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Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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OECD WORK ON PESTICIDES

COMMUNICATION FROM THE OECD

The following communication, received on 31 October 2017, is being circulated at the request of the OECD.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Pesticides Programme, managed by the Working Group on Pesticides (WGP), was created in 1992 to help OECD member countries:

- harmonise their pesticide review procedures;
- share the work of evaluating pesticides; and
- reduce risks associated with pesticide use.

1.2. Below is some information about the two OECD groups which are of main interest to the work of the WTO SPS Committee.

2 RESIDUE CHEMISTRY EXPERT GROUP

2.1. The Residue Chemistry Expert Group (RCEG) was established in 2003. Its objectives are to:

- harmonise the way residue testing is conducted and results are interpreted; and
- develop methods to support international harmonisation of MRLs (the OECD does not set MRLs).

2.2. The FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) secretariat is an observer in the RCEG.

2.3. Nine OECD Test Guidelines have been published, as follows: **TG 501** Metabolism in Crops; **TG 502** Metabolism in Rotational Crops; **TG 503** Metabolism in Livestock; **TG 504** Residues in Rotational Crops (Limited Field Studies); **TG 505** Residues in Livestock; **TG 506** Stability of Pesticide Residues in Stored Commodities; **TG 507** Nature of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities - High Temperature-Hydrolysis; **TG 508** Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; and **TG 509** Crop Field Trial.

2.4. Seven Guidance Documents are available: Definition of Residue; Overview of Residue Chemistry Studies; Magnitude of Pesticide Residues in Processed Commodities; Pesticide Residue Analytical Methods; Crop Field Trials; and Residues in Livestock. In 2016, the second edition of the 2011 Guidance Document on Crop Field Trials (which deals with proportionality issues, clarifies sampling procedures and takes into account national/Codex information on recent changes in crop groups) was published.

2.5. The MRL Calculator, a tool for statistical calculation of MRLs was published in 2011. It is an Excel spreadsheet which is easy to use and does not require an extensive knowledge of statistics.

2.6. All the documents mentioned above and the MRL calculator are available on the OECD public web site: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonpesticideresidues.htm>.

2.7. The RCEG has developed a new Guidance Document (GD) for Rotational Crop Field Trials. The draft GD has been distributed for a second broad commenting round through the WGP and the WNT (the Working Group of National Co-ordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme) in the second half of 2017. Currently, the draft GD is under revision by the RCEG that aims to address the comments received in the second commenting round and it is expected to be published in the beginning of 2018.

2.8. Potential future work of the expert group includes the development of new Guidance Documents on residues in honey and in aquaculture fish arising from residues in aquaculture feeds and the revision of the OECD TG 509 on Crop Field Trials. The RCEG also plans to revise the Definition of Residue Guidance Document and provide input to the revision of the international estimated short-term intake (IESTI) methodology.

3 EXPERT GROUP ON MINOR USES

3.1. The Expert Group on Minor Uses (EGMU) was established in 2007. The current work plan of the OECD EGMU focuses on issues associated with cooperation, technical and policy activities with the aim of facilitating the development of data and registration of pesticides for minor uses. As with many OECD chemicals and pesticide projects, the EGMU works towards providing the infrastructure, guidance and tools for promoting the registration of pesticides for minor uses, including aspects of data requirements, data generation and opportunities for harmonisation to make available data useful across countries. The OECD work focuses on developing tools for risk assessment and mechanisms to facilitate co-operation and work-sharing. For further information, see the OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/minoruses.htm>.

3.2. Two Guidance Documents have been published: a Guidance Document on Defining Minor Uses of Pesticides and a Guidance Document on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.

3.3. Two survey reports have been published: the Survey Results on Regulatory Incentives for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses and the Survey Results on Efficacy & Crop Safety Data Requirements and Guidelines for the Registration of Pesticide Minor Uses.

3.4. All OECD Minor Uses publications are available at:
<http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/pesticides-biocides/publicationsonminorusesofpesticides.htm>.

3.5. Currently, three main activities are underway, as follows.

3.1 Project 1: Work towards developing a Guidance Document to address & solve issues related to minor uses

3.6. Responses to a 2013 survey to collect information on existing national and regional processes and known data exchanges are being analysed and a report of the survey was made available in September 2015. The survey report will now be utilised to form the basis of developing an OECD Guidance Document to address and solve issues related to minor uses. Other information sources such as further detailed background provided during the survey about various different approaches and programmes operating internationally will also be utilised.

3.7. As part of the survey, members were requested to propose a suitable crop for establishing a joint project. Many diverse suggestions were made as to a potential crop. The Netherlands, Australia and the secretariat considered the suggested crops and also discussed if EGMU members themselves who are largely regulatory authorities had the capacity (including funding and mandate) to conduct a data generation project. They also noted that the first Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop was held in September 2015 where the objective was to establish joint global data generation projects for minor uses, and for which many EGMU members were involved. It was determined that rather than duplicate work being initiated elsewhere that EGMU would utilise the priorities identified from that process and offer regulatory support to the identified priority projects going forward. The EGMU had agreed to work with the leads of those projects to offer input to facilitate agreement of a global data package acceptable to regulators and in turn explore the possible establishment of a joint review of the data when available. Further progress

was noted in the last Global Minor Use Summit 3 that was held in October 2017 that will feed in the OECD effort to develop the Guidance Document.

3.2 Project 2: Global Joint Reviews (GJRs) – Enhancing minor uses from GJRs

3.8. Information on GJRs relevant for minor uses is being collated as part of the existing work associated with the Global Joint Review MRL Analysis project and further sources of information are being explored. The first aim of the work is to identify differences in uses (crops) approved in various countries through GJRs. Subsequent aims would involve identifying the reasons for these differences and activities or initiatives that could enhance the scope of minor uses approved amongst countries through GJRs.

3.3 Project 3: Work towards developing a Guidance Document on the exchange and use of international efficacy & crop safety data for minor uses

3.9. A draft of the Guidance Document is being developed that will be available for further review by members in the first quarter of 2018. While some OECD countries do not currently require efficacy data, it was confirmed as an important consideration amongst the EGMU participants. The first step of the project – collecting and compiling information and data relating to pesticides efficacy for minor uses crops – is completed.

3.10. Potential future work of the expert group includes the development of processes for future minor use submissions in assessing trial protocols and establishing exchanges and sharing of minor use data or assessments. The EGMU will work actively together with the EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility (EUMUCF) to progress this activity against the global minor use priorities that resulted from Global Minor Use Summit, October 2017. The EGMU also plans with the same partners to develop and maintain ways to organise information including recent minor use approvals, minor use needs (gaps) and current projects.

3.11. Finally, the EGMU and OECD's Expert Group on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) are considering a thought starter on how IPM tools and technologies, including bio-pesticides, can help fill the gaps in available crop protection products as regards minor uses. The thought starter was discussed at the 2016 meeting of the Working Group on Pesticides. The group agreed that there is, in principle, no difference between minor uses and major uses with regard to the implementation of IPM and highlighted the importance of IPM, the need for communication in and between countries and the need to harmonise concepts, not necessarily methodologies, due to country specific needs.



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