

Global situation of **pesticide management** in **agriculture and public health**

Report of a 2018 WHO–FAO survey



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Citation: Global situation of pesticide management in agriculture and public health. Geneva: World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. [2019]. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

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ISBN 978-92-4-151688-4 (WHO)

ISBN 978-92-5-131969-7 (FAO)

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Foreword

Chemical pesticides are widely being used in agriculture and in public health for the control of pests and disease vectors. However, the harmful side-effects of pesticides are becoming increasingly clear, in terms of effects on human health and the environment, and the development of insecticide resistance in pest and vector populations.

The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management provides voluntary standards of conduct for all parties involved in the management of pesticides, from manufacture to application and waste disposal. The Code of Conduct, which was developed jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), incorporates both agricultural pesticides and public health pesticides.

In support of the Code of Conduct, the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) has since 2007 prepared and reviewed a series of guideline documents pertaining to all aspects of the pesticide life-cycle, including but not limited to pesticide registration, risk assessment, efficacy testing, procurement, use and application, and pesticide waste disposal.²

Countries are strongly encouraged to adopt the standards set out in the Code of Conduct, and to implement strategies of integrated pest management for control of agricultural pests and integrated vector management for control of vector-borne diseases.

This report provides a contemporary overview of the situation of pesticide management in agriculture and public health across the globe. The results indicate various critical shortcomings. This suggests the need for countries, and programmes alike, to revisit their legal and operational framework for pesticide management in order to improve the efficacy of pesticides and minimize their harmful effects on humans and the environment.

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² For an overview of these documents, see: Managing pesticides in agriculture and public health: an overview of FAO and WHO guidelines and other resources. FAO and WHO; 2019 (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca5201en/ca5201en.pdf>).

Acknowledgements

The WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (WHO/NTD) and the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (FAO/AGP) thank all those involved in Member States for assisting with the collection and validation of the questionnaire data. Staff of WHO and FAO at Regional Offices and Country Offices are gratefully acknowledged for their assistance in facilitating the questionnaire data collection process.

The preparation of the questionnaire, analysis of data, and drafting and revision of the report were conducted by Henk van den Berg (consultant, Wageningen University, the Netherlands), in close collaboration with Rajpal Yadav from WHO/NTD, and Beatrice Grenier, Baogen Gu and Eva Kohlschmid from FAO/AGP. Richard Brown, Carmen Bullon and Harold van der Valk are acknowledged for providing valuable comments and suggestions to the report. The study was conducted as part of a WHO project financially supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Acronyms

EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification
HHP	highly hazardous pesticide
IPM	integrated pest management
IRM	insecticide resistance management
IVM	integrated vector management
MRL	maximum residue limit
NGO	nongovernmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPE	personal protective equipment
PPP	purchasing power parity
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOPES	WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme

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