



ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTHEAST
ASIAN NATIONS

ASEAN HARMONIZED MRLs

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***2019 MRL Harmonization Workshop
May 29-30, 2019
San Francisco, CA, USA***



ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)

- ASEAN - An association of 10 South-East Asia nations.
- Diverse socio-economic interests from member countries in term of MRL setting.

Brunei	Myanmar
Cambodia	Philippines
Indonesia	Singapore
Lao PDR	Thailand
Malaysia	Vietnam



Introduction

- A technical working group (EWG-MRL) on establishing a regional MRL for ASEAN.

The Expert Working Group (EWG) on Harmonisation of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries.

- Members of EWG-MRL:
 - Representatives of regulatory authorities from ASEAN Member States (AMS).
 - Chairperson (rotated among volunteered AMS on 3 years basis).
 - Secretary of EWG-MRL from the ASEAN Secretariat (based in Jakarta, Indonesia).



The list of EWG-MRL meetings

The first meeting was held in 1996, Malaysia. The EWG-MRL has convened 23rd times.

No.	Year	Country	No.	Year	Country
1	1996	Malaysia	13	2009	Myanmar
2	1997	Indonesia	14	2010	Singapore
3	1998	Philippines	15	2011	Thailand
4	1999	Singapore	16	2012	Lao PDR
5	2000	Thailand	17	2013	Viet Nam
6	2001	Thailand	18	2014	Brunei
7	2002	Viet Nam	19	2015	Cambodia
8	2004	Brunei	20	2016	Indonesia
9	2004	Cambodia	21	2017	Malaysia
10	2006	Indonesia	22	2018	Lao PDR
11	2007	Malaysia	23	2019	Singapore
12	2008	Philippines	24	2020	Myanmar (future)

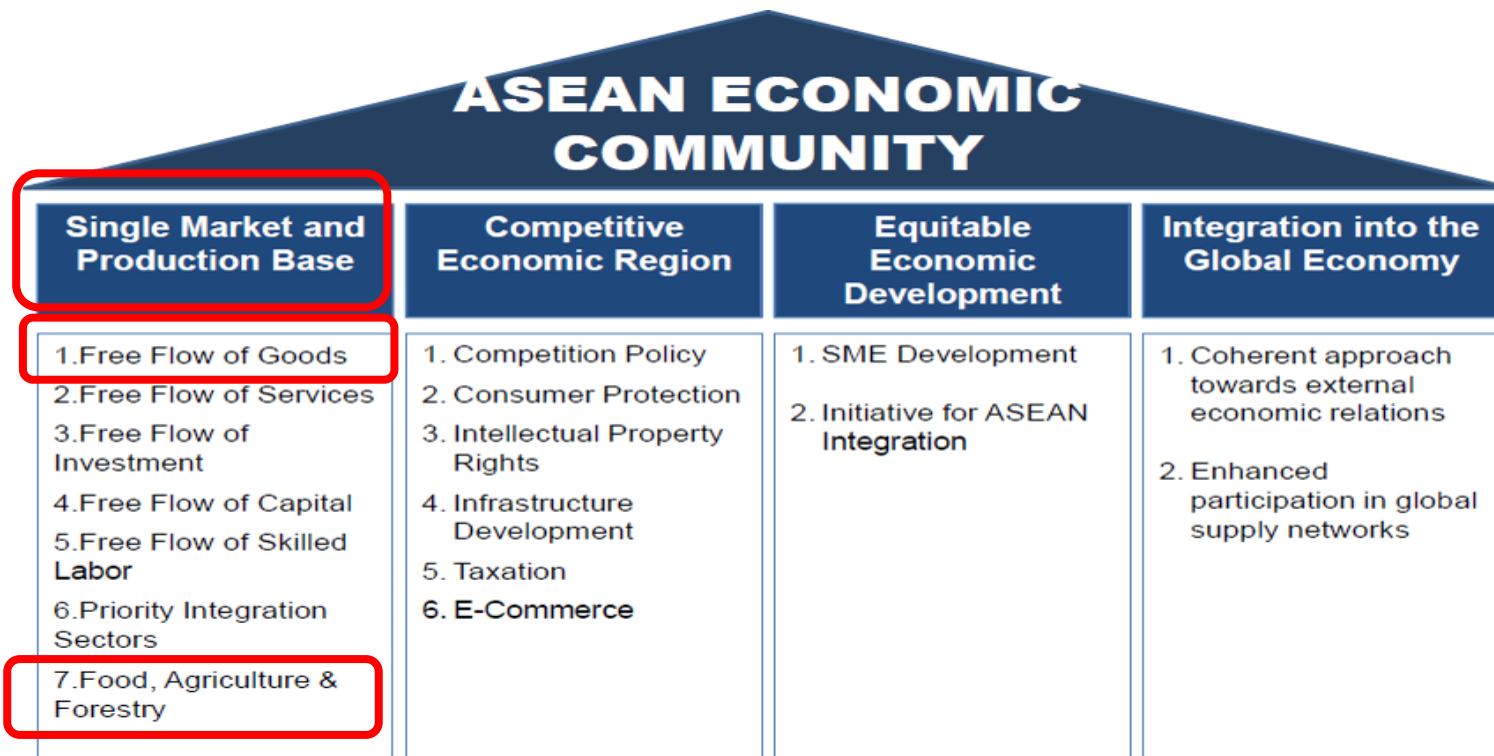


Introduction

- More than 850 ASEAN Harmonized MRLs have been established.
- Objective of EWG-MRL: To facilitate agricultural commodities trade in ASEAN region.
- Main functions of the EWG-MRL:
 - Adopt relevant Codex MRLs as ASEAN Harmonized MRLs.
 - Established ASEAN Harmonized MRLs from residue data generated regionally.
- Decision of the EWG-MRL is based on consensus of AMS. Voting is not part of the decision making of the EWG-MRL.



Main Elements of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)



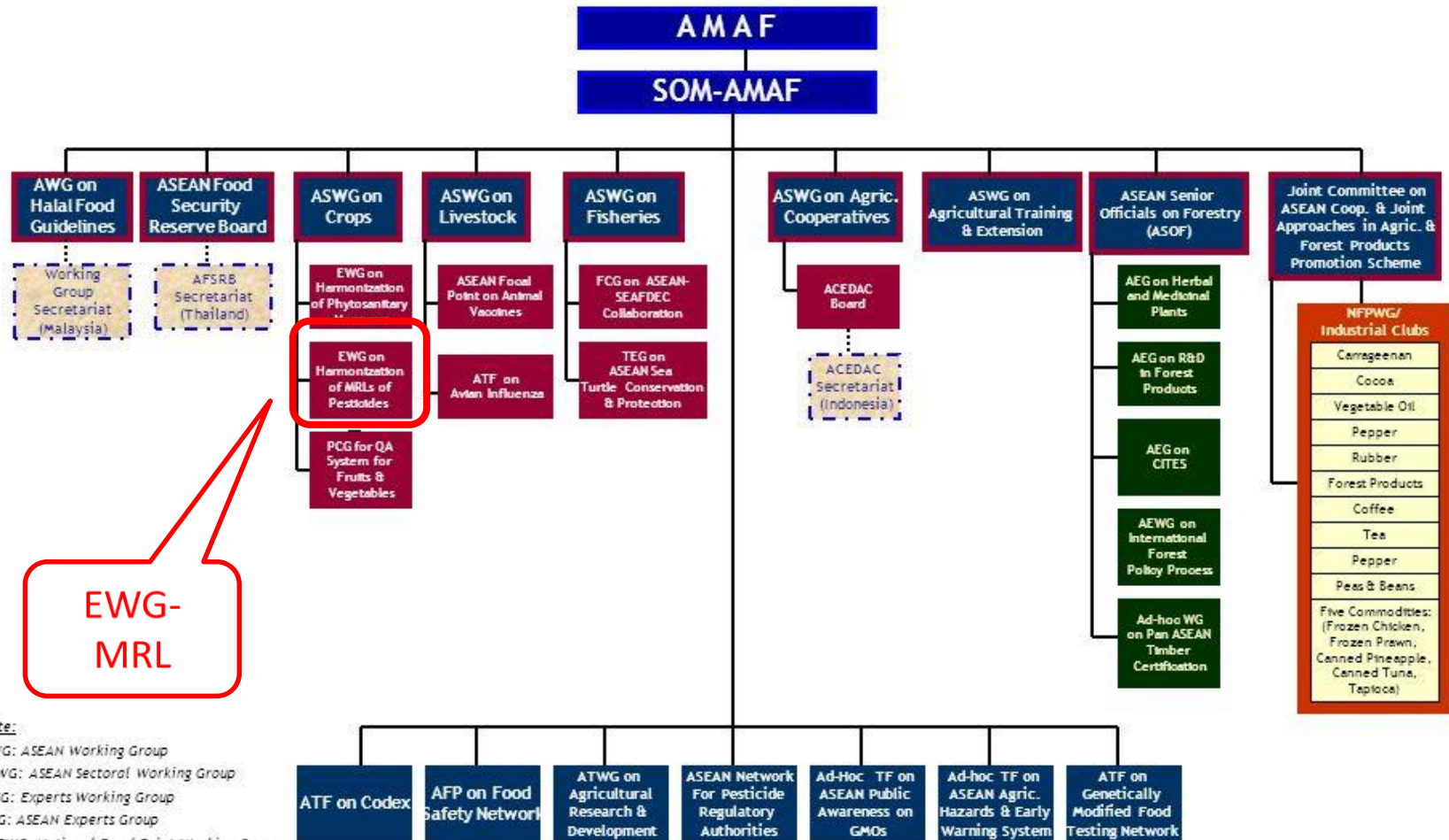
Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation

- **AMAF's Key Mandates and Expected Deliverables**

- Enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products/commodities
 - Harmonise the safety and quality standards for horticultural produce and agricultural products of economic importance in ASEAN.
 - Establish GAP/GAHP/GHP/GMP/HACCP for agricultural and food products with significant trade/trade potential.
 - Harmonise the quarantine and inspection/sampling procedure and SPS measures for products with significant trade/trade potential.
 - **Harmonise the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of commonly used pesticides for widely traded crop products.**
 - Harmonise the regulatory framework for agricultural products derived from modern biotechnology.



ASEAN Organization Structure on Food, Agriculture & Forestry Cooperation



EWG-MRL

- Note:**
- AWG: ASEAN Working Group
 - ASWG: ASEAN Sectoral Working Group
 - EWG: Experts Working Group
 - AEG: ASEAN Experts Group
 - NFPWG: National Focal Point Working Group
 - TEG: Technical Experts Group
 - AFP: ASEAN Focal Points
 - ATWG: ASEAN Technical Working Group
 - ATF: ASEAN Task Force

PRINCIPLE FOR HARMONISATION OF ASEAN MRLs

- **Where Codex MRLs are available and applicable, these should be adopted as harmonized ASEAN MRLs, subject to the agreement of AMS.**
- **Where Codex MRLs are available but not acceptable due to intake concern, modification of MRLs should be supported with residue trial data and/or risk assessment based on Codex procedures.**
- **Where Codex MRLs are not available, individual Member Countries could propose MRLs to be considered by the EWG-MRLs for harmonization. For such harmonization process, supporting data including residue trial data, GAP, food consumption data and/or risk assessment need to be examined by the EWG-MRLs.**



PRINCIPLE FOR HARMONISATION OF ASEAN MRLs

- **In generating regional data for harmonization process, minimum of four residue trials are required for consideration and establishment of ASEAN harmonized MRLs.**
- **Relevant data should be provided for setting EMRL (Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit) of persistent pesticides.**
- **Pesticides proposed for setting up ASEAN MRLs should have registered uses in at least one ASEAN Country, and the pesticides commodity combination is important for trade among AMCs. The pesticides should have been completely toxicological evaluated by JMPR or OECD countries, otherwise toxicological evaluation have to be submitted to EWG-MRLs by the proposing country.**
- **Harmonized ASEAN MRLs should be reviewed when it is needed in the situations (as described in the next slide).**



The 12th EWG-MRLs, 16-18 Jan.2008, Makati City

A. Principles of Harmonization

- Pesticide proposed must be registered in any ASEAN countries.
- ASEAN MRLs could be adopted from Codex MRLs, if available and applicable.
- If Codex MRLs are not acceptable, modification of MRL has to be supported with residue trial data and/ or risk assessment based on Codex procedures.
- If Codex MRLs are not available, establishment of MRL will follow Codex procedures using local residue trials and dietary risk assessment.

B. Data requirement for ASEAN MRLs

- Residue data from supervised trials in relation to national GAP (Good Agricultural Practice).
- Dietary exposure estimate, based on food consultation data and food chemical concentration, using different data base for chronic exposure and acute exposure assessment.



C. Requirements for residue field trial to generate ASEAN MRLs

- A minimum number of 4 trials are required in the region.
- This must be conducted under worst case scenario or critical GAP (e.g max no. of applications, highest rate etc.)
- In the case of increasing or reduction of application rate, the rate 25% rule is allowed.

Requirement for Submission of field trial data :

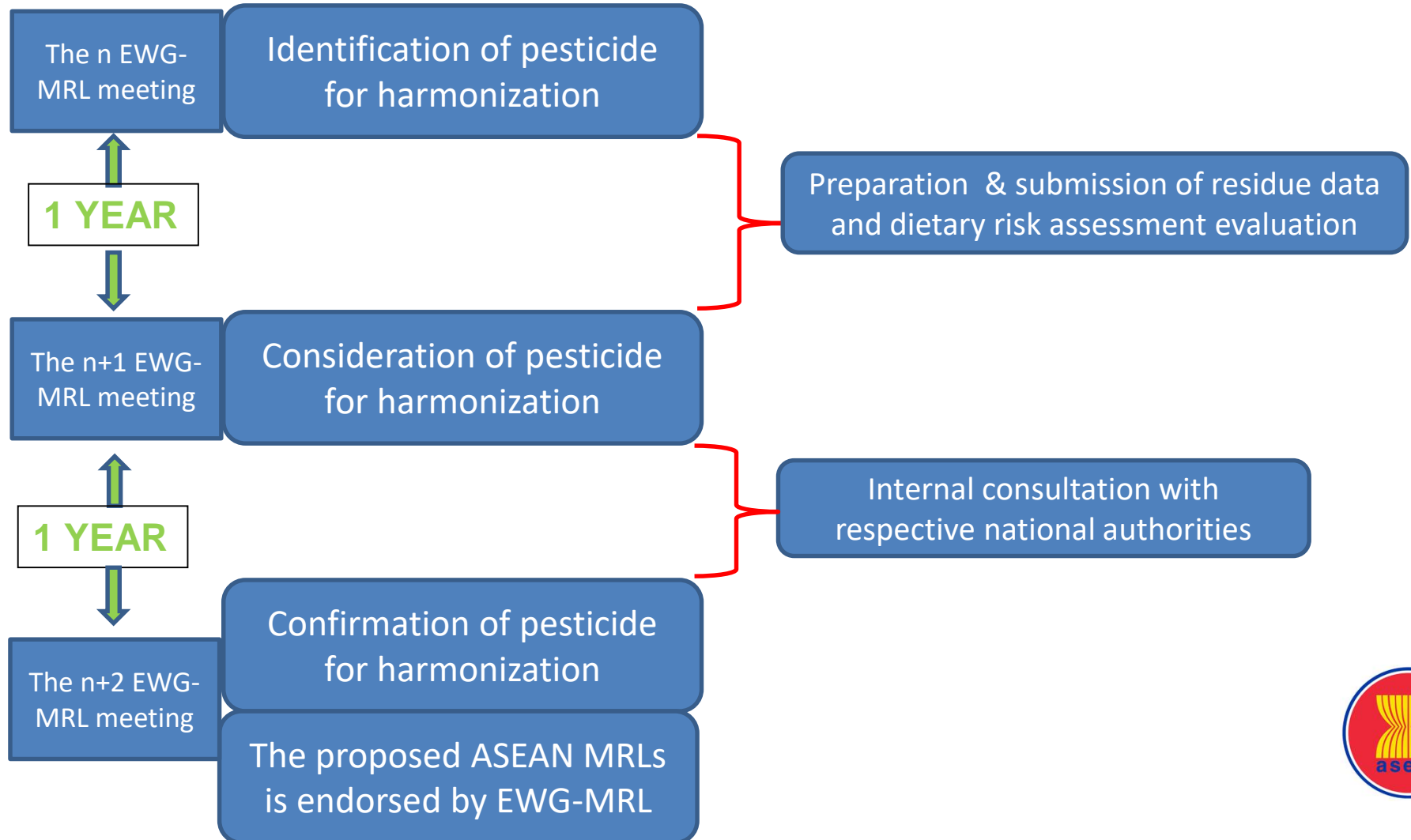
- Residue Data Summary from Supervised Trials,
- FAO Format (part A and B), and
- Summary of GAP.

D. New proposal for harmonization

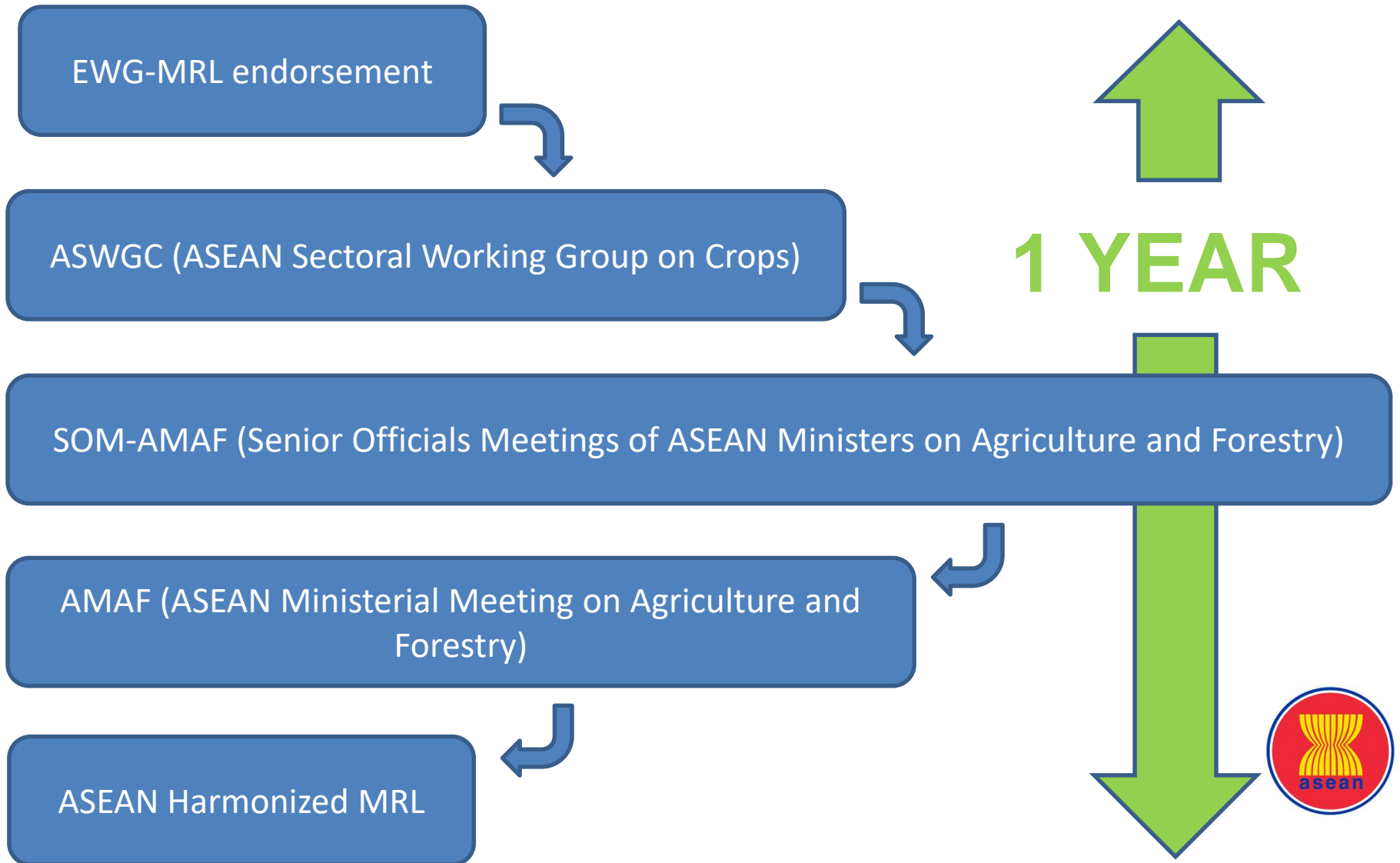
- *The 17th Meeting of EWG-MRLs, 23-25 January 2013, Ho Chi Minh City,*
 - The **General Information and Rationale for Proposing Field Trials for Setting up Harmonized ASEAN Pesticide MRLs (Checklist)** should be submitted by the proponent countries when submitting new proposal.



Steps to ASEAN MRL within EWG-MRL frame work



Steps to ASEAN MRL after EWG-MRL endorsement



Latest revision of ASEAN MRLs

- *Existing ASEAN Harmonized MRLs were reviewed by EWG-MRL within 2017-2018.*
- *Four working groups (led by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand) to review existing ASEAN Harmonized MRLs were established in the 21st EWG-MRL (2017).*
- *A total of 750 ASEAN Harmonized MRLs was endorsed by the 22nd EWG-MRL (2018).*
- *The 24th ASWGC in July 2018 has endorsed the reviewed ASEAN Harmonized MRLs for further consideration of SOM-AMAF and AMAF.*



Challenges

- Incorporation of Codex MRL in AMS regulatory framework and adoption of newly established Codex MRLs as ASEAN Harmonised MRLs:
 - Implication on workloads to EWG-MRL in term of periodic review of ASEAN Harmonised MRLs.
 - Overlapping with Codex MRLs adopted in ASEAN Member States.
- Future approach: adopt Codex MRLs as ASEAN Harmonized MRLs on need basis



Opportunities and way forward

- Endorsement of proposed ASEAN MRL is based on consensus of AMS (ASEAN Member States). Disagreement at the EWG-MRL on certain proposed ASEAN MRLs were due to differing interpretation of dietary risk assessment.
- Adoption of ASEAN Harmonised MRLs in certain AMS:
 - Adoption of ASEAN MRLs to be part of AMS regulatory framework (35th AMAF, 26 September 2013).



Opportunities and way forward

- Submission of ASEAN's residue field trials data to the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) to enable recognition of residue data from ASEAN region.
- Collaboration with partners in residue data generation from non-ASEAN region, e.g. The IR-4 project, USDA-FAS, etc.
- Successful establishment of Codex MRL:
 - Azoxystrobin-pitaya
 - Difenoconazole-pitaya
 - Spinetoram-litchi
 - Spinetoram-mango



Opportunities and way forward

- Certain AMS establish ASEAN MRLs instead of establishing import tolerance in AMS where crops are exported.
 - established platform of regional MRL setting
 - enlarged market access
 - Example: Establishment of ASEAN Harmonized MRLs of trifloxystrobin on curry leaves by Malaysia for Singapore market



Opportunities and way forward

- Regional collaboration to generate residue data for establishment of ASEAN MRLs within EWG-MRL platform – cost/resource sharing.

Collaborating countries	Pesticide-crop trials
Malaysia-Thailand	Cypermethrin-mango
Thailand-Singapore	Profenofos-chilli pepper
Malaysia-Thailand	Lambda-cyhalothrin-okra



Latest development

- Proposal to expand EWG-MRL to include APEC Import MRL guideline.
 - Import MRL established as ASEAN Harmonised MRL based on request from proposing countries (non-ASEAN countries).
 - Under consideration by respective ASEAN Member States.
 - The proposal will be accepted through only if all member countries agree (decision is based on AMS consensus).
- Separate new project proposal under ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Economic Cooperation Support Programme:
 - to establish import tolerance procedure through consultation, training and capacity building among national authorities of AMS.



Thank you

