

REPORT

3RD FAO/WHO JOINT MEETING ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

and

5TH SESSION OF THE FAO PANEL OF EXPERTS ON PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

6 – 9 October 2009 Rome





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



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Abbreviations

AGP	Plant Production and Protection Division
COAG	Committee on Agriculture
CCPR	Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues
CIEN	Chemicals Information Exchange Network
CRC	Chemical review Committee
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
DNA	Designated National Authority
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticide
ICAMA	Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals, Ministry of Agriculture of China
ICCM	International Conference on Chemicals Management
ICSC	International Chemical Safety Card
IGO	Inter-governmental Organization
(I)PCS	(International) Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest 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
MRL	Maximum Residue Limit
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PHP	Public Health Pesticide
QSP	Quick Start Programme
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDS	Safety Data Sheet
SHPF	Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulation
TCE	Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division
ТСР	Technical Cooperation Programme
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WHOPES	World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation Scheme
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. Introduction

The 3rd FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) and the 5th Session of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management, were held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 6 to 9 October 2009.

The FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management is the official statutory body that advises the Organization 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 further implementation of the revised version of the *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*¹ (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 the Organization 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 WHO and FAO 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 other Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), pesticide industry and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also attended the meeting as observers.

Mr Mark Davis, Senior Officer Pesticide Management (a.i.) of FAO, welcomed all participants to the 3rd Session of the JMPM. He indicated that four new members of the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management would participate in this meeting for the first time: Mr Amadou Diarra, Mr David Kapindula, Mr Eric Liégeois and Ms Kimberly Nesci. Three former FAO Panel members had agreed to continue to serve on the Panel to ensure continuity of the work.

Mr Morteza Zaim, Scientist, WHO Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) welcomed all participants on behalf of WHO. He recalled that the JMPM was one of the outcomes of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between FAO and WHO in early 2007, to strengthen collaboration on pesticide management in general, and the implementation of the Code of Conduct in particular. Mr Zaim noted that while the Code of Conduct had not been endorsed by the World Health Assembly, WHO is highly committed to its implementation in the health sector. He expressed his hopes that the Code of Conduct could in the near future become a joint publication of FAO and WHO.

All participants in the meeting are listed in Annex 1.

¹ <u>http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/pests/pm/code/en/</u>

2. Opening of the meeting

Mr Peter Kenmore, Deputy Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, noted in his opening address that this was already the 3rd joint meeting between FAO and WHO on pesticide management and expressed his delight at the consolidated collaboration between the two organizations. He recalled the long history of expert meetings on pesticide management at FAO, going back at least three decades, and the importance of the Code of Conduct as a guiding document.

Mr Kenmore remarked that the Code of Conduct was one of the oldest international agreements on chemicals management, which had been unanimously adopted by all FAO member countries and was actively supported by pesticide industry and civil society. And while the shape of farming, industry and civil society had changed considerably over the last 25 years, continuous collaboration between stakeholders, and broad discussions like in this meeting, had allowed the implementation of the Code of Conduct to be adapted and sustained.

With chemicals management now being at the height of international interest, through initiatives like the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and the joint extraordinary Conference of Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Deputy Director stressed the importance of the Code of Conduct as longstanding example of international, inter-sector and inter-stakeholder collaboration. Lessons learned from strengthening pesticide management should therefore be taken into account when developing initiatives in general chemicals management and FAO and WHO have an important role to play in this process.

While recognizing the importance of continuing synergies and collaboration between international programmes, Mr Kenmore noted that the actual work on improving and strengthening the management of pesticides needed to be done on the ground, in the countries. Millions of people in the world need sound pesticide management to increase agricultural production, reduce the impact of vector-borne diseases and limit adverse effects of these chemicals on human health and the environment.

The Deputy Director informed the meeting that by 2050, the world needs to double food production, and this mainly in developing countries. He stressed that the required increase in food production would not automatically imply an increase in the use of agrochemicals, and that FAO had shown in all major crops and in different regions of the world that production intensification could be achieved even with less dependence on chemicals such as pesticides. However, this requires smarter farming based on a better understanding of biological and agricultural systems, where agrochemicals are not eliminated but are used more effectively and with less adverse impact.

Mr Kenmore also noted that the control of vector-borne diseases remains a major problem in large parts of the world. He remarked that the last few decades has seen a great increased understanding of the dynamics of disease vectors, however, which is leading to more effective vector control and much more precise use of pesticides.

Given the many challenges we are facing in pesticide management, Mr Kenmore strongly emphasized the need for the JMPM to focus on the big picture. He invited the participants to keep remembering that their advice should lead to practical solutions in the field, and called upon the meeting to remain pragmatic and not to get caught in details. Finally, the Deputy Director, after encouraging the participants to have a successful meeting, declared the 3rd FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management open.

3. Election of the chairperson and rapporteurs

Mr Gary Whitfield was elected Chairperson of the meeting, and Mr Gu Baogen and Ms Sandhya Kulshrestha were appointed rapporteurs.

4. Adoption of the agenda

A number of amendments were proposed to the provisional agenda:

- inclusion of a proposal for amendments to the *guideline drafting procedure*, under item 10;
- presentation of the status of development of the *Guidelines on pesticide legislation* under item 12 instead of item 11;
- inclusion of the status of development of the *Guidelines on pesticide advertising*, and the *Guidelines for the registration of pesticides*, under item 12;
- inclusion of a presentation from the FAO regional plant protection officers on feedback regarding pesticide management in the field, under item 13.

Two closed sessions were held as part of the JMPM, in which only Panel members but not observers participated: one at the start of the meeting to discuss, amongst other, terms of reference of the JMPM and the guidelines drafting procedure, and a second session at the end of the meeting to discuss the recommendations.

The definitive agenda was adopted as shown in Annex 2.

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