

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda item 3

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## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### Forty-third Session

#### *Comments from CropLife International*

CropLife International wishes to comment on the work of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) in the context of the strategic challenges and opportunities to Codex presented by the global coronavirus pandemic ([CX/CAC 20/43/2](#)).

The following text from the [CCEXEC79 report](#) highlights the importance of adapting procedures of the scientific advice committees to the reality of the coronavirus pandemic, particularly in the context of CCPR and JMPR.

*Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)*

*New work proposal*

*Priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)*

67. CCEXEC79 noted that the approval of the priority lists would ensure work flow between CCPR and JMPR as to the core business of CCPR to establish maximum residue limits for pesticides in/on food and feed for trade facilitation and public health protection. The approval of the priority lists by CAC43 in 2020 would allow the timely organization of the JMPR meetings in 2021 for consideration by CCPR in 2022. It was clarified that awaiting the meeting of CCPR52 in April 2021 to consider the lists would be too late to start the organization of the extraordinary and regular meetings of JMPR in May and September 2021 and hence the need to have the lists approved by CAC43 in 2020.

68. FAO and WHO informed CCEXEC members that JMPR was using virtual means of communication as much as possible to advance work on provision of scientific advice to Codex. They further informed that a call for data would be issued shortly by the JMPR Secretariat following approval of the lists by CAC43 to allow for organization of the meetings scheduled for 2021.

*Conclusion*

69. CCEXEC79 recommended that CAC43;

- i. approve the priority lists of pesticides for evaluation by JMPR in 2021; and*
- ii. encourage FAO and WHO to make use of virtual electronic means to advance its provision of scientific advice that underpins the work of Codex on food safety standards.*

CAC43 has been asked to approve a substantial workload for JMPR for 2021 ([CX/CAC 20/43/9 Add.3](#)), in JMPR's regular annual session and one additional extraordinary session. This comes on top of a similar but delayed workload ([REP19/PR](#), Appendix X, p. 70 *et seq.*) approved by CAC42 in July of 2019, which is still in progress.

CropLife International acknowledges the financial contribution of the United States to support the extraordinary JMPR session planned in 2021.

Furthermore, [CAC/43 INF/2](#) (paragraph 1), reporting on “FAO/WHO Scientific support to Codex,” notes that “... *JMPR ... continue[s] to meet several times a year ...*”

Given the significant disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, CropLife International appreciates these statements as signal of progress on the ability of JMPR to resume and continue active consideration of proposed MRLs for pesticide residues in a virtual environment, and reach timely decisions that will support agricultural trade. We trust that CAC43 will approve the amended JMPR 2021 schedule and sufficient resources will be made available to support this essential effort, to avoid backup in the JMPR schedule.

Further CropLife International encourages the Codex Secretariat in liaison with WHO and FAO to consider developing a fit-for-purpose and easy-to-apply procedure that allows Committees such as CCPR and expert meetings such as the JMPR to meet virtually and to take/adopt decisions, in case physical meetings cannot go ahead. This is essential for the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission to proceed, for the benefit of the Codex member states and ultimately all consumers worldwide.