:

The 2016 **Serbian** food composition database (26525 chemical parameters in 1077 food products) has been incorporated into FoodEXplorer, which has also been expanded with the addition of food composition tables from **Japan** (2015, 7th Revised Edition - 278579 chemical parameters for 2198 food items) and **New Zealand** (2014). We are also working on FoodEXplorer standards and a web-based data import tool, making addition of datasets easier.

LATINFOODS ACTIVITIES 2012-2015

The Latin American Network of Food Composition has 19 national chapters of which 12 are active.

Websites of LATINFOODS and SAMFOODS Sub Regional Centre

Both are now located in INTA, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile. Discussions are ongoing to transfer it to FAO Panama. Links to the LATINFOODS databases on the website are being re-installed.

Documents

Sampling Guidelines, initiated in a FAO project under the leadership of Joanne Holden, includes sampling examples from Latin America. It was peer reviewed and will be published soon.

Software to compile and exchange food composition data

Software was developed by ARGENFOODS (Jujuy University) and validated to compile and exchange food composition data developed as activity of FAO project TCP/RLA/3107 for Argentina, Chile and Paraguay. It is a relational database with hierarchical structure. Some improvements have been realized lately.

LATINFOODS meeting/Capacity development/Analytical methods

The triennial Assembly of LATINFOODS was held in the framework of the Latin American Congress of Nutrition (SLAN), on November 12th, 2015 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The new Executive Committee was chosen and a work plan for the next triennium (2015-2018) was prepared. Since then several skype meetings were held between members of the Executive Committee.

The LATINFOODS Executive Committee for 2015-2018 is composed as follows:

President	Norma Sammán (Argentina)
Vice-President	Johana Ortiz Ulloa (Ecuador)
Geographic Representative of Meso America and the Caribbean	Julieta Salazar de Ariza (Guatemala)
Geographic Representative of South America	María Teresa Oyarzun (Chile)
Subregional Center MESOCARIBEFODS Coordinator	Ana Victoria Román (Guatemala)
Subregional Centre SAMFOODS Coordinator	María Teresa Oyarzun (Chile)
Regional Committee of Data Generation Coordinators	Ángela Zuleta (Argentina) Lilia Masson (Chile)
Regional Committee of Data Compilation Coordinator	Elizabeth Wenzel (Brazil)
Regional Committee of Users Coordinator	Adriana Blanco Metzler (Costa Rica)

The following training activities were performed:

- FAO/LATINFOODS workshop: *Training in Food Composition Tables with relevance for the Latin America and Caribbean Universities* at the SLAN Congress on 12th November 2016.
- FAO/LATINFOODS Symposium: *Natural and Synthetic Dietary Fiber: Physiological Functions on Noncommunicable Diseases Prevention. New Analysis Methodologies*, was organized within the program of SLAN Congress 2015.
- Participation in the International Workshop “Evaluación nutricional y de estilos de vida de poblaciones” in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-18 September 2015. Organized by FINUT – SAN.
- With the aim to restart the activities of the URUGUAYFOODS Chapter, the workshop *Stages for the development of Food Composition databases and tables* was conducted in August 2016, at the University of the Republic, Montevideo, Uruguay

The **National Chapters** continue generating and compiling information about food composition. Activities were undertaken to reactivate the National Chapters of Colombia and Peru.

ARGENFOODS: Norma Samman and her team are organizing the 12th International Food Data Conference (IFDC) with the theme ‘From Food Composition to better policies and healthy diets’, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 11- 13 October 2017, before IUNS 21st International Congress of Nutrition (ICN). Several training courses are planned on food composition and FoodEx2. **BRASILFOODS:** (i) the Nutrient Intake Assessment Database of the Brazilian Food Composition Database was created with compositional data on proximates, fatty acids, vitamins and minerals. Missing data were compiled from international analytical sources (ii) incorporation of other information in this database that it will be used in the algorithm of a computational tool, which will help with the decision-making of nutritionists, during nutrition consultation; (iii) revision of the Biodiversity Database, with essentially national data; (iv) review of additional databases (vitamin A and carotenoids, flavonoids, glycaemic response); (v) restructuring of the TBCA website, to be launched in 2017; (vi) it is being started the algorithm's building of the expert system, that will be responsible for the elaboration of food plans. **COSTA RICAFOODS** is coordinating a project grant to be funded by IDRC, Canada to verify salt content in street foods and fast foods. 7 countries of the LATINFOODS Network are participating. **ECUADORFOODS** is working on publishing a FCT. **PANAMAFOODS:** A Work Plan was established for 2017 on capacity building for the preparation of the Food Composition Table of Panama under the FAO project TCP/PAN/3601 on the compilation of macronutrient and micronutrient data. A second phase project was already approved. Participating institutions are FAO, IEA-UP, and MINSA. **Venezuela:** A training course on food composition was held under a FAO project with the aim to revise and actualize the national FCT. **LATINFOODS:** Data on the sodium content were collected from product label for more than 6.000 foods in 10 country belonging to LATINFOODS (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panamá, Paraguay and Peru), as part of the initiative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to contribute to the reduction of sodium intake in Latin America.

MEFOODS & GULFOODS

Basma Dashti was elected vice coordinator. She met with Ayesha Salem Al Dhaheri, the MEFOODS & GULFOODS coordinator in February in Kuwait to discuss the regional food composition database project and the upcoming regional training workshop on food composition data. Both parties agreed on the importance of collaboration to execute the objectives of the project. Dr Ayesha suggested to hold the workshop at United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) in May 2016, however and due to lack of funding the workshop was postponed.

Ms. Basma Dashti was invited to the regional meeting to standardize and update food composition tables reflecting sugar, TFA, SFA and salt content .The meeting was held in Rabat-Morocco during the period from 20-22 September 2016 and was organized by the WHO regional office for Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO). Ms. Dashti presented two lectures, the first one was on the progress of food composition tables of Kuwait and the gaps and challenges of updating the Kuwaiti food composition tables. The second lecture was about the future plan of the development of a regional food composition tables for the GCC countries in collaboration with FAO organization and WHO for technical and financial support. The members of the meeting were enthusiastic about the idea of conducting the regional food composition project in the GCC and

WHO offered to help in raising this issue in their future meeting with the governmental parties in Kuwait to facilitate the execution of this project

The food composition of commonly consumed Emirati foods was sent for publication to the British Journal of Nutrition. This publication includes compositional data on 18 foods categorised into breads (n=5), entrée dishes (n=3), main dishes (n=5) and sweet dishes (n=5) with details on their proximate analysis, glycaemic index (GI) and glycaemic load (GL).

Future plans

- Attend the training workshop on food composition tables reflecting sugar, TFA, SFA and salt contents, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, 18 – 20 April 2017 organized by WHO.
- The Vice Coordinator got a preliminary acceptance to conduct a regional food composition workshop in Kuwait. Dr Ayesha suggested to merge both MEFOODS & GULFOODS into one workshop that could be held in Kuwait during November 2017. She also suggested to hold an annual meeting to discuss the progress of the project.
- Re-activate the network in the region and to strengthen the collaboration between the different potential institutes on food composition.
- Establish, maintain and develop regional food composition database networks and a regional steering committee of MEFOODS & GULFOODS.
- Develop regional food composition table for the Gulf and Middle East regions.

NEASIAFOODS

No news

NORAMFOODS

The 40th National Nutrient Databank Conference was held May 16-18, 2016 in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. The conference theme was “The Future of Food and Nutrient Databases: Invention, Innovation, and Inspiration”. The conference was attended by nearly 200 registrants, including 20+ from outside the United States. There were 13 sessions and 2 optional workshops with 38 oral presentations and 67 poster presentations including 9 students who participated in an award competition. One of the workshops was on the FAO/INFOODS e-learning course on food composition. David Haytowitz and Pamela Pehrsson gave a presentation on using materials provided by Ruth Charrondiere. Approximately 40 people attended the session and the presentation was followed by a lively discussion on food composition.

SAARCFOODS

The 11th International Food data conference was held at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad from 3-5 November 2015 with the theme "Food Composition and Public Health Nutrition". The new Indian Food Composition Tables were released in January 2017. For this occasion, a high level launching meeting was organized with several international speakers from SAARCFOODS countries, Europe, South Africa and the EuroFIR and INFOODS coordinator.

OCEANIAFOODS

A new coordinator and vice coordinator were elected: Siva Sivakumaran from Plant & Food Research working on the New Zealand Food Composition Database and Jayashree Arcot from UNSW Australia, respectively.

In July 2016, an OCEANIAFOODS training course was held, followed by an OCEANIAFOODS conference. Proceedings of both events will be published soon.