



REPORT

6TH FAO/WHO JOINT MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

and

**8TH SESSION OF THE FAO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE
MANAGEMENT**

**9 – 12 October 2012
Rome**



**World Health
Organization**



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Abbreviations

APPPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CGPC	Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean
CILSS	Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
COAG	Committee on Agriculture (of FAO)
COP	Conference of Parties
CSP	Comité Sahélien des Pesticides
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticide
IBMA	International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
ICSC	International Chemical Safety Card
IGO	Inter-governmental Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOMC	Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPEN	International POPs Elimination Network
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IVM	Integrated Vector Management
JMPM	FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management
JMPR	FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues
JMPS	FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications
KemI	Swedish Chemical Agency
LLIN	Long-lasting Insecticidal Mosquito Net
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development

PFC	Perfluorinated Chemical
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PSMS	Pesticide Stock Management System
QR code	Quick Response code
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAPReF	Southern African Pesticide Registrars Forum
SECE	Scientific Expert Group on Chemicals and the Environment (of UNEP)
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme (of FAO)
UCT	University of Cape Town
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire de Ouest Africaine
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VCAG	Vector Control Advisory Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOPES	World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation Scheme

1. Introduction

The 6th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) and the 8th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, were held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 9 to 12 October 2012.

The FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management is the official statutory body that advises FAO 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 implementation of the revised version of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* (hereinafter “the Code of Conduct”). Members of 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 WHO on policies, guidelines and key actions to support Member States on sound management of pesticides.

Panel members invited to this meeting have been 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. Both FAO and WHO Panel members are requested to declare any interests they may have which could affect their opinion or advice.

In addition to Panel members, representatives from inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) pesticide industry associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting as observers.

Mr Mark Davis, Senior Officer Pesticide Management of FAO, welcomed all participants to the 6th Session of the JMPM on behalf of FAO. He informed the meeting that two new institutional observers were present at the JMPM, the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), as well as Dr Donald Ward, of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Australia, who had been invited as observer in his personal capacity. Mr Davis thanked all JMPM members and observers for coming to Rome again and to contribute their experience and expertise to advise FAO and WHO on pesticide management.

Dr Morteza Zaim, Coordinator Vector Ecology and Management, welcomed all JMPM members and observers to the 6th Session of the JMPM on behalf of WHO. He noted that the session had originally been planned to be held in Geneva, but that due to the meeting with the Bureau of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) about the International Code of Conduct, had to be organized again in Rome. Dr Zaim indicated that an almost complete toolbox for life-cycle management of pesticides had been developed with support of the JMPM. He stressed, though, that this would not be the “end of the line”, but that the focus should now be on resource mobilization for implementation of these tools and strengthening pesticide management in public health and in agriculture. Dr Zaim thanked Panel members for their continuous support to the JMPM and wished all a fruitful meeting.

The participants in the meeting are listed in Annex 1.

2. Opening of the meeting

Mr Mike Robson, acting for the Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, in his opening address, welcomed the members of the WHO and FAO Expert Panels, participants from partner Organizations in the UN system and OECD, representatives of the private sector and civil society, and staff from the FAO regions and headquarters to the 6th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management.

Mr Robson noted that 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring – the book that is said to have launched the environmental movement, and which focused on the ecological impacts of pesticides that were in widespread use in the late 1950s and early 1960s. He underlined that managing pesticide risks had been a part of FAO's work since even before Silent Spring was published. The FAO Conference in 1961 decided that FAO *[should] provide leadership in achieving international understanding in the controversial aspects of the use of pesticides (e.g. pesticide residues, hazards to farm workers, operators and factory workers, insect resistance to insecticides, and marketing requirements) in furnishing guidance to governments*. FAO has certainly provided that leadership and continues to work to provide guidance on the challenges that were identified by the 1961 Conference, and new ones that have emerged since, such as obsolete pesticide stockpiles, environmental mobility of pesticides in air and water, and declines in pollinator populations, to name a few.

Mr Robson stressed that FAO cannot meet these challenges alone, and it is proud of its productive collaboration with partner UN Organizations WHO and UNEP, as well as with the private sector, NGOs and a host of other organizations. He indicated that this meeting is a reflection of that partnership. As an inter-Governmental Organization, FAO does not make the rules, nor does it police them. FAO's mandate is to provide the best possible guidance to member Governments. It may well be that FAO staff in Rome and in the many decentralized offices are knowledgeable and experienced, but even they would admit that they don't have all the answers. Expert Panels such as the JPM therefore exist to provide FAO and WHO with the most current knowledge, and help to synthesize it into coherent guidance.

Mr Robson pointed out that a key component of the work of the JPM in recent years has been the revision of the Code of Conduct. FAO was pleased to note recently that a stakeholder survey carried out by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) found that the Code was the most widely referenced tool on chemicals management. The desire to have the Code adopted also by WHO and UNEP is

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