

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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Agenda item 12

CX/PR 24/55/11

May 2024

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Fifty-fifth Session

Chengdu, Sichuan province, People's Republic of China

3-8 June 2024

#### COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN CCPR AND CCRVDF:

#### *JOINT CCPR/CCRVDF WORKING GROUP ON COMPOUNDS FOR DUAL USE*

– STATUS OF WORK –

(Prepared by the Chair and Co-Chairs of the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF Electronic Working Group)

#### Background

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF25, 2021) sought advice from the Executive Committee (CCEXEC) on a mechanism for cooperation between CCPR and CCRVDF on the establishment of harmonized Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for compounds with dual uses.<sup>1</sup> The 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of CCPR (CCPR52, 2021) also encouraged ways to facilitate and promote cooperation on cross-sectional issues between CCRVDF and CCPR.<sup>2</sup>
2. The 81<sup>st</sup> Session of CCEXEC (CCEXEC81, 2021) recommended that CCRVDF and CCPR make use of a joint Electronic Working Group (EWG) to further advance the work on cross-sectional issues between CCRVDF and CCPR to facilitate the establishment of single/harmonized MRLs for edible animal tissues for compounds with dual use.
3. Following the recommendation<sup>3</sup> of CCEXEC81, the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44, 2021) agreed<sup>4</sup> to establish a Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG chaired by the United States of America, open to all Members and observers working with the support of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Codex Secretariat to address procedural and technical issues related to the establishment of harmonized MRLs for compounds with dual use as described in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) agreed by CAC44:
  - The Joint EWG will review work already done cooperatively between CCPR and CCRVDF and will identify, and if possible, prioritize areas of possible further collaboration between CCPR and CCRVDF and how this could be carried out (e.g., jointly, in parallel, etc.) so as to facilitate the consideration of compounds with dual uses by both committees and the possible harmonization of MRLs.
  - This may include reflections on improved synchronization of work between CCPR and CCRVDF as well as collaboration between CCPR/CCRVDF and JMPR/JECFA.
  - The Joint EWG will provide an update on their preliminary findings to CCPR53 (2022) and CCRVDF26 (2023).
4. Regarding the timeframe, the Joint EWG will continue its work as long as both CCRVDF and CCPR consider it useful.
5. The Joint EWG made initial recommendations to CCRVDF26 (2023) and CCPR54 (2023). Both committees agreed to continue the Joint EWG and recommended the following new ToRs that were subsequently endorsed by CAC46<sup>5</sup> (2023) including appointment of the United States of America (USA) as Chair of the EWG and Brazil and New Zealand as Co-Chairs:

<sup>1</sup> REP21/RVDF25, para. 146

<sup>2</sup> REP21/PR52, para. 12

<sup>3</sup> REP21/EXEC81, paras. 33-34

<sup>4</sup> REP21/CAC44, paras. 64-66

<sup>5</sup> REP23/CAC46, para. 106

- **ToR #1:** Continue the Joint EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand, to identify and prioritize issues affecting both committees and recommend ways to address the issues and to inform CAC accordingly.
- **ToR #2:** Develop a list of compounds with dual use as a pesticide and veterinary drug for which no or only one Codex MRL has been established with member countries providing the information to populate this list.
- **ToR #3:** Identify dual-use compounds that have different Codex MRLs for a similar edible commodity of animal origin and recommend on a case-by-case basis, a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies). The EWG might recommend that CCRVDF/CCPR consider selecting the higher MRL value.
- **ToR #4:** Consider the matter related to harmonized food descriptors to be used by JECFA and JMPR.

### Status of Work Update

6. Since CCRVDF26 (2023) and CCPR54 (2023), the Joint EWG has conducted the following activities:
  - Asked members to identify emerging issues affecting both committees that might be addressed by the Joint EWG (ToR #1).
  - Asked members to populate a list of dual-use compounds that are registered/approved in their country (ToR #2).
  - Identified 34 Codex standards (Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) values or maximum residue limits (MRL)) that differ for dual-use compounds depending on whether the compound was evaluated as a veterinary drug or pesticide. The Joint EWG is working towards identifying a harmonized MRL value where differences exist to recommend to CCPR and CCRVDF and working towards developing a harmonized definition for dual-use compounds (ToR #3).
  - Identified 11 edible commodities of animal origin as being cross-sectional between the two committees. Of these 11 food commodities, two already have harmonized descriptors, four have different descriptors, and five lack descriptors. For the four that have different descriptors and five that lack descriptors, the Joint EWG is working towards proposing harmonized descriptors (ToR #4).
7. Although the Joint EWG has made substantial progress since its inception, two key challenges have emerged in the opinion of the Chair and co-Chairs.
  - **Challenge #1:** Registered participants have been inclusive of the global regions that comprise Codex membership, but actual participation within the online forum has been limited. For example, there were 34 Codex members and one observer organization registered to participate in the EWG. However, excluding responses from the Chair's and co-Chairs' countries, the EWG only received four sets of comments on the matters of MRL (ToR #3) and food descriptor (ToR #4) harmonization. The low number of comments meant that it was not possible to make firm recommendations on these matters.
  - **Challenge #2:** Currently, the Joint EWG has been operating entirely within the EWG online forum followed by recommendations being presented to each committee separately. It is the opinion of the Chair and co-Chairs that this strategy is not the most effective for all issues. As mentioned previously, participation within the online forum has been limited. This leads to the individual sessions of CCPR and CCRVDF being the first time that a majority of members become familiar with and discuss the work of the Joint EWG. Because recommendations are presented to each committee separately, one committee may make changes to recommendations or develop new recommendations without the benefit of hearing from their colleagues in the other committee. On substantial, complex issues, this is likely to cause recommendations to be "volleyed" between the two committees with little progress being made.
8. Together, these two challenges have made it difficult for the Chair and co-Chairs to determine whether consensus has been achieved and whether recommendations are ready for presentation at CCPR and CCRVDF.

9. Due to the aforementioned challenges, the Chair and co-Chair have considered scheduling a virtual Joint Physical Working Group of the Joint EWG to address the current ToRs. The advantage of a virtual Joint Physical Working Group is two-fold. First, it will increase active participation from members. Second, it will provide the space for CCPR and CCRVDF delegations to discuss the issues affecting both committees and any suggestions to the draft recommendations, making the working group and output a true joint effort between CCPR and CCRVDF. Ultimately, the Chair and co-Chairs see this approach as a mechanism to generate more robust and inclusive recommendations prior to presenting the recommendations at either committee. In turn, this will facilitate the discussions at plenary and lead to more efficient advancement of the Joint EWG work.

#### **Recommendations**

10. CCPR is invited to:
- (i) indicate their continued support for the Joint CCRVDF-CCPR EWG;
  - (ii) endorse scheduling a virtual Joint Physical Working Group; and
  - (iii) encourage CCPR delegations to participate in the virtual Joint Physical Working Group.

**APPENDIX I**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS<sup>6</sup>**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Jonathan Greene</i>
<i>United States of America</i>	<i>Aaron Niman</i>
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Isabela Maria Alves de Ávila</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Rogério Pereira da Silva</i>
<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>Warren Hughes</i>
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Argentina	Maria Carla Serafino
Argentina	Punto Focal Codex
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Australia	Karina Budd
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Belgium	Stefano Messori
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Brazil	Ligia Linder Schreiner
Brazil	Viviane Mega
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Canada	Monique Thomas
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Costa Rica	Tatiana Vásquez Morera
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Please contact the focal point of the Member Country or Observer Organization for the details of the delegates. The list of Codex contact points for members are available from the Codex website at:  
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/members/en/>  
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Indonesia	Standar Panagan Segar
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Ireland	Terry McElvaney
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Japan	Kei Iwata
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Malaysia	Nurhayati Kamyon
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New Zealand	Bill Jolly
Poland	Tomasz Kiljanek
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Saudi Arabia	Mohammed Mousa Ali Alshehri
Saudi Arabia	Nimah Baqadir
Saudi Arabia	Saif Moala Al-Mutairi
Singapore	Sheena
South Africa	Aluwani Alice Madzivhandila
Sweden	Niklas Montell
Tanzania	Stephanie Kaaya
Thailand	Chonnipa Pawasut
Thailand	Namapron Attaviroj
Thailand	Sakranmanee Krajangwong
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