



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

49th Session

Beijing, P.R. China, 24 - 29 April 2017

COMMENTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CODEX SCHEDULES AND PRIORITY LISTS OF PESTICIDES FOR EVALUATION BY JMPR

(Prepared by Canada)

A. BACKGROUND

1. In consulting the CL 2017/12-PR prepared by Australia and Germany, it is evident that the amount of work required from JMPR to support CCPR is significant, and often greater than the capacity of JMPR to deliver. As indicated in paragraph 4 of this circular letter, workload for the Proposed 2018 Schedule **far exceeds available JMPR resources**. The 2019 CCPR Priority List of JMPR Evaluations also exceeds available JMPR resources.
2. At the 39th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC 39), the FAO and the WHO presented a proposal to strengthen the Joint Scientific Advice Program in CX/CAC 16/39/17. One of the issues to be addressed, as highlighted in CX/CAC 16/39/17, was to reduce the backlog by increasing and accelerating the delivery of scientific advice. More specifically, the FAO and WHO indicated that none of the joint expert bodies, including the JMPR, could deliver the amount of output necessary to match the demands of the respective Codex Committees.
3. The provision of scientific advice to Codex committees, including CCPR, is therefore done on the basis of the capacity of their relevant scientific advisory bodies and not on the basis of the need of the Codex committees i.e. Members. In the case of JMPR, no more than 10-12 compounds can be taken up yearly for full evaluations (new compounds and periodic evaluations) and 20-25 additional evaluations (existing compounds).
4. Since CAC 39, Canada in consultation with the FAO/WHO JMPR Secretariats, the Codex Secretariat and other stakeholders, have discussed the issue of JMPR resources. Consideration was given to various activities and operational improvements to enhance the provision of scientific advice to the CCPR. In particular, increasing meeting frequency of JMPR was among the activities identified that would support delivery of additional scientific advice.

B. ISSUES

5. The ability for JMPR to conduct all the evaluations in accordance with the CCPR-approved schedules and priority lists is a critical component of the CCPR MRL setting process. However, JMPR does not have the resources to meet all the demands put forward by Members. Therefore, CCPR would benefit from additional JMPR resources including funding, expertise and data availability for the purpose of conducting more evaluations.
6. Recognizing that the joint FAO/WHO risk assessment process of the JMPR is a critical and essential part of the Codex risk analysis framework and CCPR MRL setting process, Canada has made a voluntary contribution to hold an extraordinary meeting of the JMPR in February/May 2018 or February 2019 in order to increase the number of recommended MRLs for consideration by CCPR50 (April 2018) or CCPR51 (April 2019) and approval by CAC41 (July 2018) or CAC42 (July 2019).

C. DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

7. Canada proposes to establish during CCPR 49 a supplementary list for new uses only, which would be derived from the current Schedules and Priority Lists (2018-2021) and would be reviewed by an extraordinary session of the FAO Expert Panel on Pesticide Residues in 2018 or 2019. The number of compounds reviewed would depend on the availability of experts, and the number of complete data packages submitted.
8. This proposed extraordinary session of the FAO Expert Panel on Pesticide Residues is intended to address the evaluations for new uses on the existing priority list and therefore allow JMPR to conduct more new use evaluations in 2018 or 2019.

D. CONCLUSION

9. Canada will be seeking advice from Members on a list of new uses only for the proposed extraordinary JMPR session.
10. The Committee is invited to consider the establishment of a supplementary list for new uses only to be reviewed by an extraordinary session of JMPR in 2018 or 2019.