REPORT

12th FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management

19–22 November 2019 Geneva, Switzerland







Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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1. Introduction

The 12th FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management (JMPM), hosted by WHO, was held at the Hotel Warwick in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 22 November 2019.¹ The agenda comprised updates on the activities of the joint Secretariat and participating organizations; a review of progress in developing new JMPM guidelines; plans for revision of existing guidelines; plans for revision of the JMPM terms of reference; discussions on emerging issues and priorities in pesticide management, including an overview of global actions on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), input to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, an update on activities of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on illegal trade in pesticides; a review of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 FAO/WHO global survey of pesticide management; and consideration of other issues. The recommendations of the JMPM are summarized in section 19.

2. Opening of the meeting

The opening session was coordinated by Mr Rajpal Yadav, Scientist, Vector Ecology and Management unit, department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. On behalf of WHO as joint Secretariat of the JMPM, Mr Yadav welcomed the WHO and FAO panel members, members of the WHO and FAO Secretariat and other meeting participants and observers. He also welcomed a new WHO panel member, Ms Nguyen, Thi Lien Huong, Director-General, Health Environment Management Agency, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam.

Mr Raman Velayudhan, Coordinator, Vector Ecology and Management unit, also welcomed participants and observers and expressed his appreciation for their work.

Mr Bao Gen Gu, Senior Agricultural Officer for Pest and Pesticide Management, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, Rome, welcomed all present on behalf of FAO and introduced two new FAO panel members: Mr Sylvain Nafiba Ouedraogo, Permanent Secretary, Sahelian Pesticides Committee, and Mr Sherif Mohamed Taha, Central Laboratory of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food. Mr Gu communicated the regrets of two FAO panel members who were unable to attend the meeting: Mr Lance Wormell of the US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs and

¹ The JMPM was created in 2007 to advise FAO and WHO on implementation of the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (the Code of Conduct) and on new developments, problems or issues in pesticide regulation and management that deserved attention. JMPM members are drawn from the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management and the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control. Representatives of other international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), pesticide and biopesticide producers' associations and selected nongovernmental organizations involved in pesticide risk reduction are invited to participate in meetings as observers. Secretariat support is provided jointly by FAO and WHO. The annual meetings of the JMPM are organized by FAO and WHO in turn.

Mr Tao Chuanjiang of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

Ms Mwelecele Malecela, Director, WHO department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, opened the meeting and also welcomed the participants. She expressed her appreciation for the work of the JMPM and recalled that its meetings resulted from a 2007 memorandum of understanding between WHO and FAO for a collaborative programme in pesticide management with a view to ensuring effective use of pesticides in both agricultural pest control and vector control and reducing human and environmental risks due to such use. She urged the group to ensure that the efficacy of pesticides was preserved by sound management, as they are one of the key tools for vector-borne disease control. She noted that WHO and FAO are promoting sound pesticide management within the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and expressed her appreciation for the excellent advice provided by the JMPM to both WHO and FAO and for its contribution to developing and revising guidelines on pesticide management at different stages of their life-cycle, which are valuable to Member States. Ms Malecela expressed the hope that the recently completed WHO-FAO global survey on pesticide registration and management practices would assist the JMPM in identifying priorities. In recognition of the important role played by UNEP in reducing the risk posed by pesticides, she looked forward to it joining the FAO-WHO collaborative programme on pesticides formally in the near future.

3. Appointment of chairperson and rapporteurs and adoption of the agenda

Ms Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town, South Africa, was appointed Chair of the meeting and Mr Donald Ward, Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington, New Zealand, as Co-Chair. Ms Lilian Tornqvist, Swedish Chemicals Agency, and Mr Michael Eddleston, University of Edinburgh, were appointed rapporteurs.

The provisional agenda was adopted and is reproduced in Annex 2. Adjustments were made during the meeting to facilitate timing.

4. Meeting procedure

Mr Yadav informed the participants about logistics and working procedures. He and Mr Gu had received and reviewed declarations of interest from all panel members participating in the 12th session and had concluded that they disclosed no circumstances that could give rise to a potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest with regard the subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

5. Developments and actions since the previous session of the JMPM

Representatives of WHO, FAO, UNEP, the Pesticide Action Network (PAN), the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), CropLife International (CLI) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) reported on their activities since the JMPM in 2018. The reports are summarized in Annex 3.

In the discussion that followed the presentations, the JMPM:

- supported inclusion of UNEP in the joint Secretariat of the JMPM, which should increase the JMPM's engagement with environmental assessment and risk management;
- recommended that an agenda item be included for the next JMPM in which panel members would make presentations on pesticide management activities in their countries and collaboration in their regions;
- recommended that JMPMs include sharing of information on successful steps taken in countries to limit adverse effects of pesticide use;
- recommended that FAO and WHO undertake further work to improve access to and the capacity of under-resourced countries to conduct laboratory analyses of the quality of pesticide and of residues;
- recommended that UNEP be invited to present an update on its African Chemical Observatories capacity-building project at the next JMPM;
- recommended that consideration be given to including the work of Chemical Observatories in relevant JMPM guidelines;
- recommended that the Pesticide Registration Toolkit be updated to include data requirements and guidance on testing and evaluating biopesticides, to be prepared by a small group of experts convened by the Secretariat (the author of the Toolkit); and
- recommended that WHO and FAO, with stakeholders, organize a global workshop on legislation and registration of biopesticides.

6. Review of new guidelines

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