



## 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

### MATTERS ARISING FROM FAO AND WHO

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

#### FAO

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##### Activities of JMPM

1. The 16th annual meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) was held at WHO headquarters in November 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. Ongoing development of new guidance documents, the revision of existing guidelines, as well as emerging and priority issues in pesticide management, including online sale, drone application, illegal trade, nano-pesticides, and recommendations made for future directions, were discussed. The extensive dialogue on the incorporation of a human rights-based approach, mainstreaming gender considerations, and giving special attention to Indigenous Peoples' Rights, were significantly highlighted.
2. The Guidance on Aerial Application of Pesticides was endorsed. Two new and updated guidance were published in 2023: Guidance on Use of Pesticide Regulation to Prevent Suicides<sup>1</sup>, and the Guidance on the monitoring and observance of implementation of the Code of Conduct<sup>2</sup>.

##### Activities of JMPS

3. The 22nd Meeting of the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specification (JMPS) was held in June 2023 in Braunschweig, Germany. The meeting evaluated 11 FAO specifications, seven WHO specifications and 11 FAO/WHO specifications and discussed some fundamental documents, such as revision of proposer's data entry template, JMPS operation manual, requirements for additional sites from the same manufacturers, review / re-evaluation of existing FAO specifications. A consultation meeting with pesticide industry representatives was organized to discuss some concerns and technical issues of FAO/WHO specifications from stakeholders. Moreover, the 18th Joint Collaborative International Pesticides Analytical Council (CIPAC)/FAO/WHO Open Meeting was held back-to-back with JMPS, which discussed analytic methods for pesticide specifications.
4. *The Manual on Development and Use of FAO and WHO Specifications for Microbial Pesticides* was endorsed by the JMPS Meeting, which will provide clear guidance on establishing specifications of microbial pesticide and would greatly facilitate the development and quality control of biopesticides, therefore contribute to risk reduction of pesticides and sustainable crop production and protection. The manual is approved by FAO publication unit and will be published soon.

##### Activities on capacity development of risk assessment and pesticide management

5. FAO takes a comprehensive approach to pesticide management and actively support member countries in building capacities of sound lifecycle management of pesticides and disseminating the best practices through projects, training workshop, webinar and providing tools.
6. FAO regional workshop on pesticide residue risk assessment and the elaboration of maximum residue limits (MRLs) was organized in November 2023, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop provided training on evaluation of residue data, updating the knowledge of the assessment of risks associated with dietary exposure of pesticide residues; and establishment of MRLs in food and feed. The 26 participants from 11 countries (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Pakistan Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and 4 from regional office participated the workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5070en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5124en>

7. The training workshop on the Lifecycle Management of Pesticides for Bangladeshi officials was organized at FAO headquarters in September 2023, at Rome, Italy. The workshop covered a wide range of topics of lifecycle of pesticide management, including sustainable plant production and protection; pesticide legislation; policy development and regulatory framework; registration; compliance and law enforcement; Rotterdam Convention; Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs); and sustainable pesticides waste management.
8. The FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit is a decision support system designed specifically for pesticide registrars in low- and middle-income countries. This web-based registration handbook serves as a comprehensive day-to-day resource, aiding registrars in the evaluation and authorization of pesticides. In 2023, six Toolkit trainings were organized for In Africa, Asia and Near East. 96 pesticide registrars from 21 countries trained.

#### Activities on reducing risk of HHPs

9. FAO, in collaboration with WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), supported members on mitigating risks of highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), including development of guidance on HHPs, supporting development of regional and national strategies on HHPs in Africa, and mitigating the risk of HHP. The resolution on HHP was adopted by 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in September 2023 and 6<sup>th</sup> session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) in February 2023, which endorses the formation of a global alliance on HHP, invites FAO, ILO, UNDP, WHO to coordinate the work of global alliance on HHP, with FAO taking the lead roles. FAO will work together with other UN agencies, countries, and stakeholders to address HHPs in new Global Framework on Chemicals which was endorsed by ICCM5.

#### WHO

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##### Activities on pesticide residues in drinking water

10. WHO is initiating work on assessing the relevance of pesticide metabolites in drinking-water. The aim is to develop a framework to evaluate pesticide metabolites in drinking-water, to determine relevance considering likelihood of occurrence in drinking-water including in source waters, after water treatment and also considering toxicity. This work is being conducted in the context of WHO's Guidelines for drinking-water quality<sup>3</sup>, that provide the international reference point for the development of drinking-water quality regulations world-wide.
11. This work will be informed by WHO's assessment scheme to evaluate pesticide metabolites in plants and animal tissues as laid out in the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) guidance document<sup>4</sup>, which provides information for WHO monographers and reviewers of WHO Core Assessment Group on Pesticide Residues in Food pertaining to procedure, timelines, and guidance for preparing the monographs and report items as well as general criteria for interpretation of toxicological data.
12. Future updates from the project will be available on the website of WHO's water, sanitation, hygiene, and health unit<sup>5</sup>.

##### Activities on dioxin and dioxin-like compounds

13. In October 2022 WHO held an ad-hoc expert consultation during which the 2005 WHO toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) for dioxin-like compounds, including some polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), were re-evaluated.
14. There was consensus among the experts that the 2005 WHO TEF values for dioxins, furans, and dioxin-like PCBs needed to be updated.
15. The updated WHO 2022 TEF values for dioxin and dioxin-like compounds coming out of this expert consultation was published in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology in January 2024<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> ([WHO, 2022](#)) - [Water Sanitation and Health \(who.int\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> ([WHO, 2015](#)) - [Pesticide residues in food: guidance document for WHO monographers and reviewers](#)  
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health>

<sup>6</sup> The 2022 world health organization re-evaluation of human and mammalian toxic equivalency factors for polychlorinated dioxins, dibenzofurans, and biphenyls, RTP Volume 146, January 2024, 10525.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0273230023001939>

**Activities on estimates of the burden of foodborne disease**

16. The WHO estimates of the burden of foodborne diseases<sup>7</sup> are currently being updated, and results are expected to be published by the end of 2025. Over forty hazards have been identified as main contributors to this burden and data on these hazards is being collected for systematic reviews.
17. The list of hazards will include chemicals such as B1 and M1 aflatoxins, dioxins, arsenic, cadmium, lead, methylmercury, cassava cyanide, and peanut allergens as well as a range of microbiological hazards. In conjunction with the estimates of the burden of foodborne disease, a global source attribution study is being conducted.
18. The public health burden estimates of foodborne disease will be translated into estimates of the economic burden of foodborne disease through a joint project by the World Bank and WHO.
19. It is expected that these estimates will assist food safety authorities in prioritizing their activities towards achieving the best possible food safety outcome of their efforts.
20. For more details, please see the overall progress update follow the link in the footnote<sup>8</sup> ([link](#)).

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<sup>7</sup> [WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: foodborne diseases burden epidemiology reference group 2007-2015](#)

<sup>8</sup> [link {{Main title presentation}} \(who.int\)](#)