



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Fifty-sixth Session
Santiago, Chile
8-13 September 2025

MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

FAO

Activities of JMPM

1. The 17th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, in October 2024, recommended several changes to existing guidelines. These included expediting the development of risk communication guidance, revising the Guidelines on empty pesticide containers (2008), revisiting existing Guidelines for pesticide resistance monitoring, proposing a way forward for developing a Guidance on minor pesticide use, and preparing a clean version of the Guidance note on online pesticide sales. The Guidance documents on phase-out options and reducing risks during pesticide phase-out, on illegal trade of pesticides, on Online sales of pesticides, and on data requirements for the registration of pesticides have been endorsed. FAO and WHO are collaborating to assess the potential gaps of the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management as it pertains to the call made by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in paragraph 82 of the Report of the 21st Session of the UNPFII presented to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
2. The Guidance document on Aerial Application of Pesticides was published in 2024 and is now available on the website¹.

Activities of JMPS

3. The 23rd FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specification (JMPS) was held in June 2024 in Wageningen, Netherlands. The meeting evaluated 12 FAO specifications, 20 WHO specifications and six FAO/WHO specifications and discussed some guidance documents and technical issues with consensus, such as the revision of the operational manual on specification for chemical pesticide, drafting of new operational manual on specifications for microbial pesticides, and the revision of data requirements to support specifications for formulations (reference specifications / equivalences, classical formulations / complex formulations).
4. Following the JMPS meeting, the 19th Joint CIPAC/FAO/WHO Open Meeting and 68th Technical Meeting were organized to discuss analytic methods for pesticide specifications. 15 analytical methods for 17 pesticides and impurities were evaluated.
5. The Manual on Development and Use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Microbial Pesticides was published², which provides practical guidance on establishing specifications of microbial pesticide and quality control of biopesticides, and will facilitate to minimize the pesticide risks to human health and the environment while ensuring food security.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/guidelines-standards/faowho-joint-meeting-on-pesticide-management-jmpm/guidelines-tools/en/>

² <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9840en>

Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood

6. FAO has released a report on the Food safety implications from the use of environmental inhibitors in agrifood systems³. The report has been developed within the activities of the FAO Food Safety Foresight Programme. As a forward-looking approach, foresight seeks to facilitate preparedness for food safety issues that may emerge in globalized and rapidly evolving agrifood systems. The challenge of feeding a growing world population while responding to the climate crisis requires developing practices and technologies that enhance the sustainability of agrifood systems and reduce harmful effects on the environment. Among those approaches, environmental inhibitors are used to improve the production efficiency of crops and livestock while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as methane, or limiting the loss of nitrogen from cultivated fields and pastures. An inadvertent presence of environmental inhibitors in food commodities can raise health concerns as well as trade disruption if standards are not established.
7. Challenges related to food safety risk assessment and management of these substances include the lack of internationally harmonized maximum residue limits (MRLs), agreed definition for environmental inhibitors and insufficient safety information for some compounds. This publication provides an overview of various synthetic and biological environmental inhibitors along with an analysis of possible food safety implications from their use. Regulatory frameworks relevant for environmental inhibitors in selected countries are presented as examples of current approaches being taken at national or regional level. Finally, food safety-related knowledge gaps are discussed together with some perspectives on how to move forward.
8. A webinar on this subject was organized by FAO on 9 May 2024. The summary and the recoding of the webinar are available online⁴.
9. FAO continues to work on this area providing guidance on how to assess the food safety implications of environmental inhibitors.

International Workshop on Feed Risk Assessment – Chemical Safety

10. The International Workshop⁵ on Feed Risk Assessment – Chemical Safety was organized on 10 and 11 March 2025, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and FAO, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery, Food Security and Nature (LVVN). After the first workshop held in 2013, the purpose of this workshop was to revisit and explore state-of-the-art methods and tools for the risk assessment of chemical contaminants in feed for farmed animals. The focus was on possible health risks for the consumers of animal-source food and animal health risks. New developments and challenges related to feed sources, contaminants, and technologies of increasing relevance were discussed. Current techniques and methods for feed safety risk assessment were explored during case studies and interactive simulations.
11. The workshop was attended by approximately 65 participants from about 20 countries from different regions. The participants were risk assessors, risk managers, and other feed and food safety experts from governmental organizations, academia, and the feed and livestock private sector. They concluded that since 2013, there have been important developments in feed risk assessment. One example is the increased availability of open-access transfer models, which has facilitated their use at the international level. The increased harmonization of feeding regimes at national and regional levels has also contributed to greater harmonization of risk assessment approaches.
12. These improvements have resulted in more accurate feed risk assessment, leading to more effective decision-making processes. However, despite these advancements, several challenges remain. One of the key concerns is the gap in international feed risk assessment related to animal health. Many countries and organizations operate under different frameworks, which creates inconsistencies in data collection and risk evaluation. It was pointed out how the scarcity of animal health toxicity studies makes it difficult to perform comprehensive risk assessments. This also highlights the urgent need for more structured research and information exchange.
13. Another recurring theme throughout the workshop was the necessity of fostering better international collaboration in sharing high-quality data. Data on feed hazards are not always widely shared, thus limiting the effectiveness of global collaboration efforts. Participants emphasized the need to develop a centralized, user-friendly, quality data-sharing platform that could facilitate more seamless integration of hazard and occurrence data from various sources. Such a platform would improve the quality of risk assessments and enhance transparency and cooperation among stakeholders.

³ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/68ec6807-6934-48a3-a55d-6b22824f8a80>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1698034/>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/feed-safety/news-events/detail/en/c/1734982/>

14. The workshop also addressed feed sources and technologies of increasing interest, which may introduce new hazards and challenges to risk assessment. However, current knowledge could allow for the conversion of a broad range of products into animal feed using proper risk-based measures, innovative technologies, and processing methods to ensure their safety and nutritional value for the needs of the animals and their products.
15. In conclusion, the workshop served as a valuable platform for stakeholders to exchange insights and discuss new developments in feed risk assessment. With emerging challenges, such as the potential risks associated with the use of feed sources from the circular economy and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by livestock, thorough risk assessment of contaminants in animal feed remains crucial. It was encouraging to see the progress made in various areas in recent years, such as transmission models and the availability of standard feed regimes. The workshop was closed by stressing the need for enhanced international collaboration, quality data sharing, and capacity development to advance feed risk assessment further. FAO and other relevant stakeholders will remain committed to supporting these efforts through ongoing discussions, research initiatives, and capacity-building and training programmes.
16. A summary of the workshop and the recommendations is available online⁶.
17. FAO will launch during the forthcoming Global Forum for Animal Feed and Feed Regulators,⁷ planned to take place at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy on 2 and 3 October 2025, a manual on feed risk assessment that will provide clarity and help harmonize currently applied methodologies.

WHO

Activities on alternative methods for risk assessment: New approaches methodologies

18. The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, organized a workshop titled “New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in Future Food Safety Risk Assessment” from 18 to 20 June 2025 in Singapore. The event convened over 70 participants from public health and food safety agencies, regulatory bodies, academia, and industry.
19. The workshop aimed to foster a global dialogue to advance the adoption and practical implementation of NAMs in chemical safety, bridging gaps between scientific innovation and regulatory frameworks. Key topics included the current state of NAMs, global regulatory and technical challenges, capacity building for low- and middle-income countries, practical implementation strategies, and future recommendations.
20. As a follow-up to the workshop, the International Programme for Chemical Safety (IPCS) manual is slated for an update to include a new chapter focusing on the use of NAMs, emphasizing animal-free testing methods. This addition aims to integrate NAMs into future scientific advice and regulatory practices.
21. Future updates on this project will be available on the website of WHO’s Standards and Scientific Advice on Food and Nutrition unit.
22. WHO encourages data submitters to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) to make use of NAMs where possible in order to minimize the use of experimental animals in toxicological studies.

⁶ <https://www.rivm.nl/en/documenten/report-international-workshop-on-feed-risk-assessment-chemical-safety>

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/events/detail/fao-global-forum-for-animal-feed-and-feed-regulators/en>