

Codex Update

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Presentation
Order

Codex Alimentarius

U.S. Codex program

Codex Committee on Pesticide
Residues (CCPR)

- United Nations organization founded in 1963
- Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program
- The United States was one of the original Member Countries
- Codex brings together food safety/consumer protection and trade interests, thereby strengthening both
- Establish science-based public health and food safety standards

What is the
Codex
Alimentarius?

Codex mandate

- Protect the health of consumers
 - *Science-based food safety and quality standards*
- Ensure fair practices in the food trade
 - *Fosters harmonization of food standards worldwide*

Standards, Guidelines, and Codes Practice

- Apply to broad areas of food safety (i.e., hygiene, pesticide MRLs, etc.) and specific food products and groups (commodities)
- Voluntarily adopted by countries
- **Standards** are generally most specific and may be adopted by countries for enforcement
- **Guidelines** and **Codes** outline general principles that require further interpretation to implement

Scientific
basis of Codex
documents

WHO and FAO expert bodies and ad hoc consultations provide scientific advice to the Codex committees in a variety of areas:

- **JMPR:** Pesticide Residues
- **JECFA:** Food Additives, Contaminants, and Veterinary Drugs
- **JEMRA:** Microbiological Risk Assessment
- **JEMNU:** Nutrition

- ✓ Countries can adopt Codex standards with confidence and without the need to dedicate national resources to conducting risk assessments.
- ✓ Countries can use Codex standards as a benchmark for judging imported products.

Benefits of science-based standards

SPS Agreement

- The USA is a signatory and abides by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures
- The SPS Agreement does not require adoption of Codex standards
- Specifically provides that WTO members may adopt standards that differ from international standards if they have:
 - a scientific justification for the difference, or
 - a different domestic level of protection established

**Important to
U.S. National
Interest**



As major agricultural **importer**:

*Codex enhances food safety and
consumer protection*

As major agricultural **exporter**:

*Codex maintains and expands market
access for U.S. exports*

U.S. Codex Program

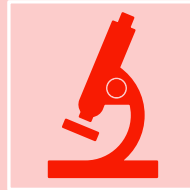
U.S. Contributions to Expert Bodies

JEMRA

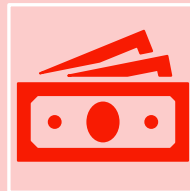
Joint FAO/WHO
Expert Meetings
on
Microbiological
Risk Assessment

JECFA

JOINT FAO/WHO
EXPERT COMMITTEE
ON FOOD ADDITIVES



Provides experts to
scientific advice bodies



Supports reviews with
data and financial
resources

U.S. contributions to Codex Work

Attends every committee meeting

Participates in every EWG, VWG and PWG

Supports effective developing country participation in Codex work

- Trust Fund
- Outreach

Codex Standards in the USA

The United States does not automatically accept Codex Standards

U.S. regulatory agencies must base their decisions on procedures and standards established in U.S. law

U.S. procedures and standards are always grounded in science-based decision making



U.S. Codex Policy Committee

Political level



U.S. Codex Technical Committee

Senior Management level



U.S. Codex Office (USCO)

Responsible for coordination,
strategic planning and outreach



Delegates to Codex committees

From responsible regulatory
agencies

U.S. Codex Program Organization

U.S. Codex Office

Codex Contact Point for the USA

Manages

- Inter-agency coordination
- Stakeholder cooperation

Organizes

- U.S. Delegations
- Inter-regional Outreach

Hosts four Codex Committees

- CCFH, CCRVDF, CCPFV & CCCPL

U.S. Delegate Assistance

- ✓ Ensures that delegation members are well informed about topics for discussion at Committee meetings
- ✓ Helps delegates prepare U.S. positions on Codex issues
- ✓ Provides policy advice and logistical support
- ✓ Conducts in-depth training programs for delegates throughout the year

A world map with a red background. The landmasses are shown in a dark blue color. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing North and South America on the left and Europe, Africa, and Asia on the right. The word "Outreach" is written in white serif font over the map.

Outreach

Colloquia: Our most successful form of outreach. We hold informal discussions with other countries and regions. We do not just discuss U.S. positions

These are held with Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean

Often the U.S. position is adjusted to consider the concerns of our allies or to support the positions of our allies, based on the conversations in the colloquia

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR)



CCPR Background

CCPR established in 1966 and currently hosted by China

Meets on annual basis and attended by 80+ countries and many external organizations

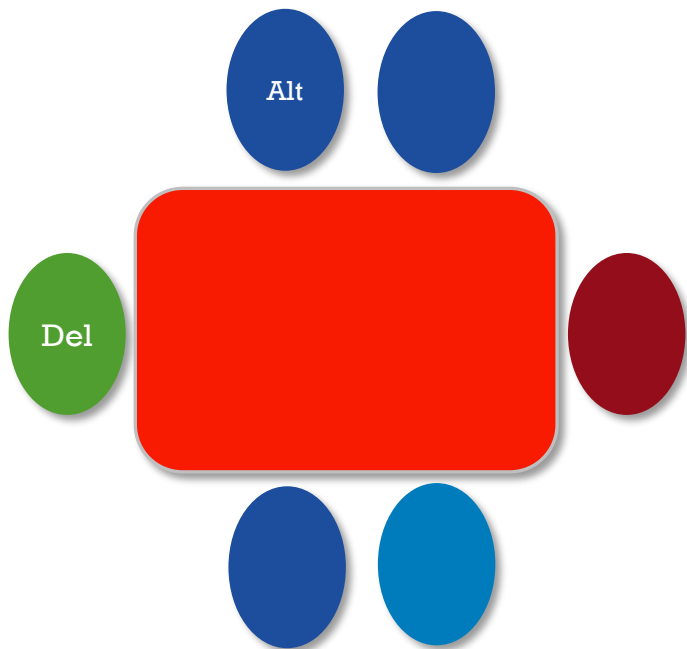
Establishes evaluation process for establishing maximum limits for pesticide residues on food and animal feed in international trade

Approved Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) (e.g., labeled use rate, re-entry interval, target crop)


Anticipated residues reflected in supervised field trials


Risk assessment of dietary exposure


U.S. Government Delegation to CCPR





- U.S. Delegate (Del)



- U.S. Alt. Delegate (Alt)


- USDA Codex Office Rep


- USDA/FAS


- FDA


- IR-4 (Classifications)



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**U.S. Delegation Role in
Advocating for
U.S. Stakeholders**

**Stakeholder
Engagement**

Engage U.S. and
International Stakeholder

U.S. CCPR

Direction Setting

Participate in CCPR
working group projects
throughout calendar year

**CCPR Plenary
Leadership**

Advance U.S. interests and
strategic priorities during
plenary

U.S. CCPR Interest Group

- Managed by U.S. Delegation and used to engage with U.S. stakeholders
- Includes 60+ representatives from Federal Agencies and Non-Government organizations, including trade associations, growers, and registrants



MRL Nomination & Evaluation Process

- MRL Nominations
- Data Call Notifications
- Concern Forms

Stakeholder Input on CCPR Activities

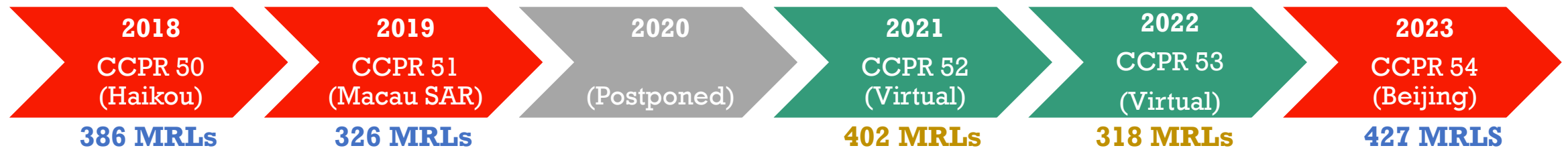
- Electronic Working Groups
- Circular Letters
- Position Papers

Strategic Planning

- Near/long-term strategic priorities
- Strengthen harmonization
- Expand capacity and improve efficiency of CCPR/JMPR

Challenges to Codex MRL setting process

- *Postponement of CCPR-52 in 2020*
- *Virtual meetings in 2021 and 2022*
- *JMPR unable to meeting in-person until 2022*



- While deliberations at CCPR53 prompted by delays in JMPR evaluations, growing demands on JMPR and its implications has been an important topic for CCPR stakeholders.
- Working group established to explore how to enhance the CCPR/JMPR evaluation process.

CCPR55

MRL recommendations from JMPR2023 on:

- **35** Pesticides
- **7** New Compounds
- **4** Periodic Review Compounds

2025 Proposed Schedule

- **6** New Compounds
- **37** New Use Evaluations
- **6** Periodic Review Compounds
- **3** Compounds with Review Status

Other CCPR55 Agenda Items

Compounds with dual use as a pesticide and veterinary drug

Guidelines on the storage stability of multiclass reference materials

Management of Unsupported Compounds

Enhancement of Operational Procedures of CCPR/JMPR

Enhancement of the Operational Procedures of CCPR/JMPR

CCPR54 (2023)

- Committee reached consensus that there is a need to enhance CCPR and JMPR to address concerns related to current workload and future demand.
- Collected feedback on ways to improve data submission, procedures, staffing and resources, and alternative review models.

CCPR55 (2024)

- Working group exploring approaches to identify priorities and develop an implementation roadmap.

Goal:

Address immediate stakeholder concerns related to the backlog of evaluations and be responsive to the needs of JMPR.

Convene an extraordinary meeting of JMPR to reduce the backlog of new use evaluations.

Complete a targeted project that improves JMPR's evaluation process.

Potential ▶ Short-term Approaches

Goal:

Address strategic issues related to CCPR/JMPR policy/ procedures and independently evaluate JMPR's working procedures.

Request recommendations from JMPR and data sponsors on enhancements to policy and procedural Issues.

Request that FAO/WHO conduct an organizational assessment and review the working procedures of CCPR and JMPR.

Potential
▶ Long-term
Approaches

Codex Website

- Excellent resource on everything Codex: Adopted Standards, Guidelines, and Codes of Practice
- Official meeting reports from previous committee sessions—some going back as far as the establishment of Codex
- Provisional agendas and working documents on individual committee pages for all active committees
- Calendar of committee meetings and events
- Electronic Working Group (EWG) invitations
- Databases for Maximum Residue Limits
- Publications

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en>

Thank
you!

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