Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures   Original: English

---

TRADE FACILITATIVE APPROACHES TO PESTICIDE MRLS, INCLUDING SUBSTANCES NOT APPROVED FOR USE IN AN IMPORT MARKET

WTO SPS COMMITTEE – PROPOSED THEMATIC SESSION

COMMUNICATION FROM AUSTRALIA, COLOMBIA, PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The following document, received on 13 August 2021, is being circulated at the request of the Delegations of Australia, Colombia, Paraguay and the United States of America.

_____

DRAFT AGENDA

1 SESSION OVERVIEW

This proposed thematic session explores different approaches used by Members to address various issues associated with pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) and provides 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 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.

2 BACKGROUND

- Recent relevant work by the Committee
- Context: The economic case for addressing MRLs and the impacts of risk-based and trade facilitative enforcement practices (Member and industry perspectives)

3 THE ROLE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS: JMPR AND CCPR

- Perspective and guidance from the Codex Alimentarius
- Member experiences harmonizing with Codex MRLs, including as a default (Importing and exporting Members)

4 THE ROLE OF IMPORT TOLERANCES

- APEC Guideline on Setting Import Tolerances
- Member experiences with import tolerances (Importing and exporting Members)

5 ADDITIONAL TRADE FACILITATIVE APPROACHES TO MRL ENFORCEMENT

- Member experiences with limit of detection
- Channels of trade/transition periods

_____