



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME**  
**CODEX COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS**

**27<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**21-25 October 2024**

**Omaha, Nebraska, United States of America**

**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 establish a joint Electronic Working Group (EWG) to further advance their work on cross-sectional issues and 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 potential further collaboration between them and how this could be carried out (e.g., jointly, in parallel, etc.) to facilitate the consideration of compounds with dual uses by both committees and the possible harmonization of MRLs.
  - This may include reflections on improved work synchronization between CCPR and CCRVDF and collaboration between CCPR/CCRVDF and JMPR/JECFA.
  - The Joint EWG will update CCPR53 (2022) and CCRVDF26 (2023) on their preliminary findings.
4. Regarding the timeframe, the Joint EWG will continue its work if 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 CAC46 subsequently endorsed<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 USA and co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand, to identify and prioritize issues affecting both committees, recommend ways to address them, and 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 a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies) on a case-by-case basis. 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 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 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. Two of these 11 food commodities already have harmonized descriptors; four have different descriptors and five lack descriptors. The Joint EWG is working towards proposing harmonized descriptors for the four that have different descriptors and five that lack descriptors (ToR #4).
7. Although the Joint EWG has made substantial progress since its inception, the Chair and co-Chairs believe two key challenges have emerged.
  - **Challenge #1:** Registered participants have been inclusive and included the global regions that comprise Codex membership, but actual participation within the online forum has been limited. For example, 34 Codex members and one observer organization were 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 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:** The Joint EWG operates 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 in 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 have become familiar with and discussed 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-Chairs have considered scheduling a virtual meeting of the Joint EWG to address the current ToRs. The advantage of a virtual meeting of the Joint EWG 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 before presenting the recommendations to either committee. This will facilitate the discussions at plenary and lead to more efficient advancement of the Joint EWG work.

#### **Discussions at the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR55)**

10. The update from the Joint EWG was provided to CCPR55 (2024). The JMPR Secretariat indicated JMPR's support for the harmonization agenda of the Joint EWG on compounds for dual use. However, further consideration is required when it comes to harmonizing health-based guidance values (ADI and Acute Reference Dose (ARfD)). Therefore, the JMPR Secretariat stated that the possible harmonization of relevant HBGVs should be done as part of a risk assessment process by JMPR and JECFA in support of CCPR and CCRVDF, and it would not be possible just to choose the higher HBGV. The Joint EWG Chair and Co-chair clarified that the primary focus of the Joint EWG was to harmonize MRLs, and the intent is to defer to JECFA and JMPR to make recommendations on harmonizing HBGVs if needed.
11. CCPR55 (2024):
- (i) indicated their continued support for the work of the Joint EWG;
  - (ii) endorsed the scheduling of a joint virtual meeting of the EWG;
  - (iii) encouraged CCPR delegations to participate in the joint virtual meeting of the EWG; and
  - (iv) encouraged CCPR delegations to liaise with their CCRVDF counterparts to coordinate positions and actively participate in the work of the Joint EWG, including the upcoming virtual meeting of the Joint EWG.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Consultation with the Codex Secretariat after CCPR55**

12. Following CCPR55, the Chair and co-Chairs sought advice from the Codex Secretariat on how to best progress the work of the Joint EWG. Based on this consultation and building upon the recommendations endorsed by CCPR55, the Chair and co-Chairs consider that it would be beneficial to explore the feasibility of scheduling a virtual session of the Joint EWG that precedes a possible virtual Joint Session of CCPR and CCRVDF to address the current ToRs. In addition to the aforementioned benefits of a virtual session of the Joint EWG, this approach would allow final decisions to be made jointly by both committees rather than the Joint EWG presenting recommendations to each Committee separately. This would, therefore, assist in building consensus-based decision-making simultaneously for both Committees.

#### **Recommendations**

13. CCRVDF is invited to:
- (i) indicate their continued support for the Joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG;
  - (ii) endorse exploring the feasibility of scheduling a virtual session of the Joint EWG that precedes a possible virtual Joint Session of CCPR and CCRVDF;
  - (iii) encourage CCRVDF delegations to participate in the possible virtual session of the Joint EWG and possible virtual Joint Session of CCPR and CCRVDF; and
  - (iv) encourage CCRVDF delegations to liaise with their CCPR counterparts to coordinate positions and actively participate in the work of the Joint EWG.

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<sup>6</sup> REP24/PR55, paras. 274-280

**APPENDIX I**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS<sup>7</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>
<b>Member Country</b>	<b>Name</b>
Argentina	Carlos Eugenio Alli
Argentina	Maria Carla Serafino
Argentina	Punto Focal Codex
Australia	Dugald MacLachlan
Australia	James Oliver Deller
Australia	Karina Budd
Belgium	Chantel Vervaeet
Belgium	Stefano Messori
Belgium	Wim Hooghe
Brazil	Giselle Kindlein
Brazil	Ligia Linder Schreiner
Brazil	Viviane Mega
Canada	Fannie St-Gelais
Canada	Monique Thomas
Chile	Claudio Núñez Contardo
Chile	Roxana Inés Vera Muñoz
China	Fengmao Liu
China	Huang Ling
China	Zhang Yujie
Costa Rica	Alejandro Rojas Leon
Costa Rica	Amanda Lasso Cruz
Costa Rica	Heilyn Fernandez Carvajal
Costa Rica	Ivania Morera Rodríguez
Costa Rica	Tatiana Vásquez Morera
Denmark	Katja Kragelund
Egypt	Mariam Barsoum Onsy
Egypt	Reda Mohammad Sayed
European Union	Gaspar Avendano Perez
France	Anne-Marie Jacques
Germany	Anke Finnah
Germany	David Schumacher
Germany	Karsten Hohgardt
Germany	Referat 313

<sup>7</sup> 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/>  
<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/about-codex/observers/observers/obs-list/en/>

Guatemala	Karen Aracely Gatica Solares
India	Sreenivasa Rao Cherukuri
India	Vandana Tripathy
India	Varsha Yadav
Indonesia	Rahayuningsih
Indonesia	Standar Panagan Segar
Iran	Ehsan Zayerzadeh
Ireland	Terry McElvaney
Japan	CodexJapan
Japan	Kei Iwata
Malaysia	Mohammad Nazrul Fahmi Abdul Rahim
Malaysia	Nurhayati Kamyon
México	Tania Daniela Fosado Soriano
New Zealand	Bill Jolly
Poland	Tomasz Kiljanek
Republic of Korea	Hwang Kiseon
Republic of Korea	None listed
Republic of Korea	Park Yoona
Republic of Korea	Soyoung Lee
Republic of Korea	Yeojin Min
República Dominicana	Luís Martíñez Polanco
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
United Arab Emirates	Fadi Naser al Natour
United Arab Emirates	Sonia Baldi
United States of America	Alexander Domesle
United States of America	Brandi Robinson
United States of America	Dong Yan
United States of America	Kenneth Lowery
United States of America	Kimon Kanelakis
United States of America	Marie Maratos Bhat
Uruguay	Susana Franchi
<b>Observer Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
CropLife International	Wibke Meyer