

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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CRD34  
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

### REMARKS DELIVERED AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

Speech of Mr Guilherme Costa, Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, at the 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with great honour that I am here to participate in this 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Committee of particular importance in the structure and work of Codex Alimentarius.

With immense joy, I have the opportunity to be in China for the third time and the first time in Haikou, Hainan Province.

This Committee has been developing work of paramount importance in the area of food safety for the entire world. Undoubtedly, fifty sessions represent, among other benefits, an enormous amount of scientific work, risk management negotiations, support to countries' agriculture development, trade, generation of employment, wealth, safe products for the consumers, fair practices in food trade in line with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Thousands of technicians and negotiators have contributed to CCPR work and on this opportunity, I am very honoured to pay tribute to all of them.

This work and the benefits generated by the CCPR over these years are fully in line with the working platform of the Bureau of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

To talk about this important date, namely the 50th Session of CCPR, it is essential to remember and highlight some elements from so many:

- (i) the tremendous work developed by China in hosting this Committee these last 12 years. The commitment made by China during the Twenty-ninth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2006 in Geneva, to provide sufficient human and financial resources and to appoint qualified Chairpersons to the Committee on Pesticides Residues has been strictly accomplished during this whole period.
- (ii) The Netherlands for its outstanding contribution to Codex work by having hosted the CCPR from their very first session until 2006.
- (iii) The paramount work developed by the JMPR for the entire world, especially for developing countries. The risk assessment provided by the JMPR has unquestionably been key in the risk management developed by the CCPR as well as by the Commission.

We are all aware of the practical importance of pesticide residue control, either for public health or agricultural purposes.

One of the big challenges we all face is the need to feed 9 billion people in 2050. That said, the element of food security immediately comes to our minds, and consequently the element "amount of food". However, the food security issue is much broader than food quantity. To guarantee food security it is essential that we combine food quantity with at least two other elements: food safety and trade. We cannot have food security if the sufficient amount of food is not safe. Equally, we cannot have food security if we cannot trade sufficient safe food from production to consumption areas. This Committee is therefore absolutely paramount to achieve this combination between these three elements. It is not possible to think in food security without food safety and trade. Having food safety requires keeping the scientific basis robustness of this Committee's work. To have trade it is absolutely critical to keep in mind the harmonisation process using this Committee outputs along with our own legislation.

We have a very important and robust agenda during these next few days. Among the many relevant topics, I would like to exemplify the:

- Report on 2017 JMPR responses to specific concerns raised by CCPR.
- the Draft and proposed draft maximum residue limits for pesticides in food and feed.
- the Draft and proposed draft revision of the Classification of Food and Feed with different sub items.
- the Establishment of Codex Schedules and Priority Lists of Pesticides, etc.

As usual, we will surely have an extremely productive Session, as we seek consensus.

And to build consensus, it is necessary to keep in mind, among other aspects, the following question: "How can I cooperate so that the other Member State, my commercial partner, can also guarantee protection for the health of its consumers and have room in the trade that can generate foreign exchange and jobs for its population?"

This is a question that I suggest we keep really alive in our working process. I believe this is an important way in which, I understand we have to try to continue working in this Committee, as well as in the elaboration of the Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025, with the real and practical willingness to build a better Codex for the world.

Having said that, and on behalf of my dear colleagues Vice-Chairpersons of the Codex Alimentarius, Mariam Eid, Purwiyatno Hariyadi and Steve Wearne, I would like to reiterate the honour of being here with you all. I congratulate you, Professors Xiongwu QIAO and Guibiao Ye, for the excellent work you have been done. Also, all colleagues who directly or indirectly contributed in this memorable 50th Session of the CCPR and wish everyone a successful work during this week.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Speech of Mr. Zhongjun ZHANG, the Deputy Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Representation in China, at the 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)

Your Excellency Mr. Ma Aiguo, Chief Agronomist, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs,

Your Excellency Ms. Fu Caixiang, Vice Governor of Hainan Province,

Honourable Mr Qiao Xiongwu, Chairman of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues,

Mr. Tom Heilandt, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization, it is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you all to the 50th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residue, the CCPR. Let me start by congratulating the CCPR Secretariat and thanking the Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for the continuous commitment to successfully host this year's CCPR session, which marks the 12th one in a row.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Codex Alimentarius is about safe, good food for everyone - everywhere. Since its foundation in 1963, the Codex system has been providing science-based standards, guidelines and codes of practices as international benchmarks for the goals of facilitating trade and agricultural development, improving public health and ensuring consumer protection. By doing so, the Codex system has significantly contributed to multiple Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN member countries, particularly the one on "ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture", and the other on "ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages".

As one of the most important Codex Committees, CCPR holds the responsibility for establishing Codex Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticide residues based on scientific advice and guidance on human health risk assessments from the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) led by FAO and WHO. . The Codex Maximum Residue Limits established by CCPR for nearly 200 pesticides play an important role in enhancing international food safety thereby significantly contributing to the protection of consumer health. The Codex Maximum Residue Limits also facilitate export and import of food and agricultural commodities, thus contributing positively to agricultural development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Codex and standard setting are an important part of FAO's mandate. Food safety is also integral to FAO's global goal of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, since people cannot be food secure, if their food is not safe. In the context of China, the Committee's mandate and work are also in close alignment with the priorities of FAO's Country Programming Framework (CPF) in China for 2016-2020, which include the extension of good agricultural practices, the Integrated Pest Management, the agroecological approach, as well as the promotion of one-health approach for sustainable agricultural trade and improved public health. Under the framework of CPF, we are proposing to work on such interfaces not only in China but also in other countries under the frameworks of the South-South Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative.

We are pleased to learn that China has made great progress in the implementation of Codex Maximum Residue Limits and in the development of national residue standards. The zero growth of fertilizers and pesticides by 2020 and the banned use of certain agro and industrial chemicals are good examples of the commendable commitments and achievements china has made in this regard.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

FAO along with other partners is committed to working with you towards safer food for the people we serve.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to urge member states to continuously support the work of the CCPR and to translate its recommendations into concrete actions in the country contexts.

With this, I would like to close my welcoming remarks. I thank again the Chinese Government for hosting this important event and I wish all of you a successful meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.