



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON PESTICIDE MRLS
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

Further to India's introduction of its document on the application of limits of detection for pesticide residues at the October 2015 SPS Committee meeting¹, the Chairperson suggested that the subject be further explored in a thematic session. He proposed that the Secretariat circulate a draft programme taking into account suggestions submitted by Members.²

The following proposed programme of the thematic session will be discussed at the March meeting.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

1 THE SPS AGREEMENT AND MRLS

Background by the WTO Secretariat: relevant provisions and jurisprudence

2 CODEX APPROACH TO ESTABLISHING MRLS

Relevant activities and work in Codex and scientific bodies such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).

3 RELEVANT REGIONAL AND BILATERAL WORK ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES

Relevant work in other organizations (for example APEC or the OECD).

4 MEMBERS' EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

This session should include speakers from developed and developing country Members expressing the views of importers and exporters.

Possible topics include:

- a. From importers' perspective
 - Domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures for establishing MRLs
 - Domestic frameworks for risk assessment and risk management where:
 - no international standard exists
 - an existing international standard is not used
 - Domestic experiences in establishing MRLs
- b. From exporters' perspective
 - Impact on international trade of compliance with default MRLs
 - Difficulties in complying with MRLs

¹ G/SPS/W/284.

² Comments were submitted by the deadline of 15 January 2016 by the following Members: Brazil, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan and the United States of America.