

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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World Health  
Organization

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Agenda Item 8

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ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

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

50<sup>th</sup> Session

Haikou, P.R. China, 9-14 April 2018

### Comments on Agenda item 8: Discussion paper on the possible revision of the IESTI equations, submitted by United States of America

The United States appreciates the efforts of the Netherlands, Australia, and Uganda in leading the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) electronic working group (eWG) on the review of the International Estimated Short-Term Intake (IESTI) equations, and in preparing the draft discussion paper CX/PR 18/50/12.

In order to share information and facilitate further discussion on this topic within CCPR, the United States would like to make Members aware of a recent side event featuring “The IESTI Equations and Minor Crops,” held on October 1, 2017, on the margins of the Third Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-3) in Montreal, Canada. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the current efforts to review the IESTI equations (specifically the work of the CCPR eWG and the FAO/WHO technical working group), and to provide a forum for sharing different perspectives on the use, review, and possible revision of the IESTI equations, particularly with regard to Codex maximum residue limits (MRLs) for minor crops.

The event was co-organized by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) and United States Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), with support from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4). The event was open to all GMUS-3 attendees. Approximately 80 people from over two dozen countries, including government regulators, policy advisors, scientists, researchers, grower representatives, and members of the plant protection industry, participated in the event.

Representatives of the CCPR eWG—Dr. Geoffrey Onen, Government Chemistry and Analytical Laboratory, Uganda; Dr. Ian Reichstein, National Residue Survey, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia; and Dr. Xavier Sarda, Residues and Food Safety Unit, Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety, France—provided a brief history of the IESTI equations; a summary of the proceedings from a 2015 scientific workshop in Geneva; an overview of the discussions from the 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> sessions of CCPR; and an update on the current efforts of the eWG for the review of the IESTI equations. Ms. Lucy Namu of KEPHIS presented a developing-country perspective on the importance of the IESTI equations and Codex MRLs, particularly for minor crops. Dr. Cheryl Cleveland of BASF Corporation and CropLife International shared a technical perspective on the IESTI equations, MRL-setting, and dietary risk assessment, including a case study demonstrating one approach to benchmarking the outcomes of the deterministic IESTI equations against a probabilistic distribution of realistic exposure estimates based on residue monitoring data.

The presentations generated a robust discussion during which many diverse viewpoints were shared. There was wide agreement that opportunities for face-to-face dialogue are necessary in facilitating broad international understanding of the technical issues under discussion and their potential future impact on Codex MRLs, especially with regard to minor uses. Participants expressed broad interest in receiving further updates from the FAO/WHO technical working group on its efforts to review the IESTI equations, as well as additional interest in how stakeholders might contribute to the CCPR eWG’s efforts to collect information on bulking and blending. Participants also emphasized the significant resources that currently go in to reviewing and establishing Codex MRLs, and the importance of Codex MRLs in supporting global minor crop production and international trade.

Copies of the event agenda and presentation materials are available via the Global Minor Use Portal website at: <http://www.gmup.org/Presentations/IESTI%20Side%20Event.pdf>. Additional information and materials from GMUS-3 are also available at: <http://www.gmup.org/>. Further inquiries on the IESTI event may be directed to Ms. Julie Chao of USDA-FAS, [julie.chao@fas.usda.gov](mailto:julie.chao@fas.usda.gov).