

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

12th Working Group meeting on Lectins



4th April 2025

9:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 15 April 2025

Location: Parma- hybrid

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Online: Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Heather Wallace

On-site: Hanne Frøkiær, Pierre Rougé, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts¹:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Eirini Kouloura

MESE Unit: José Ángel Gómez Ruiz, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Marios Georgiadis

- Others:

Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items

Ullrika Sahlin and Kevin Wilson participated as contractors (ref. OC/EFSA/MESE/2002/5-LOT1) for agenda item 5.3 Uncertainty Analysis

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 12th meeting of the WG Lectins in food.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the document "Implementing Rule of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority laying down the rules on the selection, appointment and operations of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and of their Working Groups":
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/paneloperation.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting held on 4-5th March 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12th March 2025.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG were updated on the feedback received by the CONTAM Panel during the 150th Plenary meeting. The WG discussed the new drafted text in the sections of Toxicokinetics and Mode of action as well as editorial changes in the Repeated dose toxicity section. The approach to derive a reference point from human case reports was presented and the limitations of using human data to characterise the risk related to lectin consumption were considered. Updates on the endpoints considered for dose-response analysis were discussed as well as the decisions made by the Panel for the human dietary exposure scenarios. Uncertainty analysis was discussed together with the contractors, mainly focussing on toxicokinetics, toxicity and exposure assessments. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins. The WG agreed to complete the exposure scenarios and uncertainty analysis table for the next meetings that will be held on the 9-10th April and 5th of May.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9-10 April 2025, online.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

11th Working Group meeting on Lectins

4-5th March 2025

9:30-18:30 Day 1; 9:00-13:30 Day 2

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 March 2025



Location: Parma- hybrid

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Online: Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Heather Wallace²

On-site: Hanne Frøkiær, Pierre Rougé, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts³:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete⁴

- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Eirini Kouloura

MESE Unit: José Ángel Gómez Ruiz, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Marios Georgiadis

- Others:
Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 11th meeting of the WG Lectins in food.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ Absent day 1: between 13.00-15.15 and day 2

² Present from 16.00 on day 1

³ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁴ Present day 1: between 17.30-18.30 and day 2: between 12.30-13.30

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting held on 3rd February 2025, via web-conference

The minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 12th February 2025.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the studies included since the previous WG meeting in the section on toxicity in experimental animals. The sections related to toxicity in experimental animals were re-arranged to improve the flow of the text and the quality of the critical studies was thoroughly discussed. The sections on ADME, Chemistry and physicochemical properties, Sampling and methods of analysis were discussed and pending comments were agreed. The WG members also discussed the occurrence and exposure assessment sections. Moreover, the mode of action, uncertainty analysis and considerations of critical effects and dose-response analysis were discussed and the approach to develop these sections was agreed. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins. The WG agreed to send the sections on toxicity in experimental animals to the upcoming Plenary meeting in March, 25-27.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 April 2025 2025, online.

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN

10th Working Group meeting on Lectins



3 February 2025

9:30-17:30

MINUTES - Agreed on 12 February 2025

Location: Webconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Patrick Mulder, Heather Wallace, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts²:
Not Applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
EC: Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Eirini Kouloura

- Others:
Federico Cruciani participated as ISA (Individual Scientific Advisor) for all agenda items, via web conference

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 10th meeting of the WG Lectins in food.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence³ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁴, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ Absent between 9.30-10.30 CET

² As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting held on 8th January 2025, in via web-conference

The minutes of the 9th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 14th January 2025.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the studies included since the previous WG meeting in the section on experimental animals and specifically studies on general toxicity (including gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, kidney endpoints), carcinogenicity; developmental and reproductive toxicity; immunotoxicity; autoimmunity and allergenicity. The sections on ADME and observations in humans were discussed and pending comments were agreed. The WG members also discussed the occurrence and exposure assessment sections. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4-5 March 2025, in Parma.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
9th Working Group meeting on Lectins



8 Jan 2025

09.30-17.00 CET

MINUTES - Agreed on 14 Jan 2025

Location: Online

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Patrick Mulder, Heather Wallace, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts²:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Federico Cruciani³ (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 9th meeting of the WG Lectins in food.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting held on 10th December 2024, online

The minutes of the 8th WG on Lectins in food were agreed during the WG meeting on 10th of December 2024.

¹ Absent between 9.30-10.30 CET

² As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

³ Absent between from 13.00 CET

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the studies included since the previous WG meeting in the section on experimental animals and specifically studies on general toxicity (including gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, kidney endpoints), carcinogenicity; developmental and reproductive toxicity; immunotoxicity; autoimmunity and allergenicity. The sections on ADME and observations in humans were discussed and pending comments were agreed. The WG members also discussed the information on the analytical method included in the draft Opinion. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins. The WG agreed to send the sections on observations in humans, ADME, subsections of animal studies; food processing and analytical methods to the upcoming Plenary meeting in January, 22-23.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 3 February 2025.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
8th Working Group meeting on Lectins



10 Dec 2024
09.30-17.00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 10 Dec 2024

Location: Online

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder¹, Heather Wallace², Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts³:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete⁴

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 8th meeting of the WG Lectins in food. Apologies were received from Patrick Mulder.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁵ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁶, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting held on 20th November 2024, online

¹ Absent

² Absent between 14.15-14.45 CET.

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁴ Absent

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The minutes of the 7th WG on Lectins in food were agreed during the WG meeting on 20th of November 2024.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the section on the studies in experimental animals and specifically studies on general toxicity (including gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, kidney endpoints), carcinogenicity; developmental and reproductive toxicity; immunotoxicity and allergenicity. The section on observations in humans was discussed and studies included in the different subsections were reviewed by the WG. The WG members also addressed pending comments in the supporting information and food processing sections of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins. The WG agreed to send the sections on observations in humans, ADME, subsections of animal studies; food processing and analytical methods to the upcoming Plenary meeting in January, 22-23.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8 January 2025.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
7th Working Group meeting on Lectins



20 Nov 2024
09.30-17.00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 20 Nov 2024

Location: Online

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder, Heather Wallace, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Lydia Alarcón Asensio, Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 7th meeting of the WG Lectins in food. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting held on 8 & 9th October 2024, in Parma

The minutes of the 6th WG on Lectins in food were agreed via written procedure on 21st of October 2024.

¹ As defined in Article 34 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the section on human data identified in the literature for different plant lectins and the organisation of the information in sub-sections. A focused discussion was held on the studies retrieved pertaining to the toxicity in experimental animals section and specifically studies on general toxicity (including liver, pancreas, kidney endpoints), carcinogenicity and developmental and reproductive toxicity and allergenicity. The WG members also addressed pending comments in the supporting information and food processing sections of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 10 December 2024.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
6th Working Group meeting on Lectins



08-09 Oct 2024

14.00-18.00 CET (day 1)

09.00-13.00 CET (day 2)

MINUTES - Agreed on 21 Oct 2024

Location: Parma

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Patrick Mulder², Heather Wallace, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts³:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Eleni Gkimprixi, Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 6th meeting of the WG Lectins in food. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 9th September 2024, via web-conference

¹ Present until 17.30 CET on Day 1

² Present from 15.45 CET on Day 1

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The minutes of the 5th WG on Lectins in food were agreed via written procedure on 19th of September 2024.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the human data identified in the literature for different plant lectins and the organisation of this section. A focused discussion was held on the studies retrieved pertaining to the toxicity in experimental animals section. The allergenicity of lectins was discussed combining evidence from animal studies and human studies. The WG members also addressed pending comments in the supporting information and food processing sections of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins. The Chair of the WG agreed to present the sections of the draft Opinion on supporting information and observations in humans for possible adoption at the next CONTAM Plenary meeting.

6. Any Other Business

The dates of the WG meetings in 2025 were discussed and agreed.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 20 November 2024.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
5th Working Group meeting on Lectins



09 Sept 2024
9.00-16.00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 19 Sept 2024

Location: Online

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder, Heather Wallace¹, Evangelia Ntzani² (Chair)

- Hearing Experts³:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Eleni Gkimpixi, Marianna Kujawa, Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

MESE Unit: José Ángel Gómez

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 5th meeting of the WG Lectins in food. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

¹ Present until 12.00 CET

² Present until 13.00 CET

³ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 15th July 2024, via web-conference

The minutes of the 4th WG on Lectins in food were agreed on 15th of July 2024, at the end of the meeting.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the occurrence data collected from the literature for different plant lectins and highlighted the heterogeneity of the data obtained. A focused discussion was held on the studies retrieved pertaining to the toxicity in experimental animals section. The WG members also addressed pending comments in the supporting information (chemistry and sources) and food processing sections of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 8-9 October 2024.



Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting.

With regard to this meeting, Dr Evangelia Ntzani declared the following interest: member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Per- and Poly FluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS) Assessment. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
4th Working Group meeting on Lectins



15 July 2024
9.30-16.30 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 15 July 2024

Location: Online

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Pierre Rougé, Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Eleni Gkimprixi, Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eirini Kouloura

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 4th meeting of the WG Lectins in food. Apologies were received by Heather Wallace, Marianna Kujawa, José Ángel Gómez.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 19th June 2024, via web-conference

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



The minutes of the 3rd WG on Lectins in food were agreed via written procedure on 26th of June 2024.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the supporting information of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, including the chemistry and physicochemical properties of lectins, the sources of plant lectins and previous risk assessments. A focused discussion was held on the food processing techniques and impact on the lectin concentration/ functionality. A general discussion was held on the type of information available so far for the toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans sections. Then, the members of the WG addressed the comments received on the draft Protocol by the CONTAM Panel for the risk assessment of plant lectins in food. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 09 September 2024.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
3rd Working Group meeting on Lectins



19 June 2024
9.30-16.00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 26 June 2024

Location: Parma (hybrid)

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:
On-site: Pierre Rougé, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)
Online: Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder, Heather Wallace
- Hearing Experts¹:
Not applicable
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Frans Verstraete
- EFSA:
FEEDCO Unit: Eleni Gkimprizi, Marianna Kujawa, Eirini Kouloura
MESE Unit: José Ángel Gómez
- Others:

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 3rd meeting of the WG Lectins in food. Apologies were received by Federico Cruciani (ISA expert).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 17th May 2024, via web-conference

The minutes of the 2nd WG on Lectins in food were agreed via written procedure on 28th of May 2024.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the supporting information of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, including the chemistry and physicochemical properties of lectins, the sources of plant lectins and previous risk assessments. A general discussion was held on the type of information available so far for the toxicity in experimental animals and observations in humans sections and the approach to follow for the exposure assessment. Then, the members of the WG finalised the draft Protocol for the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, which will be presented at the CONTAM Panel for possible endorsement. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 15 July 2024.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
2nd Working Group meeting on Lectins



17 May 2024
9.30-17.00 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 28 May 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp¹, Patrick Mulder, Pierre Rouge², Heather Wallace³, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts⁴:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete⁵

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Eleni Gkimprizi, Eirini Kouloura

MESE Unit: José Gómez

Others:

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 2nd meeting of the WG Lectins in food. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁶ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁷, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

¹ Present from 11.30 CET

² Absent between 13.00-14.30 CET

³ Present until 15.00 CET

⁴ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

⁵ Present from 14.00 CET

⁶ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁷ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 10th April 2024, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st WG on Lectins in food were agreed via written procedure on 18th of April 2024.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the WG discussed the introductory sections of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, including the chemistry and physicochemical properties of lectins as well as the sources of plant lectins. A discussion was held on the approach to follow for the exposure assessment for this mandate, given the lack of data submitted to EFSA. Then, the members of the WG discussed the draft Protocol for the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, refined the assessment questions formulated to address the ToR and agreed on modifications in the methods for answering the assessment questions. Tasks were distributed to the members of the WG Lectins.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 June 2024.

**SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON
CONTAMINANTS IN THE FOOD CHAIN**
1st Working Group meeting on Lectins



10 April 2024
9.30-13.30 CET
MINUTES - Agreed on 18 April 2024

Location: Teleconference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Hanne Frøkiær, Bettina Grasl-Kraupp, Patrick Mulder, Pierre Rouge, Heather Wallace, Evangelia Ntzani (Chair)

- Hearing Experts¹:

Not applicable

- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Frans Verstraete

- EFSA:

FEEDCO Unit: Federico Cruciani (ISA expert), Chantra Eskes, Eleni Gkimprixi, Eirini Kouloura, Marianna Kujawa

- Others:

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the WG welcomed the participants to the 1st meeting of the WG Lectins in food. No apologies were received.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

Certain interests were declared orally by the members before the beginning of the meeting. For further details on the outcome of the screening of the Oral Declaration(s) of Interest made at the beginning of the meeting, please refer to the Annex.

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Tour de table

The participants at the 1st WG on Lectins in food provided a brief introduction of their background and their involvement in other EFSA's activities, if any.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

a. Draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food ([EFSA-Q-2024-00195](#))

The members of the Working Group were given a brief overview of the Background and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the mandate on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, as requested by the European Commission. The project plan and timelines were presented. The members of the WG then discussed the structure of the draft Opinion on the risk assessment of plant lectins in food, and agreed upon the interpretation of the ToR. The members of the WG discussed also the draft Protocol for the risk assessment of plant lectins in food and in particular, the assessment questions formulated to address the ToR. Following the presentation of the mandate and the discussion on the Protocol, tasks were distributed.

6. Any Other Business

None.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 17 May 2024.

Annex

Interests and actions resulting from the Oral Declaration of Interest done at the beginning of the meeting. With regard to this meeting, Prof. Heather Wallace declared the following interest: evaluator of grants for the EIC pathfinder Open call 2024. In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, and taking into account the specific matters discussed at the meeting in question, the interest above was not deemed to represent a Conflict of Interest for the expert concerned.
