



Report of the U.S. Delegate, 48th Session, Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

Introduction

The CCPR held its 48th Session in Chongqing, China from April 25-30, 2016. Professor Xiongwu Qiao, Director of the Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, served as Chair, assisted by Dr. Guibiao Ye, Director of CCPR Secretariat, Institute for Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China (ICAMA). The session was attended by 49 Member countries, one Member organization (the European Union) and Observers from nine international organizations. The United States was represented by Mr. David Miller of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Delegate to CCPR and Dr. Pat Basu of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the Alternate Delegate, along with five governmental and nine nongovernmental advisors.

Highlights

The Committee concluded a productive session, reaching consensus on a number of crop groups and advancing 393 MRLs at Step 5/8 for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its next session in June 2016. Crop Group or Subgroup MRLs accounted for 52 of the 393 MRLs forwarded for adoption. Five of the seven new compounds reviewed by JMPR in 2015 were nominated by the United States.

The following summarizes issues of particular interest to the United States in greater depth. Complete details of the 48th Session (2016 Meeting) may be found in the official meeting report, on the Codex Alimentarius website at: <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings-reports/en/>

Meeting Summary

Matters of Interest Arising From the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO)

The Representative of WHO, Philippe Verger, informed the Committee about FAO and WHO activities, other than the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), relevant to the work of CCPR. Several matters of interest were presented by the WHO, including the coordination of priorities and review of substances that are used both as pesticides and veterinary drugs, as well as developing long-term dietary exposure assessments for those substances. The WHO representative also highlighted the need for drinking water quality studies for the compound, bentazone; two acute toxicity studies have been identified for submission to fill the data gap. Finally, the WHO Representative highlighted the upcoming special meeting of JMPR, to take place in mid-May, in order to reevaluate the endpoints and carcinogenic potential of diazinon, glyphosate, and malathion.

Report on Items of General Consideration by the 2015 JMPR

The WHO Representative from JMPR Secretariat, Philippe Verger, highlighted several items of general consideration for the Committee, including general outcomes from an expert workshop organized in collaboration with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on [Revisiting the International Estimate of Short-Term Intake \(IESTI\)](#) (visit www.efsa.europa.eu for additional information). The workshop report included recommendations related to both risk management/risk communication, as well as suggestions for scientific improvements to the equation.

The WHO Representative also noted the need to account for dietary exposures that are longer than daily, but shorter than lifetime, as well as the need for more data such as processing studies in order to develop MRLs for animal feed items. Additionally, concerning the minimum number of supervised field trials for MRL setting for minor crops (as recommended by the electronic Working Group on Minor Uses), the FAO Representative, Yongzhen Yang, noted that JMPR would begin considering guidance finalized by the 47th CCPR but noted that fewer trials may be adequate in certain cases. (The United States supports the guidance developed by CCPR and welcomes the flexibility of JMPR in taking into account field trials developed prior to 2016.) Finally, the FAO Representative noted that the FAO reviewer's manual on the submission and evaluation of pesticide residue data for the estimation of MRLs has been recently revised and is available for review.

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)



The CCPR agreed to forward 393 MRLs at Step 5/8 for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) at its next session. These MRLs are associated with 31 pesticides; 286 and 107 MRLs forwarded for adoption are for plant and animal commodities, respectively. Five of the seven new compounds reviewed by JMPR in 2015 were nominated by the United States. The accelerated procedure and criteria for decision-making were again used with great success and most of the MRLs were advanced using the accelerated 5/8 procedure. Reservations were made by the European Union (EU) for 231 of the MRLs recommended by the JMPR; therefore, a majority of those MRLs would likely not have been advanced if not for the concern form procedure. Crop Group or Subgroup MRLs accounted for 52 of the 393 MRLs forwarded for adoption.

The CCPR returned 25 MRLs for 5 pesticides to Step 7 while the JMPR awaits additional information; 41 MRLs for 12 pesticides were returned to Step 4 for various reasons, such as the need for more information on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), and will be reconsidered by JMPR.

The CCPR also recommended revocation for 156 previously adopted MRLs (i.e., CXLs) associated with 25 pesticides. These are typically CXLs being replaced based on review of additional data, uses no longer supported, or CXLs deemed by JMPR to have potential dietary intake concerns with no alternative GAP. Finally, seven draft MRLs for four pesticides were withdrawn from further consideration.

JMPR also responded to several concern forms that were submitted by the United States for consideration by the 2015 JMPR:

- For fenpropathrin, the United States requested JMPR to reconsider the decision against recommending a MRL for the use of fenpropathrin for raspberry. The United States felt that an MRL could be recommended, using the proportionality approach. JMPR confirmed its previous decision to not recommend a MRL, however, concluding that it is inappropriate to apply the proportionality approach.
- For imazamox, the JMPR reaffirmed its conclusion about the need to establish an acute reference dose (ARfD).
- For propiconazole, the United States submitted a concern form with additional information for growth stages for wheat, oats and barley. As a result, the JMPR recommended MRLs for these commodities; these MRLs were among those forwarded for final adoption by the CAC at its June 2016 session.

Discussion Paper on the Impact of the Relocation of Vigna Spp. to Beans on the CXLs for Peas

Thailand presented a paper explaining the rationale and impact of relocating *Vigna* spp. from the peas group to the beans group. The Committee agreed to the recommendation presented by Thailand to extrapolate and apply the CXLs of *Phaseolus* spp. immature beans and dry beans to *Vigna* spp. immature beans and dry beans. The United States generally supported the proposal to combine the two species into the same code. However, the Committee recognized that retaining two separate codes for *Phaseolus* spp. and *Vigna* spp. was needed during a transition period in order to allow JMPR to assess compounds that have already been scheduled for review according to the current priority schedule, thereby helping to avoid potential trade issues.

Revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds

The revision of the *Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds* is part of the ongoing effort to revise all of the crop groups. The United States has co-chaired or chaired this working group from the start of this effort, has provided much of the documentation for the proposed crop groups, and strongly supports this project. The United States, as Chair of the electronic working group (eWG), presented the proposed amendments to the Revision of the *Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds*. The Committee considered proposed amendments for the Crop Groups and Subgroups for pulses, legume vegetables, cucurbits, grasses of cereal grains, grasses for sugars or syrup production and seeds for beverages and sweets, with details provided below:

Proposed Draft Revision of the Selected Vegetable Commodity Groups, 015- Pulses and 014- Legume Vegetables

For legumes and pulses, comments were only requested on the options for the location of groundnuts (i.e., Bambara, Kerstin, peanuts) within the Classification system for both dry (mature) and immature commodities. For Group 015- Pulses, the United States did not oppose the separate subgroup of dry underground legumes proposed for inclusion but noted that the United States does not expect to propose dry underground legumes in its revised Legume Vegetable Group for beans and peas. Similarly, for Group 014- Legume vegetables, the United States did not oppose the separate subgroup (i.e., underground beans and peas) for inclusion in the Codex crop grouping scheme but noted that the United States does not expect to propose underground



beans and peas in its revised Legume Vegetable Group for beans and peas. During discussions, the Committee generally agreed to include groundnuts into two subgroups under the Groups 014 (014E) and 015 (015C) in order to include immature/dry beans and peas. The draft revised Groups 014 and 015 will be held at Steps 4 and 7, respectively, until such time as all vegetable commodity groups are compiled. These groups are expected to be forwarded for adoption by the CAC, along with the other vegetable type crop groups, at the next session of CCPR in 2017.

Proposed Draft Revision of the Selected Vegetable Commodity Group, 011- Fruiting Vegetables, Cucurbits

This proposed Crop Group has been discussed during several sessions of the CCPR. During the eWG, the United States noted its support for dividing the revised Crop Group into 11A- Melon subgroup and 11B- Squash/Cucumber subgroup. Because there appeared to be little support for this option by eWG participants, the United States then indicated it could support the option with two subgroups including 11A- Cucumber and Summer Squashes and 11B- Melons and Pumpkins, provided any compromise option did not include the need for additional data on another representative crop. The United States provided a detailed rationale and data to support the idea that additional representative commodities for this group are unnecessary and would be burdensome to U.S. and international cucurbit growers.

CCPR considered several compromise solutions and generally agreed to a compromise: 11A- Cucumber and Summer Squash; and 11B- Melons and Pumpkins (includes winter squashes and pumpkins). In selecting this option, several CCPR member countries, including the United States, continued to express their concerns that additional representative commodities for the group would be unnecessarily burdensome. The Committee agreed to hold Group 011 at Step 4. As noted above, the vegetable type and corresponding Crop Groups and Subgroups are expected to be forwarded for adoption at the next Session of CCPR in 2017.

Proposed Draft Revision of the Selected Commodity Group, 020- Grasses of Cereal Grains

During the 47th Session of CCPR (2015), consensus could not be reached for the revision of Group 020- Grasses of Cereal Grains. Therefore, the eWG continued work on revising this Crop Group, including consideration of two options: Option 1 with 3 subgroups: 20A- Small grains, 20B- Corn, grain sorghum and millet, and 20C- Rice; and Option 2 with, 6 sub-groups: 20A- Wheat, 20B- Barley; 20C- Rice; 20D- Maize, millet, sorghum; 20E- Pseudocereals grains, and 20F- Sweet corn. Through the eWG, two compromise options were presented for consideration at this session: Option 1 was proposed by Canada and contained five subgroups that combined the pseudocereals into the subgroup 20A- Wheat and included a separate Barley subgroup (20B); Option 2 was proposed by Japan and separated pseudocereals into two subgroups of 020A- Wheat and 020B- Barley depending on whether kernels were protected by husks during production or trade and included only oats and buckwheat. During the lengthy discussions, member countries generally agreed that a separate pseudocereals subgroup was not essential, but initially remained divided on which of the compromise options was appropriate. In the spirit of compromise, and noting that there was generally greater support for Option 2, Canada agreed to withdraw Option 1 and member countries agreed to Option 2.

The United States initially supported Canadian Option 1 during the CCPR session, but was able to agree to the revisions as proposed by Japan, as the foremost concern for the United States was to avoid the establishment of a separate pseudocereals subgroup. The United States is pleased that the Committee agreed to a compromise solution for the Crop Group 020- Grasses of Cereal Grains Group, and that the Committee forwarded this to the CAC for adoption at Step 5. This group is expected to be forwarded for final adoption at Step 8 at the next CCPR session, awaiting final compilation of all vegetable commodity groups.

Proposed Draft Revisions of the Selected Commodity Groups, 021- Grasses for Sugars or Syrup Production and 024- Seeds for Beverages and Sweets

The CCPR discussed Groups 021 and 024, including what commodities may be appropriate in expanding the groups. CCPR also discussed concerns about the appropriateness of having commodities in more than one Crop Group or Subgroup. Finally, there were discussions about what portion of the commodity should be considered for the member commodities. After these discussions, the Committee determined it to be premature to attempt to resolve the discussion items and questions associated with them. Both Groups 021 and 024 were returned to Step 2/3 for further discussion and consideration.



Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Commodity Groups (Tables 2 and 3)

The eWG also presented proposals and changes to the representative commodities associated with Group 011- Fruiting Vegetables, Cucurbits; Group 014- Legume Vegetables, and Group 015- Pulses. The United States provided comments and detailed information for each of the three Crop Groups under consideration.

For Group 011, several member countries noted that the inclusion of additional representative commodities may result in the need for additional residue field trials. The United States shares this concern and believes that the requirement for residue field trial data on winter squash or pumpkin is unnecessary. The United States noted that the main purpose of the crop grouping effort is to allow for the establishment of MRLs for multiple commodities, especially minor and specialty crops, based on data from representative commodities. The United States provided a large amount of information and data to support the use of melon as a representative commodity for winter squash and pumpkin. After a lengthy discussion that highlighted the provisions of the guidelines for extrapolation, which include the possibility of using alternative representative commodities based on documented regional/country differences in dietary consumption and/or areas of production, the Committee agreed to the representative commodities of cucumber and summer squash and/or gourd for Subgroup 011A and melon as the representative for Subgroup 011B. As to Groups 014- Legume Vegetables and 015- Pulses, the Committee agreed to continue work within the eWG on these groups and to return the proposed Tables to Step 2/3 for further consideration. These groups are also expected to be forwarded for final adoption by the CAC at Step 5/8 at the next CCPR session, awaiting final compilation of all vegetable commodity groups.

The use of crop groupings is very important in order to establish MRLs for many minor crops based on the residue data from the representative commodities. Finalizing the revision to the Classification for vegetable type crop groups along with the guidance on the selection of representative commodities will be very useful in order to establish additional MRLs for minor vegetable crops. Completion of the vegetable types is now expected in 2017.

The Committee agreed to re-establish the eWG, led by the United States and co-chaired by the Netherlands, in order to work on several issues including to: (1) Determine if commodities can be included in more than one group; (2) Continue work on Group 021- Grasses for sugar or syrup production and determine if these groups can be expanded to include other plants; (3) Continue work on Group 024- Seeds for beverages and sweets and determine if these groups can be expanded to include other plants; (4) Review all vegetables and codes in Table 2; (5) Continue work on Table 3, Type 03 Grasses.

In addition, The Committee agreed to request the eWG to continue working on the commodities to be included in the different subgroups, with the understanding that the crop grouping for Group 020 would not be subject to any further discussion (see discussion above regarding representative commodities for Crop Group 20, Grasses of cereal grains).

Methods of Analysis for the Determination Pesticide Residues

In 2015, the 47th CCPR agreed to re-establish the eWG on methods of analysis with the United States as chair and co-chairs from China and India. The eWG worked on several matters, including further revision of the document in order to improve the layout for better flow of the information, and to incorporate consistent definitions and citations.

At the beginning of this session, CCPR agreed to hold a physical working group to incorporate and agree upon the many changes made during the eWG review, as well as additional revisions suggested just prior to the session. The in-session working group was also chaired by the United States and co-chaired by China and India. After lengthy and productive discussions, the United States presented the main changes made to the Guidelines for consideration by the Committee.

The Committee generally agreed on the proposed revisions, which were mostly minor, involving editorial or formatting issues; however, several Delegations expressed the opinion that the changes made to the document should be reviewed further with national experts and other relevant stakeholders. Therefore, the Committee agreed to forward the document to the CAC for adoption at Step 5, to allow for consideration at the next CCPR before final adoption.

Nomination and Prioritization of Compounds to be Considered by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPPR)



The eWG on Priorities, chaired by Australia, presented several issues for Committee discussion. The first was a proposal to shift the ratio of new compound and periodic evaluations in order to allow additional periodic evaluations by the JMPR. In presenting the proposal during the eWG, the eWG Chair noted a decrease in the number of new compounds being nominated for JMPR evaluation as a rationale for the proposed change. The United States did not agree with the observation that there were fewer new compound nominations and was also concerned that the shift toward additional periodic reevaluations would further hinder efforts for JMPR evaluation of new compounds. The Committee generally agreed that while the apparent backlog of periodic reevaluations is not ideal, periodic reevaluations should be based upon additional criteria (e.g., public health concerns) and not just a standard "15-year rule." Therefore, the Committee agreed that some amount of flexibility in the number of new compound and periodic evaluations should be afforded in upcoming years.

For the upcoming 2017 JMPR evaluation, the Chair of the eWG on Priorities noted that seven new compounds and one reserve compound are scheduled for new compound evaluation; five compounds and two reserve compounds are scheduled for periodic reevaluation, and 33 new uses and other evaluations are listed on the proposed schedules. Reserve compounds may replace compounds on the priority list that are withdrawn or postponed until a later date.

This schedule is over-capacity for JMPR review. Member countries/observers and nominators could not come to a conclusion on prioritizing compounds for evaluations. Therefore, the 2017 schedule will not be finalized until after May 31. By that time, all members or observers nominating compounds for 2017 must provide documented evidence (i.e., registered label with GAP) for all compounds listed on the draft 2017 Priorities List. Compounds for which this information is not submitted or that lack a national registration will be deferred to 2018.

The Committee agreed to reestablish the eWG on Priorities with Australia as chair and Germany as co-chair. The addition of a co-chair to this group was in response to the need to develop administrative criteria to manage the priority lists and schedules, as well as to assist in the development of a circular letter in order to seek evidence of national support for all compounds on the CCPR priority list. Both of these efforts are in response to the need to improve the administration and management of the Priority Lists of Pesticides and streamline efforts to identify the Priority 1 compounds for JMPR evaluation. The United States supports the development of these criteria and will actively participate in efforts toward this end.

Other Business and Future Work

Revisiting the International Estimate of Short-Term Intake (IESTI) Equations

The EU and Australia developed a conference room document ([CRD03](#)) in order to propose new work to explore the possible revision to the IESTI equations and the impacts thereof.

The United States voiced concerns that the CRD was only available a short time prior to the session and was only available in English. However, the United States strongly supports a deep and thorough look at the component inputs of the IESTI equations -- both current and proposed -- that focuses on better and more fully characterizing the degree of protection afforded by the equations. The United States is also eager to fully explore the potential impacts that changes to the IESTI equations may have on the number of MRLs that can be established, as well as impacts on risk management and risk communication.

The Committee agreed to establish an eWG, chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by Australia, in order to identify advantages and challenges that might arise from the possible revision of the current IESTI equations and the impact on risk management, risk communication, consumer protection goals, and trade. The United States looks forward to actively participating in the IESTI eWG and hopes for broad participation in this effort.

A proposed risk management approach to address detection in food of chemicals of very low public health concern

The Delegation of New Zealand presented a CRD ([CRD16](#)) that was also presented at the 30th Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles at the beginning of April 2016. The purpose of the paper was to inform members of New Zealand's interest in initiating work on an internationally harmonised risk management approach to address detections in food of traces of chemicals (such as cleaning compounds or fertilizers) presenting very low exposure and very low potential public health concern.



Other Highlights Relevant to the United States

Other highlights of the 48th Session of the CCPR included a well-received [presentation](#) by U.S. Delegate David Miller on international harmonization efforts for pesticides, including the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD) MRL calculator, global zoning and residue data exchangeability, statistical techniques to inform crop grouping, and the global MRL database. A supporting document entitled "[Global Zoning and Exchangeability of Field Trial Residues between Zones](#)" was also made available to the delegates. Additionally, prior to discussions regarding the formation of the IESTI eWG, two well-attended side events were held pertaining to the IESTI equation: a [presentation from the EU](#) (supplemented by [CRD03](#)) and a [presentation from CropLife International](#) (supplemented by [CRD15](#)).

Next Session

The 49th Session is scheduled to be held in China in 2017. Additional details and final arrangements or dates were not announced.