



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
Organization

Report

13th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management

20–21 October 2020
Virtual meeting



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1. Introduction

The 13th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM),¹ hosted by FAO, was held online via Zoom on the afternoons of 20 and 21 October 2020. The length of this year's meeting was significantly reduced from the usual three-and-a-half days to two half days, because the COVID-19 pandemic obliged the group to meet virtually. The meeting included: an update on activities of FAO, WHO and UNEP; a review of progress in the production of new FAO/WHO guidance and revision of existing guidelines; presentation of the draft Global action plan for highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs); presentations and exchanges on emerging issues such as illegal trade of pesticides and online Internet pesticide sales; and other issues relevant to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (the Code of Conduct).

The recommendations of the JMPM are summarized in [section 11](#). The list of meeting participants is attached as [Annex 1](#).

2. Opening of the meeting

The opening session was coordinated by Mr Baogen Gu, Senior Agricultural Officer for Pest and Pesticide Management, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division. On behalf of FAO and as joint Secretariat of the JMPM, Mr Gu welcomed the WHO and FAO Panel members and observers to the 13th session of the JMPM, members of the WHO and FAO secretariats and other meeting participants. Mr Raman Velayudhan, Head, Veterinary Public Health, Vector Control and Environment Unit, Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, welcomed all present on behalf of WHO.

Mr Jingyuan Xia, Director, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the JMPM, emphasized the importance of sound pesticide management in sustainable plant protection and production and encouraged the JMPM to consider how innovative technologies and optimized approaches could minimize the risks of pesticides and contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

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 deserving attention in pesticide regulation and management. The 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.

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

Ms Lilian Törnqvist of the Swedish Chemicals Agency was nominated to chair the meeting, and Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha, consultant to the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, was nominated as Co-Chair. Mr Lance Wormell of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Mr Michael Eddleston of the University of Edinburgh and Ms Jeannie Richards, FAO consultant, were appointed rapporteurs.

The meeting agenda was adopted ([Annex 2](#)). Adjustments to facilitate timing were made during the meeting.

4. Meeting procedure

The Chair informed the participants about working procedures, notably management of participants' interventions during the on-line meeting. FAO and WHO indicated that they had received and reviewed declarations of interests from all Panel members participating in the 13th Session of the JMPM and had concluded that none were disclosed that could give rise to a potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest with regard to the subjects discussed in the meeting.

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

Reports on activities since the previous JMPM in November 2019 were given by FAO

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