



Joint FAO/WHO Electronic working group on harmonizing/combining exposure from veterinary drug and pesticide use

Request for expressions of interest and call for data

At its 81st meeting, the JECFA identified the issue of estimating chronic dietary exposure to residues of substances used as both veterinary drugs and pesticides. The Committee noted that it has been common practice to assess the chronic exposure to pesticide and veterinary drug residues using different approaches. These approaches have been developed separately after consideration of the types of substances of interest, duration of exposure, exposure in different subgroups and the type of estimate needed, based on the information available. The Committee noted that simply combining chronic exposure estimates or hybridizing methodologies for the same chemical was not valid as they are underpinned by different assumptions about chronic consumption; one using average per capita consumption data from food balance sheets (JMPR; pesticide residues) and the other using model diets that aim to cover high percentile food consumption in any population group (JECFA; veterinary drug residues). Therefore, the development of chronic dietary exposure assessment methods that take account of potential combined chronic exposure from pesticide and veterinary drug residues should be investigated.

A number of compounds have been evaluated by JECFA as well as by JMPR. Those compounds are listed in Annex 1.

An expert working group (EWG) has been convened to:

A) In regards to dietary exposure assessment of compounds used for multiple purposes (i.e. veterinary drugs and pesticides):

- Develop chronic dietary exposure assessment methods that take account of potential combined exposure from pesticide and veterinary drug residues.
- Investigate the applicability of these methods using compounds that have already been evaluated as both pesticides and veterinary drugs (as listed above).

B) In regards to dietary exposure assessment

- Apply the methodologies developed above to some key examples of veterinary drugs and pesticides that are unlikely to accumulate (including compounds that have been evaluated as both pesticides and veterinary drugs)

C) Report the outcome to JECFA and JMPR

Participation in scoping exercise

As an initial step in the process of developing harmonized chronic exposure procedures for pesticide and veterinary drug residues, the EWG wishes to:

- Elicit information on current practices for estimating chronic dietary exposure used by governments, organizations and individuals where the residues of interest may result from the use of the same compound as a pesticide and a veterinary drug; and

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- Receive from governments, interested organizations and individuals, a set of data on occurrence for pesticides (including monitoring data and residue trials) and veterinary drugs residues listed in annex 1, and consumption of food containing these chemicals.

Governments, interested organizations and individuals are invited to express interest in participating in this scoping exercise.

Following the development of a proposed approach, the EWG will:

- Request national/regional food safety authorities to perform a comparative test to estimate combined chronic dietary exposure for pesticide and veterinary drug residues, applying 1) their own approach and 2) the method proposed by the expert working group.

Date for expression of interest

- Expressions of interest in participating in the EWG scoping exercise
- Submission of information on current practices requested before:

30 July 2016

The expert working group should propose a format for data submission and an harmonized approach to be tested to the Institutions having expressed interest in participating in this scoping exercise before:

31 October 2016

- Submission of data on residue and food consumption by:

31 December 2016

Expressions of interest should be sent to:

FAO: vittorio.fattori@fao.org

WHO: vergerp@who.int

Annex 1

List of substances used as pesticide and veterinary drug, evaluated by JECFA and JMPR

- Abamectin
- Cypermethrin and alpha-cypermethrin
- Cyfluthrin
- Cyhalothrin
- Deltamethrin
- Diflubenzuron
- Emamectin benzoate
- Thiabendazole
- Teflubenzuron