

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

Agenda Item 10 (i)

CX/PR 08/40/10

March 2008

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Fortieth Session

Hangzhou, China, 14 - 19 April 2008

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM GLOBAL MINOR USE SUMMIT

(Prepared by FAO)

A INTRODUCTION

The following information document has been prepared by FAO on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the *Global Minor Use Summit*¹.

Obstacles to the registration of pesticides for minor uses and speciality crops are observed in many countries, as the development of pesticide uses for these purposes are not economically attractive to manufacturers.

Speciality crops are traded regionally and internationally, and are often of high economic value. According to the 2007 FAO Report "State of Food and Agriculture"², the trade in non-traditional agricultural exports is growing, supported also by the change in consumers' preferences. It is currently worth more than US\$30 billion annually, of which two-thirds account for trade in speciality crops. Developing countries have a high share in the trade of such non-traditional crops. However, the establishment of Codex MRLs for these crops remains scarce due to the lack of available residue data and/or registered uses.

Various approaches have been initiated, e.g., at national level through the IR-4 Project, at regional level through the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), among South-East Asian countries and in other regions of the world.

The *Global Minor Use Summit* (GMUS) – a joint initiative of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) with its IR-4 Project, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) and FAO was the first global effort to address this issue.

¹ The Organizing Committee of the *Global Minor Use Summit* consists of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) with its IR-4 Project, the US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) and FAO. The work of this Committee is supported by an Advisory Committee consisting of 29 members.

² *The State of Food and Agriculture 2007*. FAO, Rome, 2007.

Working documents will be uploaded onto the Codex website:

www.codexalimentarius.net/web/index_en.jsp

Delegates are kindly requested to bring with them to the meeting all documents which have been distributed, as the number of additional copies which can be made available at the session is limited.

B THE SUMMIT

The GMUS took place at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 3 to 7 December 2007, and lasted for three and a half days followed by one-and-a-half day of training sessions on pesticide residue data generation, information exchange, mechanisms, etc.

Sixty countries and more than 300 participants attended the GMUS, representing a mixed and wide range of attendees and providing a unique composition of growers, researchers, regulators, government officials, pesticide industry, NGOs and others, leading to fruitful encounters and dialogues. Thirty-three speakers addressed the audience and provided the information basis for the six Working Groups for the development of the recommendations and conclusions. All presentations, the results of the various Working Groups and the final recommendations from the GMUS can be downloaded from the following web addresses:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/JMPR/GMUS/GMUS.htm>

<http://ir4.rutgers.edu/GMUS/index.html>

C CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

The conclusions and final recommendations of the GMUS cover a wide range of topics and address not only issues related to speciality crops and minor uses. They include communication, data generation for residue and efficacy, data sharing, crop grouping, harmonization of data requirements and other issues. In order to initiate follow-up actions, the Organizing Committee identified the following five key activities:

i) development of a common portal; ii) strengthening of capacity building initiatives; iii) proposed engagement of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR); iv) conducting “Pilot Projects”: a) simultaneous JMPR and national joint review; b) investigation of reasons for differences between national and Codex MRLs; c) creation of a crop specific database; d) support for the “global zoning concept”; and finally, v) plan for “*Global Minor Use Summit II*”.

The background to the proposal to engage the CCPR is the following:

- in order to overcome the scarcity of residue data and/or registered uses, a regular dialogue among all countries has to be facilitated;
- information on minor uses and speciality crops for residue data is mostly developed through government or semi-governmental institutions; these data are normally not submitted to JMPR/CCPR and are not part of the data provided by the manufacturers; therefore, an information exchange mechanism should be established for government representatives;
- official information on registered uses is only available from government authorities;
- government representatives could facilitate the harmonization of data requirements for the generation and exchange of residue data;
- sharing, discussing and agreeing on issues related to speciality crops would support the work of other CCPR Working Groups, e.g., Codex Classification.

D RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Committee is invited to initiate the necessary actions necessary for the establishment of Codex MRLs for minor uses and speciality crops.
- It is proposed that the “CCPR Working Group on Minor Uses and Speciality Crops” be established in order to address problems related to minor uses and speciality crops on a regular basis.