

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of  
the United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 4(a)

CX/PR 14/46/3

March 2014

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

46<sup>th</sup> Session

Nanjing, P.R. China, 5 - 10 May 2014

#### MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO IN ADDITION TO 2013 JMPR ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

1. This document provides information on FAO and WHO activities, in addition to the 2013 Meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (see Agenda Item 5), in the area of provision of scientific advice to Codex and Member countries and capacity development activities which are relevant to the work of the CCPR.

#### **New International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**

2. The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management was approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013. It replaces the previous version (International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides) that was issued first by FAO in 1985 and last updated in 2002. As close collaboration partners of FAO, WHO and UNEP expressed an interest in having the Code officially adopted by their Governing bodies. The WHO Executive Board approved joint FAO/WHO publication of the new Code of Conduct in January 2014. The adoption of UNEP is under processing.

3. The Code of Conduct is an important and broadly accepted document that provides guidance on all aspects of pesticide management to governments, pesticide industry and other stakeholders. Main changes of the new Code of Conduct are greater attention to public health pesticides and the impacts of pesticides on health and the environment, specific references to Highly Hazardous Pesticides and protection of vulnerable groups from the effects of pesticides, introduction of GHS into labeling recommendations, advice to countries to adopt pest and pesticide policies as well as legislation and strengthening information exchange to counter illegal and inappropriate trade in pesticides. Several new and amended definitions include Active Ingredient, Co-Formulant, Highly Hazardous Pesticide, Life Cycle, Pest, Pesticide and Pesticide Management and etc. The new Code of Conduct highlights that governments should regulate and monitor pesticide residues in food in accordance notably with the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius. For more information or to view the complete text, visit the [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management webpage](#) on FAO.org.

#### **FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit**

4. The proper evaluation and registration of pesticides, before they are authorized for use, is an important mechanism to ensure appropriate pesticides enter market. However, pesticide registration authorities in most developing countries often have very limited human resources to copy approaches for pesticide dossier evaluation as applied in countries with more resources.

5. FAO is developing a Pesticide Registration Toolkit which is a decision support system for pesticide registrars in developing countries. It will assist registrars in the evaluation and authorization of pesticides. The Toolkit can best be considered as a web-based registration handbook intended for day-to-day use by pesticide registrars. The Toolkit is not an automated system for the evaluation of pesticides. It supports and facilitates informed decision-making by registrars, but does not take decisions for registrars.

6. Registrars can use the Toolkit to support various of their regular tasks, including assessing what data may be required for the evaluation of a specific type of pesticide for a particular use; obtaining guidance on how to evaluate the various technical aspects of the pesticide registration dossier submitted by the applicant; determine whether other countries have registered a pesticide, and for what uses; monitor the dossier evaluation process and check its progress. The Toolkit will provide flow charts and check-lists to help determine the most appropriate processes to be followed. In addition, standardized evaluation summary forms can be downloaded to structure and document pesticide evaluations.

7. The development of the full Pesticide Registration Toolkit is expected to take about two years. It will involve close collaboration among registrars in developing countries and subject experts from more resource-rich pesticide registration systems. The Pesticide Registration Toolkit will be made available through the FAO web site by 2015. Subsequently, an extensive training on how to use the toolkit will be conducted for registration authorities in developing countries.

### **Possible extra JMPR meetings**

8. The demand for the JMPR evaluation for setting Codex MRLs has been increased significantly. The proposal of having additional JMPR meeting(s) to review more compounds has been raised in recent years. However, the capacity of FAO and WHO to support these increased Codex MRLs setting activities has been stretched beyond what the current resources can support. It is pleased to note that some member countries show their interested in support of one extra JMPR meeting in 2015 or/and 2016. Because of limited capacity of the existing JMPR and the financial constraints of FAO and WHO this support should cover both non-staff and staff cost.

FAO and WHO welcome the support from member governments for extra JMPR meeting. In order to obtain a maximum benefit of this initiative for the overall MRL setting process, the two organizations would like to highlight that:

- 1) The decision for funding the additional meeting should be agreed by donors at least 8 Months prior to the expected date of the meeting.
- 2) The compounds on the agenda of the additional meeting should be integrated based on the list of priorities of CCPR and the JMPR should launch an additional call for data in 2015. Sponsors should be asked to prepare dossiers earlier than as planned by CCPR working group on priorities.
- 3) Additional expertise to review compounds and attend to extra JMPR meeting will be requested and National agencies are expected to facilitate the process.
- 4) The precise date of the extra meeting should be further discussed in order to fit the current timeframe of CCPR and JMPR.
- 5) Organizing an extra JMPR meeting is expected to reduce the back log of JMPR on a temporary basis. A long term solution would request more in depth reorganization.

If these issues can be solved properly an extra meeting should be organized.

### **New individual food consumption data**

9. In 2012, FAO and WHO issued a call for chronic food consumption data based on individual surveys. Twenty eight countries representing about one third of the total world population provided data which were compiled within a unique FAO/WHO database<sup>1</sup> covering all age groups from infants to very elderly. This dataset was used in 2014 to support the task of the CCPR Electronic Working Group on minor crops. It was also used by JMPR to update the IEDI template in complement to the GEMS Cluster diets to estimate the chronic dietary exposure to pesticide residues.

### **Capacity development for feed safety**

10. In September 2013 FAO and the Government of the Netherlands organized an International Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment with the purpose of conducting a first exploration of the state of art in methods and tools for the risk assessment of feed for farm animals, with a focus on possible health risks for the consumers of the animal's products as well as for animal health and welfare. In January 2014 FAO and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF) have hosted in Atlanta (USA) the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Feed Regulators Meeting, a policy and technical forum for discussion on feed and feed safety for the private and public feed operators. To respond to the request expressed by Member States during last Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding and Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO is preparing a Multi-stakeholder Partnership Programme for Capacity Development for Feed Safety, which will include also pesticide residues in feed.

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<sup>1</sup> CIFOSS: FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption Database – Summary Statistics.