



REPORT

9TH FAO/WHO JOINT MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

**12–16 October 2015
Nanjing, China**



**World Health
Organization**



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

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1. Introduction

The 9th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) was hosted by the Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture (ICAMA) of the People's Republic of China, at the Jiangsu Yishiyuan Hotel in Nanjing, China from 12 to 16 October 2015. This was the first JMPM meeting to be held outside the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and the first to include a day-long field trip to allow the meeting participants to observe practices and share experiences with local experts.

The JMPM was established in 2007 following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and WHO on cooperation in a joint programme for the sound management of pesticides. Since its inception, the JMPM has consisted of members drawn from the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management and the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control. The JMPM held its first session in 2007. The JMPM advises FAO and WHO on the implementation of the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and on matters pertaining to pesticide regulation and management, alerting them to new developments, problems or issues that merit attention.

Panel members invited to the JMPM are selected for their personal expertise and experience in specific aspects of pesticide management in both agriculture and public health. They do not represent the position of the governments or institutions they may belong to, but are appointed to the respective Panels in their personal capacity by either FAO or WHO. All Panel members are asked to declare any interests that could affect their opinion or advice. In addition to Panel members, representatives from intergovernmental organizations, pesticide industry associations and nongovernmental organizations, which by their nature have interests, attend the open sessions of the meeting as observers. The latter may be invited to provide their views, but are excluded from decision taking.

2. Opening of the meeting

The opening session was chaired by Mr Harry van der Wulp, FAO Senior Policy Officer.

On behalf of FAO and as joint secretariat of the JMPM, Ms YongZhen Yang, team leader (OiC) of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Group, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, welcomed the WHO and FAO JMPM Panel members, the WHO Secretariat, and other meeting participants and observers to the 9th Session of the FAO/WHO JMPM. Mr Rajpal Yadav, Scientist-in-Charge, WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES), WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, welcomed the Panel members, other participants and observers to the meeting on behalf of WHO. The attendees were invited to introduce themselves (see List of participants provided in Annex 1). FAO staff member Mr Jan Breithaupt and Panel members Mr Tan Soo Hian and Mr Eric Liégeois were unable to attend the meeting. A number of experts from ICAMA attended certain portions of the meeting as observers and assisted with the field trip.

Mr Jian Yong Zhang, Deputy Director-General of the Agricultural Department of Jiang Su Province, opened the meeting and welcomed the JMPM specialists and representatives to Nanjing. Mr Zhang described how Jiangsu Province, which is located in the Yangtze River

delta, historically has had China's largest concentration of people and natural resources, and today has its second largest economy. Mr Zhang noted that Jiangsu is an agricultural province with modern, efficient and highly mechanized agriculture; total grain output today is at nearly 40 million tonnes. Jiangsu Province is also China's biggest agrochemical producer, home to 270 pesticide companies which together produce some 4900 registered pesticides. In 2014, Jiangsu produced 935 000 tonnes of pesticides, of which 663 000 tonnes valued at US\$ 3.86 billion were exported, representing 40% of China's pesticide exports. Mr Zhang noted that pesticide registration has been strengthened in recent years, notably for minor crops; that market supervision has been consolidated, resulting in good product acceptance; and that safety controls have been intensified, including for protection of the environment. Mr Zhang concluded that the JMPM has an active role in ensuring pesticide safety and protecting the environment, and that the results of the 9th JMPM meeting would be used to promote pesticide management work in Jiangsu Province.

Mr Yan Duan Xiang, Deputy Director-General of ICAMA, welcomed the participants and observers to the historic and cultural city of Nanjing, and congratulated them on their work with the JMPM. Mr Xiang explained that China, as a large agricultural country with a large population, is a big user of agrochemicals as well as a big producer and exporter. China values environmental protection and agricultural safety and has followed the example of advanced countries in steadily improving pesticide review and registration, and in restricting and controlling the use of highly hazardous pesticides [HHPs] (33 HHPs have been prohibited for most uses and production of HHPs is being phased out), in encouraging the development and use of biological and botanical pesticides, and in implementing good laboratory practice (GLP) in laboratories (24 laboratories accredited). China has also strengthened market supervision to take severe measures against fake products and to protect qualified products and intellectual property. Mr Xiang noted that ICAMA is now focusing on risk assessment methods for situations found in China and that it participates in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and in the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. Finally, Mr Xiang thanked FAO and WHO for accepting the offer of ICAMA and the Jiangsu ICA to host the joint meeting. He noted that it was a good opportunity for different countries to share their experiences and practices, and hoped that the participants would work together in the future to promote the sound management of pesticides worldwide.

Mr Harry van der Wulp and Ms YongZhen Yang thanked the two speakers for their opening remarks as well as for hosting the meeting. They also gave special thanks to Mr Gu Bao-Gen, Deputy Director-General of the Center for Agro-Food Quality & Safety (former DDG of ICAMA), who organized China's hosting of the JMPM meeting and planned the field trip. They commended China for its proactive approach and significant progress in pesticide management, and noted that the Chinese experience would be very helpful for the JMPM deliberations.

Mr Rajpal Yadav thanked the speakers and commended Jiangsu Province for its cooperation with WHO in the testing and evaluation of pesticides and its recent activities on public health pesticides for control of schistosomiasis. He noted that the collaboration between FAO and WHO has expanded year by year, and he highlighted the value to WHO of the JMPM, the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications and the new Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Mr Yadav described recent examples of collaboration in specific areas and noted the importance of forthcoming JMPM contributions in the area of highly hazardous pesticides. Finally, Mr Yadav introduced a new WHO temporary advisor, Mr Michael Eddleston, Professor of Clinical Toxicology at the University

of Edinburgh, who has worked for many years with patients with pesticide poisoning in Sri Lanka.

3. Election of the chairperson and rapporteurs

Ms Kimberly Nesci was elected Chairperson and Ms Andrea Rother Vice Chairperson of the meeting. Mr Malverne Spencer and Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha were appointed Rapporteurs.

Ms Nesci began the meeting with a brief silence in honour of JMPM panel member Mr Adama Makoum Toe, who had passed away since the last meeting.

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 in Annex 2.

4.2 Declaration of interest

FAO and WHO had received Declarations of Interest from all the Panel members participating in the 9th Session of the JMPM. The secretariat of the JMPM 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 and terms of reference

The meeting revisited the subject of the JMPM terms of reference in response to questions about the number of observers per organization or institution attending the meeting. Draft terms of reference for the JMPM have been delayed in the FAO legal office for some time. The meeting recommended that the draft be resurrected by the secretariat and that:

- the secretariat clarify in writing the JMPM procedures, including the terms of reference for the panel members and observers as well as the number of observers per organization or institution eligible for participation in such meetings;
- the final document be made available well in advance of the next JMPM meeting.

5. Developments since the previous session of the JMPM

5.1 WHO

Mr Rajpal Yadav briefed the meeting on the recent activities of the WHO Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (Vector Ecology and Management unit; WHOPES), and also the WHO Global Malaria Programme. Mr Richard Brown, WHO Chemical Safety, then briefed the meeting on the activities of the Department of Public Health, Environmental

and Social Determinants of Health (Chemical Safety Team). WHO regional activities are summarized in Annex 3.

Vector Ecology and Management

The Vector Ecology and Management unit develops guidelines, standards and standard operating procedures, and offers training and technical support to WHO Member States in vector control and sound management of pesticides. Activities since the JMPM meeting in 2014 include:

Development of guidelines and technical reports

- Toolkit for integrated vector management (IVM) in sub-Saharan Africa
- Toolkit for IVM in Latin America
- Guidelines for testing new long-lasting insecticidal net products to substantiate efficacy claims in areas of high insecticide resistance
- Guidelines for laboratory and field-testing of molluscicides
- Determination of fabric strength of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) – report of a WHO consultation (Geneva, 2015).

Training

- Workshop on dengue vector management including IVM for participants from China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar
- Pan American Health Organization entomology and IVM meeting (Washington, DC)
- Participation in a training workshop on GLP accreditation of research institutions for evaluation of pesticide products (Cotonou, Benin).

Technical support

- Workshop for technical support on dengue and IVM (Havana)
- Strategic planning workshop on pesticide management of the South African Pesticide Regulators' Forum (Harare, Zimbabwe)
- Development of IVM strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (2015–2020)
- Support for revision of a module on pesticide management for a diploma course.

Meetings

- 14th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (Ad-hoc)

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