



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

29th Informal Meeting of the FAO Experts on Pesticide Specifications

1999

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Monday, 31st May and Tuesday 1st June 1999

Budapest, Hungary

OPEN MEETING

Tuesday, 1st June 1999

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr Ferenc Kosa (Deputy Secretary of State, MARD).

He welcomed the participants to Budapest and said it was a privilege for Hungary to host the FAO and CIPAC meetings. Mr Kosa commented on the importance of agriculture to Hungary and noted that the end of the Hungarian revolution was delayed in 1849 to allow the control of locusts in that year.

He said that the soil was Hungary's most valuable material resource. Mr Kosa said the objective in agriculture was to maximise the output but to minimise the environmental and toxicological impact. He welcomed the help and assistance of organisations such as FAO and CIPAC. He finished with a Hungarian proverb 'Only the empty wheat keeps its head high. One which is plenty and full is humble'.

He closed by hoping the meetings were successful and that attendees would have an enjoyable visit to Budapest.

Dr Vaagt replied on behalf of FAO; he thanked Dr Bura and MARD for the excellent arrangements for the meetings and the hospitality shown to the meeting attendees. Dr Vaagt emphasised the continued importance of the discussions and

informed the meeting of the publication of the 5th edition of the Manual for the Development of Pesticide Specifications which included the new 'procedures'. It was intended that the meeting would discuss and finalise the first specifications prepared using the new procedures.

He said this would be a difficult task conducted to a tight schedule and on behalf of the Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, Dr. Duwayri, he thanked the Expert Panel members for their commitment to the work and their efforts in preparing the new specifications. He also thanked the industry representatives for providing the necessary data and support. Dr Vaagt said the new procedures had evoked considerable interest from other organisations. This was highlighted by the high level of interest in the FAO home page, with more than 4500 'visits' since January 1999.

Finally he thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting.

Dr Sanchez-Rasero replied on behalf of CIPAC. He thanked the Hungarian authorities for allowing Dr Bura to invite FAO and CIPAC to Budapest and Dr Bura for the excellent arrangements and facilities.

Dr Sanchez-Rasero noted this was the first time the meetings had been held in Eastern Europe and this marked another milestone in CIPAC's history. He also welcomed the fact that representatives were attending the meetings from five continents, which reflected the interest in, and importance of, the discussions.

He said that pesticides are needed in order to produce sufficient food for the world. Since pesticides are produced in relatively few countries there is a significant trade in pesticides. Hence there is a need for quality assessments which must be defined

and specified by good analytical methods. The function of CIPAC was to provide good methods and this would be achieved with a combination of hard work and goodwill which would overcome any difficulties.

He closed by reiterating his thanks to MARD and Dr Bura for arranging the excellent facilities and he looked forward to enjoying the hospitality of Budapest and Hungary.

2. Appointment Of Chairman And Rapporteurs

Mr Hill was appointed as Chairman and Drs Galoux and Gillespie were appointed as rapporteurs.

3. Adoption Of The Agenda

Items 9.1, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.6 were deleted from the agenda.

4. Summary Record Of The 28th Meeting

In response to requests from participants, FAO agreed to circulate an attendance list with the report of the meeting. There were no amendments to the summary record of the 28th meeting.

5. Summary of Actions taken after the 28th Meeting

5.1. Finalisation of the Manual on the Development and Use of FAO Specifications for Plant Protection Products, including the New Procedure for the development of FAO Pesticide Specifications.

Dr Vaagt reported that the 5th Edition of the Manual was now published. He thanked all those who had assisted, especially Mr Hill, the editor.

Mr Parker representing GCPF asked when the next edition was planned. Dr Vaagt was unable to give a date but said publication on the Internet meant minor editorial amendments could be made quickly. This was welcomed but Mr Parker said it was important such changes were clearly documented and publicised.

5.2. Report from the 3rd Session of the FAO Panel of Experts (held in Rome, October 1998).

Dr Vaagt informed the meeting that the changes to the manual agreed at the 3rd session of the Panel of Experts had been incorporated in the 5th Edition.

The draft 3 year programme was also agreed and published on the Internet in December 1998.

5.3. Publications of FAO specifications finalised in 1998

Dr Galoux reported that no new specifications were published in 1998 but that the following specifications are now ready for publication:

Amitrole

Copper hydroxide

The following specifications are in draft:

fipronil

hexazinone

sulfometuron-methyl

bitertanol

6. Review of Specifications presented at previous meetings

6.1. Chlorothalonil TC, SC, WP (Zeneca, Caffaro)

It was agreed that amendments to existing specifications should be considered under the new procedures in 2001-2002.

7. Development of Pesticide Specifications following the New Procedure.

7.1. Closed meeting discussions

The Chairman reported that the closed session was incomplete and much of the discussion centred on principles and procedures. The discussion had covered five main areas.

a. Communication

During the evaluation process, routing of all communications through FAO had proved impractical. Therefore, FAO took the policy decision that there should be direct communication between the proposer and evaluator. This is a similar procedure to JMPR.

b. Evaluation of the acceptability of toxicological and ecotoxicological data

Although the procedures are fully supported by WHO, there is insufficient resource to evaluate all data.

In the Manual, there is a requirement for access to national regulations data.

This can cause difficulties and a proposal was agreed to simplify the procedures by restructuring the information required to a comparison of technical specifications, except in cases of doubt.

c. Study Reports

Although the Manual indicates individual study reports are required, in future, FAO must have the references but the reports will not normally be evaluated in detail.

d. Relevant Impurities which are not of toxicological or ecotoxicological

significance

There is a requirement that the inclusion of such impurities in a specification must be justified. Therefore, for clauses such as water, a justification must be provided for the inclusion and the levels proposed.

e. **Method Extensions**

Any method extension must be approved by CIPAC or AOAC unless a defensible case can be made that it is not an extension according to the criteria of CIPAC and AOAC.

7.2. **Industry views**

Mr Parker presented the views of industry on the new procedures. Overall, the view was positive and he said the discussions had reflected the hard work of progress and evaluators. The following points required some clarification:

a. The Manual did not cover the situation where an active ingredient was withdrawn from the priority list. It was confirmed by FAO that a queue procedure was to be used.

b. There was some confusion as to whether a second evaluator was always used. It was confirmed a second evaluator was used and that this would probably continue.

c. Whether there was to be direct contact between the proposer and evaluator – see point 7.1a.

d. Whether all evaluations to be discussed in the closed meeting. This was

confirmed and it was proposed that the open meeting would be restricted in future to discussions of principles, procedures and consideration of new/revised specification guidelines.

e. Industry requested that the proposer was fully informed of the identity of individuals to whom confidential information was to be sent. FAO confirmed the information would only be required by FAO and the evaluator. The proposer would be asked for their agreement to any additional circulation.

f. Method extension – see 7.1e.

g. Industry requested that evaluations did not include references to unpublished evaluations or decisions. FAO confirmed that decisions will not normally be based on such drafts or proposals, nor would they be referenced.

h. Industry requested that a definition of ‘independent validation of methods’ be provided. FAO confirmed this should be devolved to CIPAC and AOAC.

It was emphasised by FAO that the proposers should submit only the essential data required and that draft specifications must be prepared using the wording of the 5th Edition of the Manual.

7.3. Proposals for Amendment of the Procedure for the Development of FAO Pesticide Specifications (following the outcome of the Closed

Meeting

No formal proposals were made by the Panel of Experts.

7.4. Proposals for Publication of those specifications being reviewed under the New Procedure.

Dr Kopisch-Obuch reported that the main channel of publication would be the Internet and FAO will try to avoid hard copies. There would be an information and awareness programme to publicise the procedures. This will be published in the technical press.

There was some concern expressed by the meeting that developing countries may not have Internet access. FAO confirmed that FAO offices worldwide will have Internet Access.

Dr Zaim requested that FAO and WHO cross-reference specifications and this was agreed.

7.5. Proposals for new guideline specifications or amendment to existing ones

There were no new proposals. It was hoped to develop a DC specification in the future.

Some minor amendments to existing guideline specifications were proposed as follows; these will be considered for next edition:

a) Specification Guideline TC (4.1)

Clause **4.1.2.2** [ISO common name] content:

The text should be changed to:

"The minimum [ISO common name] content shall be declared (not less than minimum ... g/kg) and, when determined, the mean measured

content shall not be lower than the declared minimum content.

Also in chapter 3.3.2, fourth paragraph

b) **Specification Guideline EC (5.11)**

In Note 6 the words "heat stability" should be replaced by "stability at elevated temperature"

c) **Specification Guideline SE (6.41)**

Delete "CIPAC Standard Water A for the dispersion stability test since the method has been validated only for Water D.

d) **Stability at elevated temperature (3.6.2)**

Since CIPAC has agreed to accept MT 46.3 during the meeting 1998 at York, the Manual should refer to MT 46.3 under 3.6.2 (c), Comments (1st and 3rd paragraph) and in all Specifications Guidelines.

Proposal:

MT 46.3 consists of 3 subchapters:

MT 46.3.1 Liquid samples

MT 46.3.2 Solid samples, storage stability test without pressure

MT 46.3.3 Solid samples, storage stability test under pressure

The appropriate subchapter should be referred to in specifications.

e) **Appendix F: International Codes For Technical & Formulated Products**

The content of Appendix F has been copied by GCPF to have an identical updated List of Codes also available as a GCPF document.

To avoid possible contradictions in the future, the note under the heading of Appendix F should be changed:

(i) February 1989 should be replaced by May 1999

(ii) Add a sentence to the note like: Please check the latest revision of Technical Monograph No. 2 for possible changes.

8. New and Old Specifications: Priority list and three year programme (including specifications of interest to the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues and relevant to the PIC-Procedure).

Information is to be sent to FAO by 31 December 1999. The three year programme will be published on the internet.

9. Any other business

9.5. IPCS

Dr Aitio presented information on the IPCS programme on hazard clarification. A new edition was available, classifying 23 pesticides by acute hazard. The document was available on the Internet.

9.6. FAO and WHO

Dr Vaagt stated that FAO is prepared to strengthen its collaboration with WHO in the development of pesticide specification which could eventually lead to the undertaking to prepare the next edition of the Manual as a joint venture between FAO and WHO.

9.7. WHO

Dr Zaim reported on the development of specifications for bacterial larvicides. An informal consultation had taken place in April 1999 and a summary of the discussions is summarised below. Representation was from a wide range of bodies including registration authorities and UNEP.

The increasing production and demand for bacterial larvicides,

especially *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*), would require internationally agreed guideline specifications and test methods which would assure the production of efficient and safe larvicide products, protecting both consumers and manufacturer. Such guidelines would also promote the harmonisation of relevant national standards and thus world trade in such pesticides.

The World Health Organisation's Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES), an international programme which co-ordinates the testing and evaluation of pesticides for public health use, publishes specifications for pesticides to be used as part of the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

WHOPES has been traditionally testing/evaluating chemical pesticides for vector control, but is now planning to expand its activities to include a greater variety of pests and pesticides, including microbial larvicides.

An Informal Consultation was, therefore, held in WHO headquarters from 28 to 30 April 1999, in which representatives of national registration authorities (3), the German Mosquito Control Association, scientists (7), representatives of industry (9), representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environmental Protection, Chemicals (IRPTC), and the WHO Secretariat, attended.

The meeting reviewed the role and use of bacterial larvicides in public health as well as their registration requirements, including their quality control and safety requirements. The meeting reviewed the requirements and objectives of their inclusion in the specifications of bacterial larvicides, and also drafted the

guideline specifications for the most common formulations of bacterial larvicides. The draft report will be published as a WHOPES document and will be distributed widely among the Member Governments. The report will also be presented to the WHO Expert Committee on Vector Biology and Control ["Chemistry and specifications of pesticides" which could recommend their adoption by the World Health Assembly and subsequent publication as official WHO guideline specifications.

10. Close

The meeting closed by thanking the Chairman.