

Global Minor Use Summit II

..... Date: 7 U 2012

..... Venue: FAO = k @

BACKGROUND

The first Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS) was held in Rome, Italy in December 2007 co-organized by FAO, USDA, USEPA and IR-4. The purpose of the first Global Minor Use Summit was to highlight many of the issues and obstacles that growers of minor or specialty crops face. It was critically important that participants at the GMUS share knowledge of existing programs and information and to develop a foundation for future cooperation. Four main actions items identified at the first GMUS included:

- (1) Improvement of international communications and information exchanges.
- (2) Increase capacity building efforts for developing countries.
- (3) Engage the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues to better support minor use crops.
- (4) Enhance research efforts through collaborative pilot projects and initiatives.

While various countries have made great strides and contributed to the progress of these four action items, for example: a global minor use portal (<http://www.gmup.org/>) was established with important information regarding technical and policy issues relating to minor uses; a number of workshops and training sessions in Africa, Asia and Central and South America were conducted by the FAO and USDA, the Codex electronic working group on minor uses has been formed and has provided a number of papers to help assist Codex and member countries in developing more MRLs for minor uses and; a global joint review of a new pesticide that is now being considered by JMPR, as part of a Codex pilot review project. As well there is an ongoing pilot global residue study to look into the possibility of multiple countries working together to develop data to support minor uses. With all of this progress there is still much work to be done to keep the minor use issues and the action items moving forward. At the same time, many of the issues that growers faced during the first GMUS remain, such as access to tools to protect their crops and international trade of their commodities. The co-sponsors of the first GMUS are willing to facilitate another international forum to further the progress of minor use issues by sponsoring the Second Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS-2). This GMUS will further engage with FAO member countries (particularly developing country members) to ensure that their major issues of concern are reflected in the Summit program. The aim of GMUS-2 will be to continue improving the availability of newer, safer and more effective crop protection tools for specialty crop growers in both industrialized and developing countries through data generation and data sharing, facilitating the trade of agricultural commodities internationally, and learning from existing specialty crop program models.

PURPOSE OF GMUS -2

The next GMUS will focus on global agreements for pesticide policy, procedure and methodology to help deal with minor use issues while providing growers with access to safe tools to grow their crops and to promote free and fair trade between nations. The purpose of the summit is to provide a forum for the international exchange of information on current activities that address minor use issues and to identify future opportunities and challenges in the area of technical and cooperative areas and in policy considerations.

Summit objectives include:

- Update on the action items from the first summit.
 - International communications and information exchanges, capacity building efforts, the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues electronic working group on minor uses, and pilot projects and other initiatives.
- Strengthen technical cooperation:
 - To enhance existing or develop new working groups to address issues of common interest, for example, how to cooperate on new pesticide registrations (international data generation following JMPR principles) to maximize minor uses and enhance outcomes that facilitate trade of those commodities.
 - Open discussions for international data sharing and research collaboration (data development) to save/maximize limited resources relating to minor uses and to limit duplication of efforts, while still providing robust data.
 - Enhanced involvement of all stakeholders especially specialty crop growers/commodity associations, and crop protection industry representatives in identifying needs and facilitating solutions to the minor use problems.
 - Re-evaluate capacity building via updates and strengthen working groups and networks to more efficiently address other items noted under technical issues.
 - Review, discuss and implement guidance on crop groups and extrapolation.
- Discuss policy considerations:
 - Advance the topic of international harmonization through cooperation and transparency in establishment of MRLs and risk assessment by regulators.
 - Provide inputs/recommendations to assist the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in the development of criteria for the establishment of MRLs for minor crops/specialty crops.
 - Develop a five year plan for implementation of new policies for minor use regulatory and harmonization priorities.
 - Discuss policy aspects to enhance the registration of minor uses including areas such as;
 - (i) Development of dedicated minor use programs (including models & funding to establish such programs)
 - (ii) Incentives from regulatory authorities to encourage registrants to register minor uses.

- (iii) Management of product liability to facilitate minor use registrations, such as sharing of efficacy and crop safety data.
 - (iv) Implement guidance for using crop grouping and data extrapolation on an international basis.
- Provide a specific recommendations and guidance in the form of a manual for practical implementation of action items.

STRUCTURE OF THE SUMMIT

The Second Summit will have plenary session and group discussion.

- The plenary session will provide updates from various minor use and government agencies regarding progress of the key action items identified in the first Summit and an overview of Codex activities on representative crops and extrapolations followed by an overview of technical and policy considerations.
- The breakout sessions for working groups to focus on the key areas of interest that are still being determined by the organizing committee. (Some topics of consideration include: data generation, data sharing and databases, crop grouping, and policy considerations such as regulatory incentives and harmonization).
- The final day each group will provide summaries and recommendations from their sessions and then the attendees will identify key action items to carry forward.

PARTICIPANTS

It is expected that approximately 250 participants from more than 60 countries will attend the summit. The sponsors expect strong participation by all parties listed below, especially by developing countries.

- Government pesticide regulators and Codex and FAO/WTO member
- Crop Protection Industry representatives
- Agricultural producers
- Other consumer and environmental groups

SPONSORSHIP

FAO, the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the USDA / IR-4 Project (IR-4) and other organizations etc as identified.