



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**WORKSHOP ON PESTICIDE MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS
MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER – TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016
WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA**

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2016

10:00 – 10:30

Workshop Overview and Objectives

This session will provide an overview of the workshop and its objectives.

Speaker: Ms Marcela Otero, Chair of the SPS Committee

10:30 – 11:00

Session 1: The SPS Agreement and Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)

The Secretariat will provide a background presentation on the relevant provisions of the SPS Agreement and summarize the relevant WTO jurisprudence related to maximum residue levels.

Speaker: Ms Anneke Hamilton, WTO Secretariat

11:00 – 13:00

Session 2: Codex Approach to Establishing Pesticide MRLs

Part 1

Introduction to the Codex approach to establishing pesticide MRLs. This will include relevant information on the respective work of Codex and other scientific bodies such as the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR).

Part 2

Q&A session with the experts to answer questions specific to the Codex approach.

Moderator: Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Director, Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, WHO

Speakers:

- **Mr Ian Reichstein**, Director, National Residue Survey, Residues & Food, Exports Division, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia and Chair of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) Working Group on Priorities
Establishment of Codex MRLs – Prioritisation criteria, scheduling, evaluation and proposals
- **Dr Juerg Zarn**, WHO JMPR Expert, Head of Scientific Evaluation Sector, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Switzerland
The scientific basis of international food safety standards
- **Ms Yongzhen Yang**, FAO JMPR Secretary
Overview of the JMPR estimation of MRLs for pesticide residues
- **Ms Gracia Brisco**, Food Standards Officer, Codex Secretariat
Codex procedures for the establishment of pesticide MRLs

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 16:15

Session 3: Relevant Bilateral, Regional and International Work on Pesticide Residues

In this session, relevant bilateral, regional or international work will be presented in the area of maximum residue levels for pesticides.

Moderator: Dr Robert Ahern, Head of the IICA Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme

Part 1: Regional Initiatives on MRLs - Ongoing work in OECD, APEC and EAC

This session will provide an update on regional MRL work undertaken by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the East African Community (EAC). In particular, speakers will focus on: OECD guidance on residue definitions, testing and the harmonization work programme; APEC Import MRL guideline for pesticides; and MRL harmonization work in the East African Community (EAC).

Speakers:

- **Ms Donna Davis**, Office of Pesticide Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
US EPA perspectives on harmonization of international MRLs - OECD and APEC collaborative work projects
- **Mr Steve J. Crossley**, Manager, Scientific Strategy, International and Surveillance, Food Standards Australia New Zealand – Australia
APEC import MRL guideline for pesticides - Enhancing trade, regulatory convergence and consumer protection
- **Mr Michael Odong**, Assistant Commissioner, Head Agricultural Chemical Regulatory Division, Department of Crop Inspection and Certification, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda
Regional initiative to harmonize pesticide MRLs in order to facilitate regional and international trade in products of plant origin: EAC perspective

16:15 – 17:45

Session 3: Relevant Bilateral, Regional and International Work on Pesticide Residues (cont'd)

Moderator: Mr Melvin Spreij, Secretary of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

Part 2: Establishing MRLs for Minor-Use Crops

In this session, speakers will address issues related to establishing MRLs for minor-use crops (i.e. crops of low pesticide usage on a global scale). In particular, focus will be placed on the ongoing work being carried out through projects (supported by the STDF, USDA, IDB, JMPR and/or others) in Africa, Asia, Latin America and North America, including the experiences in identifying MRL needs for developing country exports.

Speakers:

- **Mr Dan Kunkel**, Associate Director, Food and International Programs, IR-4 Project Headquarters, Rutgers State University of New Jersey
The experience of IR4 in addressing grower needs, and fostering international cooperation in support of international harmonization
- **Mr Jason Sandahl**, Senior Program Manager, Trade and Scientific Capacity Building Division, Office of Capacity Building and Development, US Department of Agriculture
Collaborative approach in addressing global MRL needs for minor-use crops
- **Mr John A. Pwamang**, Deputy Executive Director, Operations, Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana
Strengthening capacity for pesticides residue data generation
- **Ms Ana Carolina Lamy**, Federal Inspector, Secretariat of Agribusiness International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brazil
Update on the Brazilian legislation for setting MRLs for minor-use crops

17:45 – 18:00

Closing remarks and wrap-up of day 1

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2016

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks

10:15 – 12:15

Session 4: Domestic Frameworks and Approaches for Establishing MRLs and Import Tolerances

Moderator: Mr Ian Reichstein, Director, National Residue Survey, Residues & Food, Exports Division, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia and Chair of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) Working Group on Priorities

Part 1: Domestic Policy, Regulatory and Legal Infrastructures for Establishing MRLs

In this session, speakers will explain their domestic regulatory and legal infrastructures for establishing MRLs.

Speakers:

- **Mr Volker Wachtler**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
The EU policy for setting pesticide MRLs
- **Mr Takuya Kondo**, Assistant Director, Standard and Evaluation Division, Department of Environmental Health and Food Safety, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), Japan
Overview of pesticide MRLs in Japan

Part 2: Domestic Frameworks for Risk Assessment and Risk Management

Through the use of case studies, speakers in this session will provide insights into their domestic frameworks for establishing MRLs and import tolerances. In particular, speakers will highlight their approaches to risk assessment and risk management where no international standard exists or where an existing international standard is not used. This session will also explore concerns related to specific commodity and pesticide combinations.

Speakers:

- **Dr Peter Chan**, Director General, Health Evaluation Directorate, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada
Canadian regulatory approach for establishing MRLs
- *TBC*

12:15 – 13:00

Session 5: Experiences in Implementing and Complying with Codex MRLs

This session will explore Members' experiences in implementing existing Codex MRLs from an importer's perspective. In addition, the session will provide additional insights into the difficulties and challenges faced in complying with MRLs from an exporter's perspective. Experiences will also be shared in relation to the application of measures for compounds that cannot be detected in final products.

Moderator: Mrs Awilo Ochieng Pernet, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission

Speakers:

- **Dr Olga Egorova**, Senior Researcher, F.F. Erisman Federal Scientific Centre of Hygiene, Rospotrebnadzor
Harmonization of Russian pesticide MRLs with Codex standards
- **Mr Raúl Peralto Girón**, Director, Agrifood Safety Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominican Republic
The impact of implementation of Codex MRLs on export of fruits and fresh vegetables

13:00 – 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 – 16:15**Session 6: Panel Discussion on the Role of the Private Sector in the Establishment and Implementation of MRLs**

Through the use of specific examples, speakers in this session will explore the various ways in which the private sector can be involved in the establishment of MRLs and their experiences in the implementation of MRLs. In particular, this session will highlight the role of the private sector in providing support for the scientific review process through data sharing, expert consultation and contribution of financial resources to support the review process. This session will be followed by a question and answer period.

Moderator: *TBC***Panel speakers:**

- **Mr Matt Lantz**, Vice President, Global Access, Bryant Christie Inc., United States
- **Mr Michael Kaethner**, Global Regulatory Policy Manager, Bayer CropScience, Germany
- **Mr Gord Kurbis**, Director of Market Access and Trade Policy, Pulse Canada and Chairman of the Codex Working Group for the Global Pulse Confederation
- **Ms Morag Webb**, Policy Adviser, Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP)

16:15 – 17:30**Session 7: Impact of MRLs on International Trade**

Moderator: *Ms Martha Byanyima*, SPS and Agribusiness Expert, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

Part 1: Impact of Compliance with Default MRLs on International Trade

This session will explore the impact of the use of default MRLs on international trade, including those set at the limits of detection. Through the use of case studies, speakers will explain their experiences with addressing the use of default MRLs by trading partners and the subsequent impact on agricultural exports. This session will be followed by a question and answer period.

Speakers:

- **Ms Rebeka Tekle**, Acting Deputy Director, Agriculture and Agrifood Canada
Managing the impacts of differing MRLs on trade in agriculture: A Canadian perspective
- **Ms Lucy Namu**, Senior Principal Analytical Chemist, Head Quality Assurance and Laboratory Accreditation, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
Trade impact of default maximum residue limits (MRLs) - The case of Kenya

Part 2: Impact of MRL Expiration on Agricultural Trade

A speaker will highlight the potential impacts of MRL expiration on agricultural trade and the possible approaches to address concerns that may be posed by older products while maintaining safe trade.

Speaker:

- **Ms Gabriela Catalani**, Director, Cooperation and Bilateral Negotiations, Coordinator of the Codex Alimentarius Office in Argentina

17:30 – 18:00**Session 8: Conclusions**

Speakers will identify a few key conclusions from sessions 1 to 7. This session will also include a question and answer period.

Moderator: *Ms Marcela Otero*, Chair of the SPS Committee**Speakers:**

- Developing country perspective – **Ms Lucy Namu**, Senior Principal Analytical Chemist Head Quality Assurance and Laboratory Accreditation, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service
- Developed country perspective – **Dr Peter Chan**, Director General, Health Evaluation Directorate, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada