

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of
the United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

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MATTERS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO IN ADDITION TO 2014 JMPR ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

Harmonized submission of chemical monitoring data

1. The GEMS/Food system is a web-based platform designed to facilitate the sharing of chemical monitoring data (<https://extranet.who.int/gemsfood/>). The website is accessible for all National Institutions willing to support the international risk analysis process i.e. FAO/WHO Scientific Advice and Codex Alimentarius.

2. In the Codex system the main user of GEMS data is the CCCF because the MLs for food chemical contaminants are based on monitoring data when, on the contrary, the setting of MRLs for pesticide residues is based on Supervised residue Trials. However in the context of evaluating pesticide residue arising from environmental sources other than the use of a pesticide directly or indirectly on the commodity the JMPR is establishing Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) which are estimated from residue data generated in food monitoring programmes. In the evaluation of monitoring data for EMRL, the JMPR needs to describe the source of the monitoring and also relevant information according with the FAO Manual¹ including:

1. description of the commodity according to the Codex classification;
2. analytical methods used, their performance characteristics (LOD, LOQ, reproducibility and spike level with corresponding recovery, literature references to the method applied or description of the method if it is not published;
3. the accreditation status of the testing laboratories;
4. year of the analysis;
5. the agencies which supplied the data, and if available;
6. the size of laboratory sample (it is especially important for raw agricultural commodities).

These mandatory conditions would remain similar in case of a submission through the GEMS system.

3. FAO and WHO would like to encourage the submission of monitoring data for all chemicals including pesticide residues when relevant. This system will present the following advantages:

- Facilitate the data submission through a user-friendly website;
- Ensure the quality control by rejection of incomplete data;
- Facilitate the data extraction and analysis by JMPR expert;
- Ensure the sustainability of data storage.

Improvement of data access

4. In 2014 WHO also improved the tools available for Member States to access data and information². In particular WHO launch a "pesticide dashboard" displaying for all pesticide residues evaluated by JMPR the key toxicological reference values (i.e. ADI and ARfD), the level of chronic and acute dietary exposure and the MRLs adopted by CCPR (figure 1).

5. WHO also launch a user-friendly access to the GEMS cluster diet allowing to display the consumption figures for each food commodity in each of the 17 clusters (figure 2).

¹ <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/jmpr/jmpr-docs/en/>

² <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>

Figure 1: Pesticide dashboard

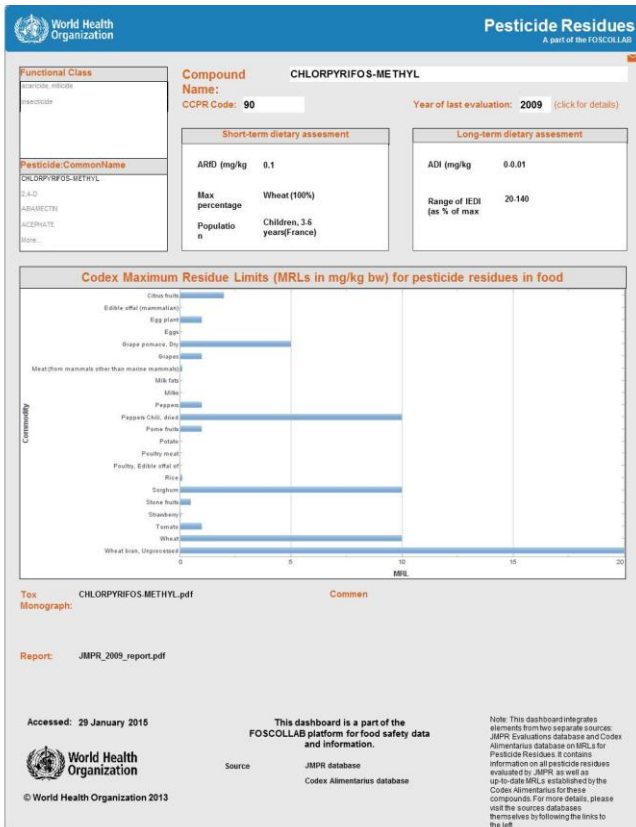


Figure 2: Cluster diets dashboard

