

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Forty-Ninth Session Beijing, China 24-29 April 2017

SIDE EVENT ON CODEX MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS: THE NEED AND INITIATIVES ON INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF JMPR

Date: Monday 24th April 2017 (17:15-18:15)

Background

By providing a common set of standards, the Codex Alimentarius plays an essential role in facilitating trade and ensuring foods are safe. By continuing to empower and support Codex we can allow food trade to fulfill its full potential, yielding benefits to both producers and consumers. As global trade increases and national goals of a safe, affordable food supply become increasingly important, there has never been a greater need for a robust and well-functioning single global Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) reference like Codex. Efforts are needed on identifying the needed Codex MRLs across commodities and chemicals, and on increasing the capacity of the Joint Meeting of Pesticide Residues (JMPR). There is an opportunity to empower Codex to improve and augment its lead role for a future of food trade that is becoming more challenging and complex.

There are currently various initiatives aimed at supporting Codex and increasing the capacity of JMPR.

Global Pulse Confederation 2016 International Year of Pulse Initiative – Wrap-up and Next Steps. *Presentation by Lois Rossi*

2016 was the International Year of Pulse (IYP) and the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) dedicated resources to advocacy efforts concerning the extent of the lack or misalignment of MRLs. The lack of MRLs can disrupt trade and constrain growers' productive use of pesticides, including newer, safer products in agricultural regions around the world, including farmers in developed and developing countries alike. Other key concerns are the increasing number of countries developing national MRL lists without continuing to reference Codex, as well as the potential for zero or near-zero default MRLs to be applied in absence of MRLs established on the basis of risk assessments. The relevance of a single, global MRL reference has never been greater.

The initiative sponsored by the Global Pulse Confederation (GPC) during 2016 focused on the importance of increasing the number of Codex MRLs elaborated each year, the importance of a common set of standards, as well as the need to ensure foods are safe while also facilitating trade. The focus included:

- Initial framing of the complement of Codex MRLs that would be needed to minimally match those established in countries through the development of a “catch-up” plan. The “catch-up” plan concept would begin to identify gaps in Codex MRLs as compared to the MRLs established in jurisdictions with the greatest number of MRLs established.

- The need for additional resources at JMPR, including an increase in the number of experts on JMPR, the support of member countries, and the availability of a sustainable budget for JMPR/CCPR for annual as well as extraordinary meetings of the JMPR. Other potential measures to meet the ever-increasing demand for more - and more quickly developed - Codex MRLs. These included leveraging the availability of electronic tools; utilizing to the extent possible national reviews and MRLs already established by national authorities maximizing the use of crop groupings and representative commodities; establishing clearer guidance on residue trial requirements; and ensuring the consistency of application and adherence to the policies adopted by JMPR and CCPR.

Presentation on the background of this initiative with a specific focus on the “catch-up” plan, and welcomes suggestions, feedback and information on any country priorities for Codex MRLs that should be included in the plan. Member state interest and support is critical to the success of the effort.

International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) Coalition to Support Codex Alimentarius to Support Food Security. *Presentation by Coalition Member Louise Roberge, Tea and Herbal Association of Canada*

This IAFN initiative is a coalition of international industry members, including GPC, who seek to ensure the continued production and trade of safe, high quality and diverse food in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way. Farmers need more Codex MRLs, as well as Codex MRLs that are issued in conjunction with product registrations, or shortly thereafter, and certainly prior to treated commodities moving in international trade. The coalition. The coalition represents industry associations across the agri-food chain, including agricultural input industries for seeds, fertilizers, crop protection and animal health; feed and biotechnology-based products, traders, farmers, and the food and drink manufacturing sector. Louise Roberge represents the Tea and Herbal Association of Canada which is a member of the IAFN Codex Reform Coalition. She will present on the effects of MRLs for tea on the international tea trade.

Workshop on Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs): Possible Next Steps for Consideration by the SPS Committee. *Joint submission by Kenya, Uganda and the United States. Presentation by Lucy Namu, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services. (Kenya) and Geoffrey Onen, Government Chemist and Analytical Laboratory, Uganda*

Following a successful World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Committee workshop on pesticide MRLs in October 2016, several of the key trade issues identified by the range of Members and experts during the workshop were summarized by Kenya, Uganda and the United States, which worked together to summarize possible next steps to address these trade concerns. The joint submission highlights the following trade concerns and invites the SPS Committee to consider measures to address the concerns:

- There are not enough Codex MRLs: the number of nominations put forward by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) for evaluation of new compounds/new uses by the JMPR together with the periodic re-evaluations of existing MRLs far exceeds

its current capacity. Further, a limited number of MRLs on minor uses and specialty crops limits the full potential of minor/specialty crops traded.

- Greater transparency and predictability is needed on proposed changes to Members' MRLs.
- Creative work on developing and harmonizing MRLs is happening in regional and international forums.
- Developing countries would benefit from greater access to newer, lower-risk alternative pesticides.
- Collaborate on solutions for MRLs for minor use and specialty crops including data generation for submission to JMPR on chemical/crop combinations of shared interest to address developing country interests.
- Role of international joint reviews of new pesticide active ingredients and new uses on JMPR work.
- The Committee could play a more active role linking technical issues to trade. Further, it can sponsor technical consultation and study to increase coordination and integration between international and national systems and approaches for establishing tolerances of contaminants in food.

Relevance to CCPR

The side event is directly related to the increasing the capacity of JMPR and thereby increasing the number of MRLs elaborated each year.

Who should attend?

The discussion would be of interest to all CCCPR delegates.

Related Reference

Conference Room Document CRD3 prepared by the Delegation of Canada.