



## **REPORT**

**1<sup>ST</sup> FAO/WHO JOINT MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT**

**and**

**3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE FAO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE  
MANAGEMENT**

**22 – 26 October 2007  
Rome**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization  
of the United Nations**



**World Health  
Organization**



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## Abbreviations

ASP	Africa Stockpiles Programme
ALINA	Asociación Latinoamericana de la Industria Nacional de Agroquímicos
CIEN	Chemicals Information Exchange Network
CLI	CropLife International
COAG	Committee on Agriculture
ECCA	European Crop Care Association
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
HHPs	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
IFCS	Inter-governmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IEE	Independent External Evaluation
IGO	Inter-governmental Organization
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
JMPR	Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues
JMPS	Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAN	Pesticide Action Network
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QSP	Quick Start Programme
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOPES	World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation System

## 1. Introduction

The 1<sup>st</sup> FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, were held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 22 to 26 October 2007. Mr Gero Vaagt welcomed all participants to this inaugural meeting.

The FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management is the official statutory body that advises the Organization on matters pertaining to pesticide regulation and management, and alerts it to new developments, problems or issues that otherwise merit attention. The Panel in particular counsels FAO on the further implementation of the revised version of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*. The WHO Panel of Experts are drawn from the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control, or are academic or government experts invited to advise the Organization on policies, guidelines and key actions to support Member States on sound management of pesticides.

Mr Morteza Zaim welcomed the participants on behalf of WHO. He stated that management of public health pesticides has become an increasing priority for the international community, and provided several reasons for it, including: increased use of insecticides in the health sector and greater international focus and advocacy, as well as global investment in control of vector-borne diseases such as malaria; decentralized health services and challenges associated with management of public health pesticides; inadequate infrastructure and resources for sound management of public health pesticides in the majority of developing countries; and poorly-coordinated international and local response to management of pesticides in health and agriculture sectors. Mr Zaim also noted challenges faced in promoting sound management of public health pesticides in the absence of any association of manufacturers to represent this sector of industry. He thanked FAO for organizing this first Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Management in Rome, and proposed to alternate the future meetings between Rome and Geneva.

In early 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between WHO and FAO on cooperation in a joint programme for the sound management of pesticides. It was agreed that joint technical meetings would be conducted, when appropriate, to discuss and strengthen particular areas of pesticide management. This 1st FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management was held to respond to the provisions of the MoU. It allowed additional experts in the field of pesticides and public health to complement the expertise present in the FAO Panel of Experts. Implementing this MoU would furthermore ensure optimal use of the resources of the two organizations, and is an opportunity to provide the Member States with unified, coordinated and consistent advice.

Various issues were discussed during the meeting; among them a proposed new initiative to reduce the risk posed by Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs), strengthening pesticide management under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the development of international environmental indicators for pesticide use and a number of *ad hoc* monitoring cases of observance of the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, various new or revised guidelines, or outlines for guidelines, were reviewed that had been prepared in support of the Code of Conduct.

Experts invited to this meeting were selected for their personal expertise and experience in specific aspects of pesticide management, both in agriculture and in public health, and do not represent the position of governments or institutions they may belong to. They are appointed

in their personal capacity by either FAO or WHO. In addition, representatives from other inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), pesticide industry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended the meeting as observers.

All participants in the meeting are listed in Annex 1.

## **2. Opening of the meeting**

Mr Peter Kenmore, Chief of the Plant Protection Service of FAO, gave the Opening Address on behalf of the Organization. He welcomed the Panel Members and in particular the new experts invited by WHO, participants from other UN organizations, representatives of pesticide industry and public interest groups to the meeting.

Mr Kenmore underlined the special nature of the occasion, it being the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Management. He noted that FAO and WHO play a unique role in the UN system in that they advise member countries on the use of pesticides for agriculture and health. Close collaboration between the two organizations is therefore required to provide unified, consistent and coordinated advice on sound management of pesticides. Mr Kenmore noted that this collaboration also underlines the international scope of the Code of Conduct, which is not an FAO Code, although FAO may take the lead in many aspects related to its promotion and implementation.

Mr Kenmore mentioned that within FAO, sound pesticide management continues to have a high priority. This view was strongly supported by the recent Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO, which expressed satisfaction with the activities carried out in this field by FAO and urged continuation of the programme. Mr Kenmore warned, however, that the budgetary limitations would remain, in spite of this positive evaluation.

Mr Kenmore reminded the meeting participants that the FAO Council, in November 2006, endorsed the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and gave strong support to FAO's involvement in pesticide management under SAICM. The Council had indicated that the Code of Conduct was to be considered an important element of the SAICM process.

As an essential activity to reduce the risks of pesticide use, in particular in developing countries, the FAO Council had requested FAO to assist countries in progressively banning HHPs. Mr Kenmore underlined that this request was reiterated by FAO's Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and noted the importance of this fact as it showed a significant evolution of opinion by the agricultural sector on the issue of banning HHPs. He stressed the need for FAO to move forward rapidly and requested the meeting to provide clear advice on how to do so.

Mr Kenmore noted that implementation of the Code of Conduct needed to be further strengthened and should focus on the promotion of integrated pest management and local capacity building in pest and pesticide management. He also indicated that the Rotterdam Convention continues to grow in both number of Parties and in scope. For instance, the Convention had recently been formally included in the work of the Asia-Pacific Plant

Protection Organization. Furthermore, China, being a very important pesticide exporter, would be having talks with the Convention's Secretariat on how best to implement its provisions.

Finally, Mr Kenmore thanked the invited experts for having accepted to participate in the meeting, and wishing all fruitful discussions, declared the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management and the 1<sup>st</sup> FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management open.

### **3. Election of the chairperson and rapporteurs**

Ms Vibeke Bernson was elected Chairperson of the meeting, and Mr Gamini Manuweera and Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha were appointed rapporteurs.

### **4. Adoption of the agenda**

Two amendments were made to the provisional agenda of the meeting. Item 11.6 was added to the agenda, regarding the endorsement of the *Guidelines on management options for empty pesticide containers*. Agenda item 12.1, concerning a concept paper on opportunities for harmonization, work sharing and bridging approaches, was postponed until the next Session. The definitive agenda was adopted as shown in Annex 2.

### **5. Developments since the previous session of the Panel**

#### **5.1 FAO**

A brief summary was presented of some developments with respect to pesticide management that had taken place since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Panel, in November 2006.

In November 2006, the FAO Council had endorsed SAICM and recognized FAO's role in its implementation to the extent possible within existing resources. The Council had agreed on the importance of SAICM in assisting countries to meet the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In line with the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), it recognized the importance of agencies such as FAO incorporating SAICM into their programmes, consistent with their mandate. It was also noted that the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* was to be considered as an important element of the SAICM process.

In view of the broad range of activities envisaged within SAICM, the Council had suggested that the activities of FAO could include risk reduction, including the progressive ban on HHPs, promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), ensuring environmentally-sound disposal of stock-piles of obsolete pesticides and capacity-building in establishing national and regional laboratories.

With respect to risk reduction of HHPs, a side-event had been organized at the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG), in April 2007, which included presentations by various stakeholders and countries. Explicit support for the FAO initiative on HHPs was expressed by the European Union, among others.

Specific measures to reduce availability of HHPs had been reported since the last Session of the Panel, both by governments and by pesticide industry. They include the plan by Cheminova to phase out the production and sales in developing countries of WHO class I pesticides by 2010, the prohibition of several WHO class I pesticides in China, Thailand and Vietnam, and the cessation of registration of WHO class I pesticides by the nine-country Sahelian Pesticide Committee in West Africa.

It was reported that the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues is now hosted by China, after having been organized for many years by The Netherlands. Its 39<sup>th</sup> Session was held in Beijing in May 2007. Some of the issues discussed during this Session were the adoption of (draft) MRLs and discontinuation of certain MRLs, the use of Codex MRLs at national level, the acceptance of procedural changes introduced by the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), alternative GAP procedures, and a revision of list of methods for pesticide residue analysis.

The FAO/WHO JMPR was held in Geneva in September 2007. It evaluated 31 pesticides and discussed procedures for short-term dietary intake assessment, among other issues. A Global Minor Use Summit is planned to be held in Rome from 3-6 December 2007, in cooperation with USDA, US-EPA and IR-4.

The 6<sup>th</sup> FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS) was organized in Durban in June 2007, in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint CIPAC/FAO/WHO Open Meeting. In the course of 2007, 10 new JMPS specifications were published for agricultural pesticides. It was also reported that the FAO/WHO procedure for equivalence determination had now been adopted in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, the European Community, Mexico and Paraguay, while discussions about adoption were ongoing in China, the Philippines, the USA and in the OECD Working Group on Pesticides.

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