

April 2013

E



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

CONFERENCE

Thirty-eighth Session

Rome, 15-22 June 2013

International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management

Executive Summary

Since its adoption by the FAO Conference in 1985, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides has been amended twice, in 1989 and in 2002. The Code provides a voluntary framework for the life cycle management of pesticides and remains widely accepted by countries, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society. A consequence of its wide acceptance and its value as a tool is that more international organizations wish to adopt it. Therefore it is important to keep the Code up to date and aligned with developments in the field of chemicals and pesticide management. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which have long collaborated in its development and implementation have expressed an interest in having the Code officially adopted by their Governing bodies. In order to do so a number of amendments were required to strengthen the way the Code addresses the health and environment sectors. In the process of reviewing the Code, the FAO and WHO expert panels on pesticide management identified several articles that could benefit from clarification and/or simplification, update or strengthening.

Following a process that included input from the FAO, WHO and UNEP Secretariats, the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management, the private sector, civil society and independent experts an updated version of the Code was presented to the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 23rd Session in May 2012. The Committee delegated its Bureau to determine the modalities of a new and final round of consultations, with a view to offer the finalized Code for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO, therefore by Council at its 145th Session and finally, by the Conference at its 38th Session.

The COAG Bureau approved a roadmap and time table and a full consultation among all FAO Members and stakeholders was carried out in July and August 2012. Comments on the revised version of the Code were received from 45 countries, organizations and experts. All comments were consolidated and a proposed further revision to the Code was discussed at a joint meeting of the COAG Bureau with the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management on 10 October 2012. The outcome is an updated version of the Code, which is proposed to be renamed as the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and has been endorsed by the COAG Bureau and by the 145th Session of Council. Conference document C 2013/LIM/3 presents the new text of the Code.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
a FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



mg284e

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference is invited to:

- 1) approve the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management as set out in Conference document C 2013/LIM/3;
- 2) Call upon all Members to adopt and civil society and private sector organizations to implement the updated Code and use it as a reference in all their activities.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

Mr Mark Davis
Senior Officer, Pesticide Management
Plant Production and Protection Division
Tel: +39 06570 55192

I. Background

1. The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (hereafter referred to in this document as “the Code”), was first adopted by the FAO Conference in 1985 and has served as the globally accepted framework that guides governments, industry, international organizations and civil society on how pesticides should be managed throughout their life cycle.
2. The Code was amended in 1989 to include provisions for the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure at the 25th Session of the FAO Conference. The Code was again revised in 2002 to take account of changes and evolutions in pesticides and chemicals management at that time.
3. Since 2002, awareness of and the importance of sound pesticide management has increased with new agreements coming into force including the Rotterdam Convention¹, the Stockholm Convention² and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, all of which also address pesticides, and all of which recognize the mandate of FAO in pesticide management and the role of the Code in guiding their management.
4. In its work to help member countries strengthen their management of pesticides, FAO works closely with several partner organizations, principally the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). WHO has specific interests in the management and use of pesticides for public health purposes, as well as the health effects of pesticides to which humans are exposed in the workplace, as residues in food or by other means. UNEP has a particular focus on the environmental impact of chemicals, within which pesticides are a very significant group. Both WHO and UNEP have expressed a desire to adopt the Code through their Governing Bodies so that it will be a shared mechanism promoted in Member Countries by all three Agencies. In addition, close review of the Code reveals that certain articles would benefit from clarification or update to reflect current best practices and knowledge.
5. Article 12.10 of the Code states that “Governing Bodies of FAO should periodically review the relevance and effectiveness of the Code. The Code should be considered a dynamic text which must be brought up to date as required, taking into account technical, economic and social progress”. An update of the Code is therefore proposed which the Council has recommended for submission to the 38th Session of the FAO Conference for endorsement.

II. Rationale for the proposed update

6. FAO has been working in partnership with WHO on matters related to pesticide management for several years. This includes operating the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS) and the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM). These joint meetings bring together panels of experts specializing in the subject, that are nominated by their countries and are appointed by the Directors General of FAO or WHO respectively.
7. FAO also has a close association with UNEP on matters related to pesticides and chemicals management. FAO hosts half the Secretariat to the Rotterdam Convention. The two agencies also collaborate closely on matters related to chemicals management, risk reduction, guidance to countries on best practices and implementation of international agreements on chemicals. The FAO Council at its 131st Session endorsed the UNEP hosted Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and FAO actively supports the implementation of SAICM, the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention³.
8. WHO has expressed a desire for adoption of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides by their governing body, the World Health Assembly. Similarly, UNEP, wishes to have the Code of Conduct adopted by their Governing Council. In order for these adoptions to progress, certain modifications to the Code are needed so that the strong emphasis on agricultural pesticides is adjusted to give greater recognition to pesticides used in health care, and in addition that the health and environmental aspects of pesticide management are given greater

¹ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

² Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

³ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

prominence. These foci are fully in line with FAO's present Strategic Objectives for sustainable production intensification including pesticide risk reduction, and are also aligned with Strategic Objectives 2, 3 and 4 in the new Strategic Plan of the Organization.

III. Process applied to the proposed update

9. Participants in the JMPM who contributed to the update of the Code include the appointed members of the FAO and WHO expert panels from 13 countries, and observers from associations representing the research-based and generic pesticide and biopesticide manufacturing and distribution industries, civil society organizations and Intergovernmental Organizations that are participating organizations in the Inter-Organization Committee for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)⁴. FAO and WHO staff provide the secretariat to the meetings.

10. The process of updating the Code was initiated at the Second session of the JMPM in 2008⁵ and was continued intersessionally and at the 3rd and 4th JMPM meetings of 2009⁶ and 2010⁷ respectively. On the basis of these discussions, a draft revision of the Code was prepared for detailed discussion at the Fifth session of the JMPM in October 2011⁸. The recommendations of the JMPM were incorporated into the version presented to the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 23rd Session in May.

11. The Committee delegated its Bureau to determine the modalities of a new and final round of consultations, with a view to offer the finalized Code for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO (145th Session of the Council and 38th Conference).

12. The COAG Bureau approved a roadmap and timetable and a full consultation among all FAO Members and stakeholders was carried out in July and August 2012. Comments on the revised version of the Code were received from 45 countries, organizations and experts.

13. All comments were consolidated and a proposed further revision to the Code was discussed at a joint meeting of the COAG Bureau with the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management on 10 October 2012. The meeting agreed on an updated version of the Code, which is proposed to be renamed as the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and was endorsed by the COAG Bureau for transmission to Council. Conference document C 2013/LIM/3 presents the new text of the Code.

14. At its 145th Session, the Council endorsed the draft Conference Resolution which follows and agreed to forward it to the Conference for approval on the understanding that the Code was a living document and that comments made by Members at the meeting be considered in future revisions of the Code.⁹

⁴ FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank, OECD

⁵ Report of the 2nd FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management and 4th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, Geneva, 6-8 October 2008 (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/Report.pdf) (Section 14, Page 29)

⁶ Report of the 3rd FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management and 5th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, Rome, 6-9 October 2009 (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/JMPM09Report.pdf) (Section 9, Page 22)

⁷ Report of the 4th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management and 6th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, Geneva, 5-8 October 2010 (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/JMPM_2010_report.pdf) (Section 9, Page 24)

⁸ Report of the 5th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management and 7th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, Rome, 11-14 October 2011 (http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/Pests_Pesticides/Code/JMPM_2011_Report.pdf) (Section 11, Page 27)

⁹ Report of the 145th session of the FAO Council, 3-7 December, 2012; <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/027/mf558e.pdf> (Paragraph 23)