



# **OUTCOME OF THE WTO SPS MRL WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 2016**

**Presented by  
Paper submitted by Kenya, Uganda  
and USA**

# OVERVIEW

- SPS thematic workshop was organized by the Secretariat to focus on pesticide maximum residue levels in October 2016
- Objective of the workshop was to have indepth discussion on pesticide MRLs, specifically to:
  - Review the SPS Agreement and MRLs, including the relevant provisions of the Agreement and jurisprudence;
  - Review the Codex approach to establishing MRLs;
  - Be exposed to the relevant international, regional and bilateral work being undertaken on pesticide residues; and
  - Discuss experiences in complying with MRLs and establishing MRLs, including information on Members' domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures.



# OUTCOME

- From the Workshop, the Committee considered ways of advancing work on trade-related MRL issues; developed paper **G/SPS/W/292** .
- Paper circulated for consideration at WTO SPS Committee meeting held in Geneva in March 2017
- Covered 5 thematic areas



# 1. ENABLE JMPR TO BETTER RESPOND TO INCREASED DEMAND AND MONITOR PROGRESS ON NEW CODEX MRLs

- Great effort of FAO and WHO to increase efficiencies however the number of nominations put forward by the CCPR for evaluation of new compounds, new uses, and for periodic re-evaluations of existing MRLs, by the JMPR far exceeds its current capacity
- Participants discussed options to enable additional efficiencies in the Codex process
- Absence of MRLs for use in traded products for specialty crop and minor use products, especially in developing countries.




# 1. ENABLE JMPR TO BETTER RESPOND TO INCREASED DEMAND AND MONITOR PROGRESS ON NEW CODEX MRLs...CONTD

- Discussions at national level were encouraged and could discuss:
  - options for increasing support to JMPR,
  - increasing representative expert participation,
  - acceptance of global joint reviews and other forms of support for the scientific bodies encouraging programmes to support submission of data from developing countries especially on minor crops; which is in line with Codex Strategic objective 2.3



## 2. STRENGTHEN NOTIFICATION PRACTICES FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY ON MRLs


- SPS Committee should consider ways for WTO Members to provide greater transparency and predictability worldwide on MRLs by urging Members to:
    - notify all changes to their MRLs, including changes to MRLs that are based on international standards;
    - review and improve their ability to take the comments of their trading partners meaningfully into account when considering proposed changes on MRLs; and
    - enable public comment on proposed MRLs, particularly in advance of revocation of MRLs from sectors likely to be affected
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### 3. REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES ON MRLs

- Participants provided information on harmonization and other collaborative activities taking place in international and regional forums
- Regional initiatives have provided useful international outcomes:
  - OECD MRL calculator and use of a common application format, known as the OECD dossier, has been taken up by JMPR and many national authorities, thereby enabling greater alignment of MRLs
  - Global Joint Reviews that are being used as the basis of widely-accepted MRLs by many countries
  - Regional economic integration efforts in the EAC
- Information from regional initiatives could provide the basis for Members to take up creative new MRL-related initiatives



## 4. COLLABORATE ON SOLUTIONS FOR MRLs FOR MINOR USE AND SPECIALTY CROPS

- Participants noted the need for developing countries to have greater access to newer, lower-risk alternative pesticides to replace older pesticides that are not supported by the manufacturers
    - Suggested that other legitimate factors be taken into consideration when analyzing these issues in order to arrive at practical and effective solutions
    - SPS Committee should invite Members to explore ways in which their domestic regulatory approaches to pesticide registration and use can impact – both negatively and positively – the incentives of the private sector to invest
    - Invite Members to evaluate their own minor use needs, to consider participating in the Global Minor Use Summit to be held in Montreal, Canada on 1-4 October 2017 and to collaborate in global data generation activities.
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## 5. DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE IN INCREASING COORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION

- Note the important role of the Committee conferred by Article 3.5 of the SPS Agreement to monitor the process of international harmonization, and by Article 12.2 to:
  - sponsor technical consultation and study with the objective of increasing coordination and integration between international and national systems
  - approaches for establishing tolerances / MRLs for contaminants/pesticides in foods.
- WTO SPS Committee should follow up on the trade-related issues outlined in the Paper (G/SPS/W/292) as identified by the experts
- WTO SPS Committee to invite members to contribute to views expressed and take the discussions forward

Thank you for your kind  
attention

