



REPORT

10TH FAO/WHO JOINT MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

**10–13 April 2017
New Delhi, India**



**World Health
Organization**



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

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1. Introduction

The 10th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) was hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland and supported by the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and the WHO Country Office in New Delhi, India. The meeting was held at the Park Hotel in New Delhi from 10 to 13 April 2017. This was the second JMPM meeting to be held outside the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, and to include a day-long field trip to allow the meeting participants to observe practices and share experiences with experts in local institutions.

The JMPM was created in 2007 to advise FAO and WHO on the implementation of the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (the Code of Conduct) and on new developments, problems or issues deserving of attention pertaining to pesticide regulation and management. Its 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 pesticide and biopesticide producer associations and certain nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) involved in pesticide risk reduction are also invited to participate in meetings as observers. Secretariat support is provided jointly by FAO and WHO. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

The 10th JMPM included: an update on activities of the joint Secretariat and participating organizations; a review of progress in the production of JMPM guidelines; plans for continued work on guidelines; a report on follow up to an ad hoc monitoring report concerning the reported failure of two pesticide companies to comply with the Code of Conduct; a visit to three local institutions; and recommendations for future work.

2. Opening of the meeting

The opening session was coordinated by Mr Rajpal Yadav, Scientist and head of the WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES), Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO, Geneva. On behalf of WHO and as joint Secretariat of the JMPM, Mr Yadav welcomed the FAO and WHO Panel members, members of the FAO and WHO Secretariat, and other meeting participants and observers to the 10th Session of the FAO/WHO JMPM. Mr Gu Bao Gen, Senior Agricultural Officer for Pest and Pesticide Management, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, welcomed the Panel members and other participants and observers to the meeting on behalf of FAO.

Mr Fikru Tesfaye Tullu, Team Leader, Non-Communicable Diseases, read opening remarks on behalf of the WHO Representative, New Delhi. Mr A.C. Dhariwal, Director of the National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme in Delhi; Ms Neena Valecha, Director of the National Institute of Malaria Research in Delhi, and Mr Ashwani Kumar, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India attended the opening of the meeting and gave opening remarks. A summary of these is appended to Annex 2.

3. Election of the chairperson and rapporteurs

Ms Andrea Rother of the University of Cape Town, South Africa was nominated to chair the meeting and Mr Donald Ward of the Australian Department of Agriculture to serve as Co-Chair. Mr. Lance Wormell of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, and Ms Jeannie Richards, WHO consultant, were appointed Rapporteurs.

4. Administrative matters

4.1 Adoption of the agenda

A number of minor amendments were made to the agenda for the purpose of timekeeping. The final agenda as adopted is given in Annex 3.

4.2 Declaration of interest

The FAO and WHO Secretariat informed the meeting that they had received Declarations of Interest from all the Panel members participating in the 10th Session of the JMPM. The secretariat had reviewed these and concluded that no circumstances were disclosed that could give rise to a potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest related to the subjects discussed in the JMPM.

4.3 JMPM procedures

Mr Rajpal Yadav, WHO, reviewed the meeting procedures and the schedule for the reception and field day.

5. Developments since the previous session of the JMPM

Reports on activities since the last JMPM were given by WHO, FAO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Pesticide Action Network (PAN), CropLife International, AgroCare and KemI. These reports are summarized below and detailed more extensively in Annex 2.

5.1 WHO

Activities conducted by WHO since the previous JMPM involve those undertaken by WHOPES, the Global Malaria Programme, the Programme on Chemical Safety and by the Organization's regional offices. They include: progress with the Organization's normative functions such as developing guidelines and technical reports; providing training and technical support in pesticide management in countries and regions; organizing meetings on vector control and pesticide specifications; responding to the Zika virus disease 2016 Public Health Emergency of International Concern by expanding vector control activity in affected countries and preparing guidance documents; hosting a meeting on the use of malathion in vector control and resulting health risks; providing a report to the DDT Expert Group of the Stockholm Convention on health risks from the continued use of DDT for vector control;

publishing an update the Atlas of Children's Health and the Environment with sections relating to the use of pesticides in agriculture and vector control; and contributing to a wide variety of activities carried out under the WHO Global Malaria Programme.

5.2 FAO

FAO activities carried out since the previous JMPM include: publishing guidelines on legislation and highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs); organizing regular meetings on pesticide specifications (JMPS) and pesticide residues (JMPR) as well as a special meeting to discuss glyphosate, malathion and diazinon; organizing a meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention to review decision guidance on carbofuran and carbosulfan and to take action on benzidine, carbofuran suspension concentrate and atrazine; continued updating of the pesticide registration toolkit and organization of training sessions, workshops and webinars; producing radio spots on pesticide risk reduction for airing in Mozambique; continued disposal of obsolete pesticides and remediation of contaminated sites; launching of a web-based platform for information exchange on farmer field schools; promoting harmonized pesticide registration in West Africa and the Pacific; and conducting various capacity-building activities.

5.3 OECD

OECD activities undertaken since the previous JMPM include: implementing various actions to combat the illegal trade in counterfeit, fake and substandard pesticides including creation of a rapid alert system for countries to exchange information on suspicious or rejected shipments of pesticides and preparation of guidance on the identification and handling of such pesticides; developing test guidelines for honeybees and planning a seminar (June 2017) for countries to identify ways to address this issue together; creating a database of information about pesticide risk indicators used in different countries; publishing various guidance documents and seminar reports on biopesticides; convening a workshop on sustainable pest management; and conducting various other projects.

5.4 Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

PAN's recent activities have focused on removing HHPs and promoting agro-ecology. Activities undertaken since the previous JMPM include: providing community support; publishing documents about what is happening on the ground; advocating for policy change; participating in international forums and conventions; and contributing to numerous awareness-raising activities. PAN is now using apps to capture real-time information from the field on pesticide use and impacts, and to create profiles of companies and their sales techniques.

5.5 CropLife

CropLife International's recent activities include: launching of an e-learning training tool on the Code of Conduct; training of farmers in integrated pest management (IPM) in programmes done jointly with local NGOs; training of "spray service providers" in a programme begun in West Africa and now being expanded to other areas of the world; and initiating risk mitigation in West Africa. CropLife has also continued its "portfolio review", reported at the last JMPM meeting, in which its member companies determine whether their products include any HHPs and take action if they do. To date, 6400 products have been

evaluated and mitigation has been undertaken or is under way for the products that triggered the HHP and exposure criteria.

5.6 AgroCare

AgroCare gave a quick overview of its situation as a small association of generic pesticide manufacturers with many small members, making it difficult to speak with a unified voice. AgroCare expects that it will closely align with CropLife and be more active in the JMPM in future.

5.7 KemI

KemI, Sweden has developed test versions of guidance on chemicals including pesticides; these include guidance potentially useful for JMPM consideration on enforcement, on how to finance and structure institutional capacity, and on capacity-building for sound management of chemicals.

5.8 Discussion and recommendations

In the discussion that followed the presentations, the group asked the JMPM Secretariat to:

- consider the telephone application technology used by PAN to collect information in real-time, notably as a way to make the technical guidelines more accessible and user-friendly;
- consider agro-ecology when revising the guidelines; and
- add relevant guidelines from other organizations (e.g. UN Environment, OECD, KemI, European Union, United States Environmental Protection Agency) to the annotated list of FAO and WHO guidelines.

The JMPM also noted that comments were invited on CropLife's e-learning tool on the Code of Conduct, and that it would be useful to consider whether new monitoring technology could be used to demonstrate the results of different stewardship activities.

6. Review of guidelines in advanced stage of development

6.1 Guidelines on registration of microbials, botanicals and semiochemicals

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