



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### 41<sup>st</sup> Session

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 2 - 6 July 2018

#### COMMUNICATION FROM OECD<sup>1</sup>

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE OECD FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SCHEME

1. Brazil became a full member of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme on February 2018. Currently the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme, with the support of Kenya (Rapporteur) and Brazil are working to develop an OECD Explanatory Brochure on Pasion Fruit. This is the second OECD Brochure which will be based on a Codex Standard. The first explanatory brochure based on a Codex Standard was dedicated to Pomegranates and was published in 2014. The OECD is also discussing with the Codex Secretariat the feasibility of organising a joint workshop in 2019. Further details will be provided in due time and all interested Codex Member Countries will be invited to participate in the workshop.

2. The Scheme regularly undertakes peer reviews on national fruit and vegetables quality inspection systems on a voluntary basis, to examine and assess its performance by experts from other countries under the umbrella of the OECD. The ultimate goal is to help improve policy making, adopt best practices and comply with established international standards and principles. This year the OECD Scheme will undertake a peer review on the Kenyan fruit and vegetables quality inspection system. A final report will be presented for approval at the next Plenary Meeting (December 2018).

3. The Scheme is involved in capacity building activities. These training courses and workshops focus on the implementation of the OECD quality inspection system, interpretation of international standards and on latest developments and challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector. The latest events were organised in Bangkok, Thailand jointly with UNESCAP on 20-21 November 2017. The Codex Secretariat is always invited to participate and provide information on the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission related to fruit and vegetables inspections.

4. The Scheme also holds Meeting of Heads of National Inspection Services (HNIS) of its Members every other year. The objective of these meetings is triple: to facilitate discussions between inspection services on major problems, developments and challenges in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system; to share and harmonise the application of the OECD Scheme; and to present developments in the fruit and vegetables sector and quality inspection system in the Host Country. The proceedings are available upon request. The latest HNIS meeting was hosted by Spain in May 2018 and the Codex Secretariat attended as Observer.

5. The Scheme regularly provides economic and market analysis of selected fruit and vegetables products for its Members, in order to give an overview on trends, trade volume/value on international trade and forecast for the next season. The analysis is done by experts at the invitation of the OECD Secretariat.

6. The OECD explanatory brochures, guidelines and peer review reports are available from the official website of the OECD Fruit and Vegetables Scheme free of charges.

<http://www.oecd.org/agriculture/fruit-vegetables>

#### OECD WORK ON PESTICIDE

7. The Pesticides Programme was created in 1992 to help OECD countries:

- harmonise their pesticide review procedures,
- share the work of evaluating pesticides, and

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<sup>1</sup> Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OECD.

- reduce risks associated with pesticide use.
8. The Codex Secretariat is an observer in the Working Group on Pesticides (WGP), the parent body of the OECD Pesticides Programme.
9. Below is some information about the two OECD groups which are of main interest to the work of Codex.

### ***Residue Chemistry Expert Group***

10. The Residue Chemistry Expert Group (RCEG) was established in 2003. Its objectives are to:
- harmonise the way residue testing is conducted and results are interpreted,
  - develop methods to support international harmonisation of MRLs (the OECD does not set MRLs).
11. The Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) Secretariats are observers in the RCEG.
12. Nine OECD Test Guidelines have been published, as follows: TG 501 Metabolism in Crops; TG 502 Metabolism in Rotational Crops; TG 503 Metabolism in Livestock; TG 504 Residues in Rotational Crops (Limited Field Studies); TG 505 Residues in Livestock; TG 506 Stability of Pesticide Residues in Stored Commodities; TG 507 Nature of Pesticide Residues in processed Commodities - High Temperature-Hydrolysis; TG 508 Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; and TG 509 Crop Field Trial.
13. Seven Guidance Documents are available: Definition of Residue; Overview of Residue Chemistry Studies; Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; Pesticide Residue Analytical Methods; Residues in Livestock; the second edition of the 2011 Guidance Document on Crop Field Trials (which deals with proportionality issues, clarifies sampling procedures and takes into account national/ Codex information on recent changes in crop groups); and the Guidance Document for Rotational Crop Field Trials which was published in May 2018.
14. The MRL Calculator, a tool for statistical calculation of MRLs was published in 2011. It is an Excel spreadsheet which is easy to use and does not require an extensive knowledge of statistics.
15. All the documents mentioned above and the MRL calculator are available on the OECD public web site: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonpesticideresidues.htm>
16. Work has started from the expert group to revise the guidance document on Definition of Residue and the OECD TG 509 on Crop Field Trials and to develop new guidance documents on residues in honey. Potential future work of the expert group might include the development of a new guidance document on aquaculture feeds.

### ***Expert Group on Minor Uses***

17. The Expert Group on Minor Uses (EGMU) was established in 2007. The current work plan of the OECD EGMU focuses on issues associated with cooperation, technical and policy activities with the aim of facilitating the development of data and registration of pesticides for minor uses. As with many OECD chemicals and pesticide projects, the EGMU works towards providing the infrastructure, guidance and tools for promoting the registration of pesticides for minor uses, including aspects of data requirements, data generation and opportunities for harmonization to make available data useful across countries. The OECD work focuses on developing tools for risk assessment and mechanisms to facilitate co-operation and work-sharing. For further information, see the OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/minoruses.htm>
18. Two Guidance Documents have been published: a Guidance Document on Defining Minor Uses of Pesticides and a Guidance Document on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.
19. Two survey reports have been published: the Survey Results on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses and the Survey Results on Efficacy & Crop Safety Data Requirements and Guidelines for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.
20. All OECD Minor Uses publications are available at:  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonminorusesofpesticides.htm>
21. Currently, three main activities are underway, as follows.

**Project 1: work towards developing a Guidance Document to address & solve minor uses:**

22. Responses to a 2013 survey to collect information on existing national and regional processes and known data exchanges are being analysed and a report of the survey was made available in September 2015. The survey report will now be utilised to form the basis of developing an OECD guidance document to address and solve minor uses. Other information sources such as further detailed background provided during the survey about various different approaches and programs operating internationally will also be utilised.

23. As part of the survey, members were requested to propose a suitable crop for establishing a joint project. Many diverse suggestions were made as to a potential crop. The Netherlands, Australia and the Secretariat considered the suggested crops and also discussed if EGMU members themselves who are largely regulatory authorities had the capacity (including funding and mandate) to conduct a data generation project. They also noted that the first Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop was held in September 2015 where the objective was to establish joint global data generation projects for minor uses, and for which many EGMU members were involved. It was determined that rather than duplicate work being initiated elsewhere that EGMU would utilise the priorities identified from that process and offer regulatory support to the identified priority projects going forward. The EGMU had agreed to work with the leads of those projects to offer input to facilitate agreement of a global data package acceptable to regulators and in turn explore the possible establishment of a joint review of the data when available.

**Project 2: Global Joint Reviews (GJRs) –enhancing minor uses from GJRs:**

24. Information on GJRs relevant for minor uses is being collated as part of the existing work associated with the Global Joint Review MRL Analysis project and further sources of information are being explored. The first aim of the work is to identify differences in uses (crops) approved in various countries through GJRs. Subsequent aims would involve identifying the reasons for these differences and activities or initiatives that could enhance the scope of minor uses approved amongst countries through GJRs.

**Project 3: work towards developing a Guidance Document on the exchange and use of international efficacy & crop safety data for minor uses:**

25. A draft of the guidance document is being developed that will be available for further review by members in the second quarter of 2018. While some OECD countries do not currently require efficacy data, it was confirmed as an important consideration amongst the EGMU participants. The first step of the project – collecting and compiling information and data relating to pesticides efficacy for minor uses crops – is completed.

26. Finally, the EGMU is holding a joint session with the Expert Group on Biopesticides in June 2018 to discuss, among other things, the way ahead after the finalisation of a thought starter on how Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools and technologies, including bio-pesticides, can help fill the gaps in available crop protection products as regards minor uses.