



# NOTE FOR THE PRESS

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## WHO, FAO LAUNCH WEBSITE AS CENTRAL INFORMATION POINT FOR ON-GOING WORK ON ACRYLAMIDE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are establishing an international network on acrylamide in food. The network's aim is to allow all interested parties to share relevant data as well as information on ongoing investigations.

The focal point for the network is the website <http://www.who.int/fsf/Acrylamide/research.htm>  
Content of the website will include:

- A database of researchers/data providers;
- References for research published elsewhere;
- Information updates about the current status of research efforts; and
- WHO/FAO updates on information relevant to the health risk of acrylamide in food.

Any interested party may submit information, and it is hoped that governmental agencies, research institutions, industry and others will share information via the network. The network is intended to be a global resource and inventory of ongoing research on acrylamide in food. It encompasses formal research, surveillance/monitoring and industry investigations, etc.

It is also designed to serve as a discussion forum for active researchers and others in the field. It aims to identify gaps and overlaps in available research/information, and make suggestions for how these could be addressed. Information on these aspects will be posted on the website.

The network will be operated with the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), a collaborative multidisciplinary research and education programme jointly administered by the US Food and Drug Administration and the University of Maryland. JIFSAN is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Risk Analysis and Food Contamination Monitoring and a member of the FAO Network of Centres of Excellence for Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition. The establishment of this network is one of the recommendations to come out of the June 2002 FAO/WHO Consultation on the Health Risks of Acrylamide in Food.

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All WHO Press Releases; Fact Sheets and Features as well as other WHO information can be obtained on Internet on the WHO home page: <http://www.who.int>.

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**WHO**