



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-ninth session
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland
6-10 July 2026

COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN THE CODEx COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND THE CODEx COMMITTEE ON RESIDUES OF VETERINARY DRUGS IN FOODS

JOINT CCPR/CCRVDF ELECTRONIC WORKING GROUP ON DUAL-USE COMPOUNDS STATUS OF WORK

BACKGROUND

1. The Joint Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) Electronic Working Group (Joint EWG) has been working towards addressing the terms of reference (ToRs) established by the 48th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48, 2025)¹.
2. The Joint EWG continued to carry out the mandate given by CAC48, including the recommendation to hold a virtual meeting of the Joint EWG (hereafter referred to as the “virtual working group (VWG)”), which took place from 28-29 April 2026.
3. The VWG discussed three of the ToRs as follows:
 - Identification and possible harmonization of maximum residue limits (MRLs) that differ for dual-use compounds in similar edible commodities of animal origin (ToR #4)
 - Harmonized food descriptors to be used by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) when recommending MRLs for residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides in foods (ToR #5)
 - Identification of emerging issues for possible further collaboration between CCRVDF and CCPR (ToR #1)
4. The VWG was attended by over 200 participants, representing 53 Member countries, one Member Organization, and five Observer organizations. Participants included the Chairs of CCPR and CCRVDF, as well as representatives from the Codex Secretariat, the CCRVDF and CCPR Secretariats, and the FAO and WHO JMPR and JECFA Secretariats. The report of the VWG will be published on the joint CCPR/CCRVDF EWG website² for information in due course. The recommendations of the VWG will be considered by the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF in 2027 to make recommendations for adoption by CAC50 in 2027.
5. Furthermore, the VWG has identified two matters for action by CAC49 as follows.

A. Identification of emerging issues for possible further collaboration between CCPR and CCRVDF – inclusion of an additional term of reference for the Joint EWG
6. The Chair of the Joint EWG stated that one of the working group’s standing terms of reference is to identify emerging issues that are affecting both Committees and recommend ways in which those emerging issues can be addressed. The Chair stated that he observed an emerging issue during the discussion of MRL harmonization. In the Chair’s opinion, it seemed that, for future cases of dual-use compounds, efforts should be taken to increase the likelihood that MRL harmonization occurs at the risk assessment stage, when applicable. The Chair explained his view that discussions could be had on ways in which to frame the request for JMPR and JECFA evaluation of dual-use compounds, such that harmonization of MRLs could take place before the MRLs are considered by the individual committees. There was general agreement with the Chair’s proposal. No other emerging issues were identified by the Joint EWG.

¹ REP25/CAC, paras 113-117, App VIII

² <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/committees/committee/en/?committee=CCPR-CCRVDF>

7. The VWG therefore identified the following emerging issue and invites CAC49 to approve its inclusion in the Joint EWG's terms of reference:

To explore and possibly develop pathways that promote the development of harmonized MRLs at the risk assessment and risk management stage, when applicable, before JMPR and JECFA recommend MRLs to CCPR and CCRVDF.

B. Provisional agenda for the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF

8. CAC48 requested the Joint EWG to prepare a draft agenda for the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF.³
9. A provisional agenda is presented in Annex 1 for consideration and approval by CAC49.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. CAC49 is invited to:
- i. note that:
 - a. the Joint EWG has held a virtual meeting from 28-29 April 2026 in accordance with the endorsement of CAC48;
 - b. the recommendations on the harmonization of MRLs and food descriptors will be considered by the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF in order to make recommendations for adoption by CAC50 (2027); and
 - c. the full report of the virtual meeting of the Joint EWG will be available on the dedicated CCPR/CCRVDF webpage;
 - ii. approve the new task for the Joint EWG and include it in the revised terms of reference of the Joint EWG as indicated in paragraph 7; and
 - iii. approve the draft provisional agenda for the joint virtual session of CCPR and CCRVDF as indicated in Annex 1.

³ REP25/CAC, para 117(iii)

ANNEX 1**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE JOINT VIRTUAL SESSION OF CCPR AND CCRVDF**

Item	Subject	Document
1	Adoption of the agenda	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/1
2	Matters referred by CAC and other subsidiary bodies	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/2
3	Matters of interest arising from FAO/WHO, including JECFA and JMPR	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/3
4	Harmonization of MRLs for dual-use compounds	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/4
	Comments at Step 3 in reply to CL 2026/XX-PR/RVDF	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/4-Add.1
5	Harmonization of food descriptors to be used by JECFA and JMPR when recommending MRLs for pesticides and veterinary drugs	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/5
	Comments at Step 3 in reply to CL 2026/XX-PR/RVDF	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/5-Add.1
6	Other matters related to the work of the Joint EWG	CX/PR/RVDF 27/01/6
7	Other business	
8	Date and place of next session	
9	Adoption of the report	