



Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

**SPS COMMITTEE THEMATIC SESSION ON TRADE FACILITATIVE
APPROACHES TO PESTICIDE MRLS, INCLUDING SUBSTANCES
NOT APPROVED FOR USE IN AN IMPORT MARKET**

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2022

WTO, CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, GENEVA

PROGRAMME

The SPS Committee agreed, at its November 2021 meeting, to hold a thematic session on Trade Facilitative Approaches to Pesticide MRLs in the margins of its March 2022 Committee meeting, based on a proposal submitted by Australia, Colombia, Paraguay, and the United States.¹

The thematic session will explore different approaches used by Members to address various issues associated with pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) and provide an opportunity for Members to share their experiences and best practices with regard to facilitating safe trade. Trade facilitative approaches may include harmonizing with Codex MRLs, including as a default, and establishing import tolerances, and Members have a variety of tools at their disposal to help develop least restrictive approaches to pesticide MRLs in agricultural trade. The thematic session will build off of recent work by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in this area and provide Members an opportunity to learn from one another and from key private sector perspectives, including those involving transition periods and channels of trade.

The thematic session will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Tuesday, 22 March 2022, beginning at 10:00 (CET), and continuing in the afternoon at 15:00 (CET), as necessary. The thematic session can be attended in person² or virtually through the Interprefy platform. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, and Spanish.

¹ [G/SPS/GEN/1947](#).

² Subject to COVID-19 restrictions that may apply.

Chairperson: Mr Juteau Déadjufo Toussé

1 BACKGROUND

Recent relevant work by the Committee.

Speaker:

- WTO Secretariat [*Speaker TBC*]

Context: the economic case for addressing MRLs and the impacts of risk-based and trade facilitative enforcement practices (Member and industry perspectives).

Speakers:

- **Ms Su McCluskey**, Special Representative for Australian Agriculture
- **Dr Gabriela Ludwig**, Almond Board of California
- **Dr David Epstein**, Northwest Horticultural Council
- **Ms Lucy Namu**, Senior Principal Analytical Chemist, Trade and Standards Office, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)

Followed by Q&A session

2 THE ROLE OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS: JMPR AND CCPR

Perspective and guidance from the Codex Alimentarius.

Speaker:

- [*TBC*]

Followed by Q&A session

Member experiences harmonizing with Codex MRLs, including as a default (importing and exporting Members).

Speaker:

- **Ms Hermine Reich**, Senior Scientific Officer, European Food Safety Authority. *Pesticide Codex MRLs and EU risk assessment*

Followed by Q&A session

3 THE ROLE OF IMPORT TOLERANCES

APEC Guideline on Setting Import Tolerances.

Speakers:

- **Mr Steve J. Crossley**, Manager, International and Dietary Exposure Assessment, Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- **Ms Anna Gore**, US Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service. *Leveraging the APEC Import MRL Guidelines for Trade Facilitation in ASEAN*

Followed by Q&A session

Member experiences with import tolerances (importing and exporting Members).

Speakers:

- **Ms Jung Kyunghae**, Scientific Officer, Residues and Contaminants Standard Division, Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Korea
- **Mr Eduardo Aylwin**, Chilean Food Safety and Quality Agency (ACHIPIA)

Followed by Q&A session

4 ADDRESSING MRL ENFORCEMENT MEASURES

Member experiences with limit of detection, and channels of trade/transition periods.

Speakers:

- **Mr Gord Kurbis**, Vice-President Trade Policy, Crop Protection, Canada Grains Council. *Exporters' perspectives on pesticide regulations*
- **Dr Charlotte Liang**, Chemist, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, US Food and Drug Administration and **Ms Dana Friedman**, Chief, Risk Management and Implementation Branch I, Pesticide Re-evaluation Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, US Environmental Protection Agency
- **Dr Reinhold Kugel**, Head of Product Safety and Quality Assurance, BarthHass
- *[CropLife Latin America – Speaker TBC]*

Followed by Q&A session

5 CLOSING REMARKS
