

**REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATE TO THE
54TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES**

**June 26 to July 1, 2023
Beijing, China**

BACKGROUND AND REPRESENTATION

The 54th Session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR54) met in Beijing, China from June 26-June 30, 2023, with report adoption on July 1, 2023. The session was the first physical meeting of CCPR since 2019 and was chaired by Dr. Weili Shan, Vice Director General of the Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (ICAMA), and co-chaired by Dr. Lifang Duan, Division Director, ICAMA. Former CCPR Chair Dr. Xiongwu Qiao, Professor/Counsellor of the People's Government of Province Shanxi, Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Taiyuan, also presided as Chief Advisor. The Session was attended by 44 Member Countries, one Member Organization (the European Union (EU)), and ten Observer Organizations.

The United States was represented by U.S. Delegate Aaron Niman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Pesticide Programs, and Alternate Delegate Alexander Domesle of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), with additional U.S. delegation members from the U.S. Codex Office (USCO) and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the USDA; the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4); and one non-governmental advisor.

HIGHLIGHTS

The United States is satisfied with the outcomes of CCPR54 and believes many of the U.S. objectives were met. The 54th Session of CCPR agreed to:

- **Advance 427 Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for final adoption** by the 46th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46), scheduled for November 2023.
- **Advance revisions to the *Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989) (crop groupings) to CAC46 for final adoption.*** The revisions are to Class B (Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin) and Class E (Processed Foods of Animal Origin) and their respective table of representative commodities for final adoption at Step 5/8 and inclusion in the *Classification of Food and Animal Feeds (CXA 4-1989)* and the *Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups (CXG 84-2012)*. Additional revisions include: (i) consequential amendments to Subgroup 12C – Eggplant and eggplant-like commodities; (ii) revised definitions for Group 006 – Tropical Fruits with Inedible Peel and Group 023 – Oilseeds and oil fruits; and (iii) new commodity codes for Class B (Primary Food Commodities of Plant Origin) for pseudoginseng and Class D (Processed Commodities of Plant Origin) for pseudoginseng, dried; ginseng, dried; and pencil yam, dried. With these revisions, CCPR has completed its years-long work to update the *Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989)*. Consequently, CCPR54 requested that the CAC46 revoke the *Guidelines on portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed (CXG 41-1993)* so that CXA 4-1989 can serve as the single, authoritative reference on food and feed for the establishment of pesticide MRLs.

- **Endorse the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs (CCRVDF26) with respect to the work of the Joint CCPR-CCRVDF Electronic Working Group (EWG).** The EWG aims to strengthen collaboration and harmonization between the two committees and to develop a list of compounds used as both pesticides and veterinary drugs (dual-use compounds).
- **Endorse a management approach for unsupported compounds without public health concern subject to periodic review (for internal use by CCPR).** This management approach will be used internally by CCPR and not be sent to the CAC for adoption or inclusion in the *Codex Procedural Manual*.
- **Re-establish an EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Costa Rica and Uganda, to continue to explore opportunities to enhance the operational procedures of CCPR/JMPR.** The EWG developed a discussion paper that will be forwarded to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) for consideration at its 2023 Regular Meeting and will continue its work to formulate recommendations on approaches that may be used to identify priorities for enhancement and develop an implementation roadmap.

A more detailed meeting summary covering key topics from CCPR54 is given below. The final report of CCPR54 will be posted on the Codex Website at the following link: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCPR&session=54>.

NEXT SESSION OF CCPR

The 55th Session of CCPR is tentatively scheduled to meet in China from June 3-8, 2024.

MEETING SUMMARY

MRLS FOR PESTICIDES IN FOOD AND FEED (AT STEPS 7 AND 4)
To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No
United States Objective The U.S. objective was to support the MRL recommendations made during the 2022 JMPR Regular Meeting.
Outcome/Conclusion The Committee agreed to advance 427 MRLs to the CAC for final adoption (at Step 5/8) at its next session in November 2023. These MRLs are associated with 30 pesticides. 325 of the MRLs are for plant commodities while 102 are for animal commodities. Three of the seven new compounds reviewed by JMPR in 2022 were nominated by the United States. Crop Group and Subgroup MRLs accounted for 115 of the 427 MRLs forwarded for final adoption. The accelerated procedure and criteria for decision-making were once again used with great success at this session; all MRLs recommended for adoption by the CAC were advanced using the accelerated Step 5/8 procedure. The EU and Switzerland recorded reservations on 191 of the 427 MRLs recommended by the JMPR; therefore, many MRLs may not have advanced at CCPR54 if not for the concern form procedure, which requires that Members submit, for JMPR review, documentation justifying the scientific basis for concerns with the JMPR evaluation. The United States submitted a concern form because JMPR did not recommend a MRL for the use of mefenfentrifluconazole on head lettuce. The concern form requested that that head lettuce be evaluated separately from the subgroup of leafy vegetables, as the residue data available for head lettuce were considerably lower than that for other types of leafy greens. The JMPR Secretariat agreed to consider the concern form at the upcoming 2023 JMPR meeting. The Committee returned one MRL for metalaxyl to Step 7 for JMPR to await additional information and 54 MRLs (for dimethoate, omethoate, metalaxyl, bifenthrin, fipronil, mefenfentrifluconazole, and tetraniliprole) to Step 4 to allow data sponsors to submit additional data for consideration by JMPR. The Committee also recommended revocation of 178 previously adopted Codex MRLs (CXLs) associated with 18 pesticides. These are typically CXLs being replaced based on review of additional data, uses no longer supported, or CXLs deemed by JMPR to have potential dietary intake concerns with no alternative good agricultural practice (GAP). Finally, five draft MRLs for four pesticides were withdrawn from further consideration. The complete lists of the MRL actions recommended by CCPR54 are contained in the appendices to the official Committee report, which will be published at https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=CCPR&session=54 when finalized.

REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF FOOD AND FEED (CXA 4-1989)

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? Yes
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The revision of the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) is part of an ongoing effort to revise all the crop groups. The United States has chaired/co-chaired this work from the start and provided much of the documentation for the proposed crop groups. The U.S. objective was to complete work on these revisions at CCPR54.

Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives

CCPR54 successfully finalized the last set of revisions to the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) and has recommended for final adoption by CAC46:

- (a) the revised Class B (Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin) and Class E (Processed Foods of Animal Origin) and their respective table of representative commodities and inclusion in the *Classification of Food and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989) and the *Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups* (CXG 84-2012);
- (b) the consequential amendment to Table 2, Subgroup 12C – Eggplant and eggplant-like commodities to the *Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of MRLs for Pesticides to Commodity Groups* (CXG 84-2012);
- (c) the consequential amendments to the revised definitions for the portion of the commodity to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed for Group 006 – Tropical Fruits with Inedible Peel and Group 023 – Oilseeds and oil fruits, in the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989); and
- (d) the consequential amendments to the new commodity codes in Class B (Primary food commodities of plant origin) for pseudoginseng and Class D (Processed commodities of plant origin) for pseudoginseng, dried; ginseng, dried; and pencil yam, dried in the *Classification of Food and Animal Feeds* (CXA 4-1989).

Outcome/Conclusion

With these revisions, CCPR54 completed its updates to the *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) and advanced the proposed revised classifications to CAC46 for final adoption.

CCPR is also requesting that CAC46 revoke the *Guidelines on portion of commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed* (CXG 41-1993) so that *Classification of Food and Feed* (CXA 4-1989) can serve as the single, authoritative reference on food and feed for the establishment of MRLs for pesticides.

**COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN CCPR AND CCRVDF:
JOINT CCPR/CCRVDF WORKING GROUP ON COMPOUNDS FOR DUAL USE - STATUS OF WORK**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No

United States Objective

As chair of the Joint CCRVDF/CCPR EWG, the United States' objective was for CCPR54 to endorse the recommendations of the 26th Session of CCRVDF (CCRVDF26) (February 2023) so the EWG can advance its work on dual-use compounds (compounds used both as pesticides and veterinary drugs) and other areas of collaboration between CCPR and CCRVDF.

Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives

The 81st session of CCEXEC (2021) recommended that CCRVDF and CCPR make use of a joint EWG to advance work on cross-cutting issues and facilitate the establishment of single/harmonized MRLs for edible animal tissues for compounds that are used both as pesticides and as veterinary drugs. Based on this recommendation, an EWG, chaired by the United States, was established to collect input from Codex Members on areas of potential collaboration between CCRVDF and CCPR.

The Joint EWG developed a discussion paper and presented its findings at CCRVDF26 earlier this year. CCRVDF26 concluded by making the following recommendations for consideration by CCPR54:

1. Ask the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA, which conducts risk assessments and recommends MRLs for veterinary drugs) and JMPR to continue working towards harmonizing their risk assessment methodologies, including ways to establish single, harmonized acceptable daily intake values and MRLs for dual-use compounds. This might include exploring the feasibility of joint evaluation of dual-use compounds and the formation of Joint JMPR/JECFA EWG.
2. Ask JECFA and JMPR to consider ways in which data can be shared between the two expert committees. This would include JECFA/JMPR asking sponsors to consent to data sharing upon submission of the data packages.
3. Continue to support the current joint EWG to identify and prioritize issues affecting both committees and recommend ways to address the issues and to inform CAC accordingly.
4. Develop a list of dual-use compounds for which no or only one Codex MRL has been established. Member countries will provide information to populate this list.
5. Identify dual-use compounds that have different Codex MRLs for a similar edible commodity of animal origin, and recommend, on a case-by-case basis, a single, harmonized MRL(s) for the compound(s) and affected commodity(ies). The EWG might recommend that CCRVDF/CCPR consider selecting the higher MRL value.

Outcome/Conclusion

CCPR54 endorsed the EWG's recommendations as modified by CCRVDF26. CCPR54 also agreed that the Joint EWG, chaired by the United States and co-chaired by Brazil and New Zealand, should continue its work by adopting recommendations 4 and 5 as new terms of reference.

**MANAGEMENT OF UNSUPPORTED COMPOUNDS WITHOUT
PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN SCHEDULED FOR PERIODIC REVIEW**

To Be Presented for Adoption at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States objective was achieved through helping CCPR54 build consensus and promote the development of a flexible management approach that balances the need for a robust listing of CXLs for global trade while ensuring that the risk assessments are based on the most relevant scientific and agricultural use information.

Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives

In the CCPR review process, an unsupported compound is a pesticide that is due for re-evaluation (i.e., periodic review) for which neither a Codex Member Country/Observer nor a manufacturer has committed to submit the data required for evaluation by the JMPR. Due to the increase in the number of compounds that qualify for periodic review, CCPR50 (2018) established an EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by Australia, India, and Kenya, to explore management options for unsupported compounds without public health concerns.

Over the last few sessions, the EWG has requested feedback from Codex Members and Observers but the Committee has been at an impasse on a way forward. Based on discussion at CCPR53, the EWG was re-established to develop a management procedure and seek opportunities to make the process more flexible by exploring ways that CCPR can help support the development of data packages for unsupported compounds. This management approach was discussed at CCPR54 and the procedure will be implemented by a new standing EWG.

Outcome/Conclusion

CCPR54 agreed to the proposed management approach for unsupported compounds without public health concerns. The management procedure will not be sent to the CAC for adoption or inclusion in the *Codex Procedural Manual* but will remain for internal use by CCPR.

CCPR54 also agreed to re-establish the EWG, chaired by Chile and co-chaired by Ecuador, India, and Kenya, to implement the management procedure, to consider the unsupported compounds identified in the priority list, and to coordinate with the Chairs of the EWGs on priority lists and the national registration database on the identification of other possible unsupported compounds in accordance with the management procedure.

**MONITORING THE PURITY AND STABILITY OF CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIAL
OF PESTICIDES DURING PROLONGED STORAGE**

To Be Presented for Approval as New Work at Next CAC? Yes

Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes

Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States has supported the overall purpose of developing guidance for monitoring the purity and stability of certified reference material (CRM) of pesticides during prolonged storage since the topic was introduced at previous CCPR sessions. Over the last year, the EWG made good progress in developing and organizing Members' ideas and the United States supports forwarding the proposal for new work on this topic to CAC46 for approval.

Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives

Prior to CCPR54, the EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Iran and Argentina, submitted for consideration a project document on guidelines for monitoring the purity and stability of certified reference materials (CRMs) of pesticides during prolonged storage to harmonize concepts and to develop criteria to allow CRMs and standard solutions with valid purity and stability to continue to be used for pesticide analysis (thereby saving the cost of purchasing fresh CRMs).

Since the proposal needed further work, an in-session working group (WG) met at CCPR54 to discuss refinements to the project document, the comments received, and recommendations for moving forward. The United States provided comments on earlier drafts of the project document and participated in the in-session WG.

Outcome/Conclusion

The Committee agreed to forward the proposal for new work to CAC46 for approval and, subject to approval by CAC46, to re-establish the EWG, chaired by India and co-chaired by Argentina and Singapore, to develop the guidance procedures for monitoring the stability and purity of pesticide reference materials and their stock solutions during prolonged storage, for consideration by CCPR55 (2024).

**ENHANCEMENT OF THE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES OF CCPR AND JMPR:
OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEXT STEPS**

To Be Presented for Approval as New Work at Next CAC? No
Have the United States' Objectives Been Met? Yes
Likely to be raised for further discussion at the CAC? No

United States Objective

The United States chaired the EWG and led the development of a discussion paper to inform CCPR and JMPR deliberations on how to improve the existing Codex/JMPR system to meet current and future demand for JMPR evaluations. The United States supports efforts to strengthen the evaluation procedures of CCPR and JMPR and believes a critical first step is to determine an approach to identify priorities and develop an implementation plan.

Discussion in Relation to United States' Objectives

At CCPR54, the United States chaired an in-session WG to provide background on the EWG work process, summarize key points in the discussion paper, and discuss the EWG's conclusions and recommendations. Based on this in-session WG, CCPR endorsed a two-step approach for further advancing work on enhancing the operational procedures of CCPR and JMPR.

As a proposed first step, CCPR will forward the discussion paper to JMPR for their consideration at the upcoming 2023 JMPR (September 2023). JMPR will provide input on potential priorities for enhancement and include summary information in the General Considerations Section of the JMPR 2023 Report.

As a second step, CCPR will consider JMPR's input, determine an appropriate approach to identify potential priorities for enhancement and major structural reforms, and develop a roadmap for implementation. Potential approaches could include commissioning an independent third-party organization to conduct an organizational assessment or working through an existing Codex advisory body or committee.

Outcome/Conclusion

CCPR54 requested that JMPR, through the JMPR Secretariat, consider the EWG discussion paper and provide a response to CCPR, including:

- General feedback on the discussion paper (and particularly Table 1, Summary of Comments on Opportunities for Enhancement);
- Recommendations on initial priorities; and
- Additional considerations that require guidance from CCPR.

CCPR54 also agreed to re-establish the EWG to take into account the JMPR feedback and explore approaches to identify priorities for CCPR and JMPR enhancement and to develop an implementation roadmap and timeline. The EWG will prepare a summary of recommendations for consideration by CCPR55.