

HEALTHGRAIN - AACC INTERNATIONAL WHOLE GRAIN TASK FORCE WORKSHOP Tuesday 24th March 2009, 14.00 – 18.00

Chairs: Jan Willem Van der Kamp, TNO, The Netherlands; Kaisa Poutanen, VTT, Finland; Julie M. Jones, College of St. Catherine, USA

The AACC International Whole Grain Task Force (WGTF) began its work three years ago, in December 2005. In that time it has addressed a number of issues. The WGTF works through conference calls with academics, industry, non-profit agency, and government participants. There are core participants who regularly attend the calls. In addition, there are individuals with special interests or expertise who may participate from time to time. There is an attempt to have various industries and areas of the world represented. Furthermore, the work of the WGTF is strengthened by smaller expert task forces convened to deal with issues specific to processing of traditional whole grain foods barley, bulgur, and liming of corn (nixtimalization) or participation by regulatory people from groups such as Health Canada.

The workshop will focus:

- **Discussions to date of the AACC Intl. Whole Grain Task Force - Prof. Julie Jones**
- **Debate from the November 2008 Open Discussion Forum meeting in Paris, organized by HEALTHGRAIN - Jan Willem van der Kamp**
- **Compatibility of whole grain definition(s) and EFSA approval of health claims - Prof. D.P. Richardson**
- **Reactions to the recent survey**

Background information

The role of the WGTF is to try to use science to answer questions that are important for moving the whole grain agenda forward with the following objectives:

1. To encourage the use of whole grain products in many venues.
2. To provide a science background as the basis for promulgation of rule-making by entities that label and encourage whole grain product use.
3. To set definable scientific standards which help industry with product formulation and labelling guidelines. This will help minimize proliferation of multiple standards that will paralyze consumers and manufacturers.
4. To provide the consumer greater clarity in the marketplace in order to select whole grain containing foods.
5. To support the use of foods made with a blend of whole and enriched grains, but that contribute significant whole grain content to the diet – not just foods that are entirely or almost entirely manufactured with whole grains. This will enable manufacturers to add whole grain to their lines and will allow consumers to adapt to products containing whole grains.
6. To use science to help make certain that industry develops whole grain products which deliver the nutritional advantage and are not simply functionally expedient.

While much of the activity has had a North American focus up until now, the WGTF has felt the need to be complemented by a European discussion forum. This is timely when EFSA will be taking decisions about generic nutrition and health claims very soon. The forum could review and comment the decisions and questions by the AACC Forum, and raise questions which are important for European developments. With this workshop, WGTF is following up on discussions held in Europe as well as in the USA on a regular basis. The workshop will be prepared with the input of members of the Healthgrain project, ICC and AACC International – Cereals&Europe.