

# Registrant Perspectives on MRL Strategies

*Cheryl B. Cleveland, Ph. D*

*Human Health Assessment*

***Regulatory Science and Government Affairs***

***Dow AgroSciences R&D***

*Indianapolis, IN*

## MRL= Maximum legal limit of a residue in/on food

### ***What it is***

Derived from residue studies of maximized use pattern to set upper bound for local enforcement of GAP (labeled use)

Regulatory standard which may facilitate or impede global trade of food

Set in context of an acceptable dietary risk/safety assessment

Conservative input of exposure for dietary risk/safety assessment for humans

### ***What it is not***

Final Value not set by registrants, although based on data they provide

Simple to plan globally

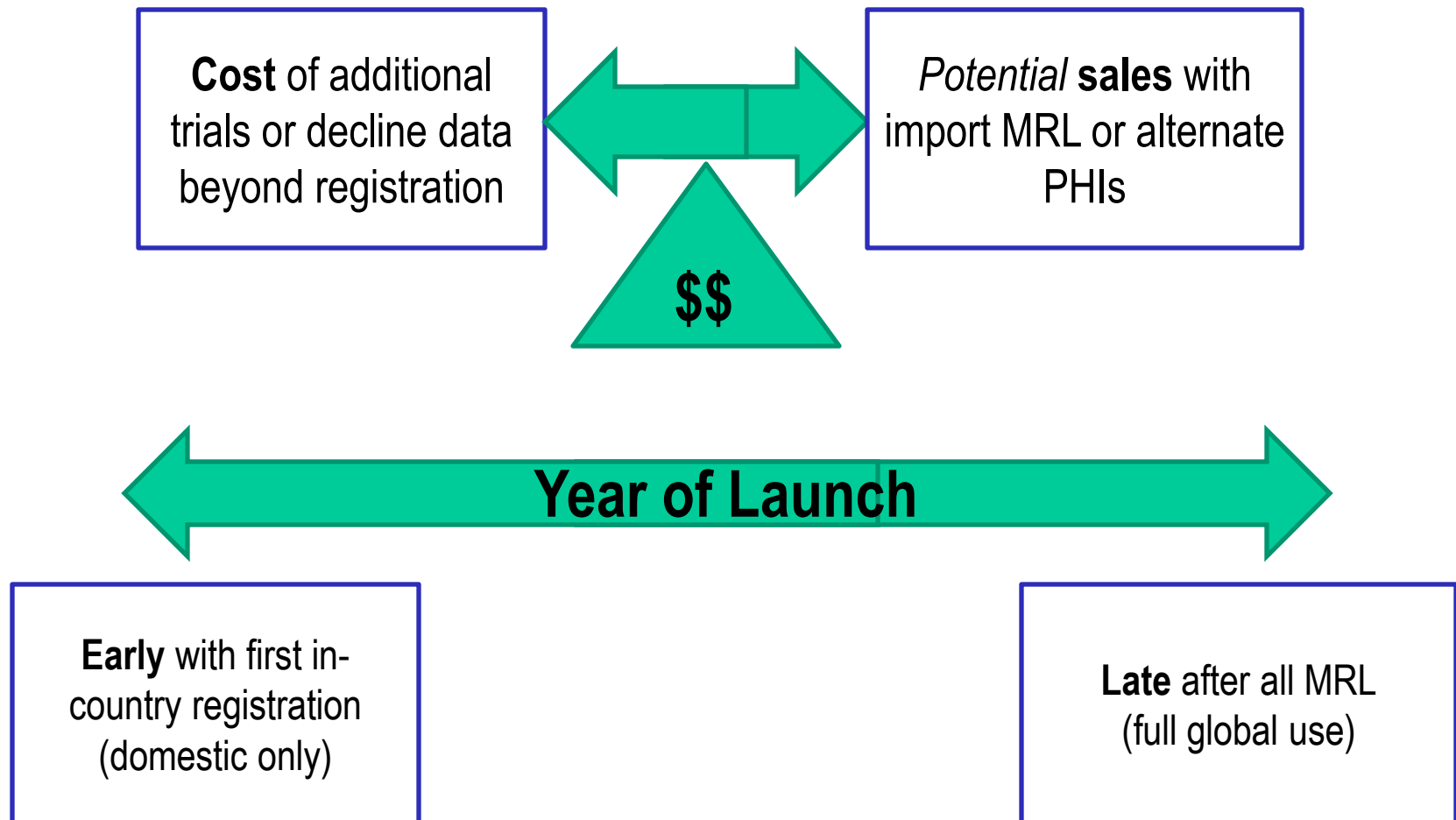
A stand-alone health standard

Realistic measure of typical exposure

# Registrant R&D and Regulatory Actions

- Established in-country MRL = price of market entry with much R&D behind MRL:
  - Efficacy trials, mammalian health endpoints, plant metabolism, analytical methods and residue trials
- Import MRLs are important (up to critical), to support crop exports and trade
  - Customer/food chain expectations for comprehensive coverage increasing
  - But import country timing often trails initial registration

# The Registrant Balancing Act



# Residues and MRLs at Dow AgroSciences

- Long history of **residue data** development
- Active with **Codex MRL** process for many years
- **Global MRL Initiative** launched during 2003
  - New global project management system
  - To provide training for new staff in residue chemistry or regulatory manager roles
  - Increasing interest in international trade, MRL harmonization
  - Global, cross-functional team formed to provide leadership and guidance across projects, functions, and regions

# DAS Global MRL Initiative

- **Mission** - Drive development of effective molecule, project and regional regulatory strategies related to MRLs and import residue issues
- Areas of emphasis
  - **Awareness** and **communication** regarding residue and MRLs
  - Enhance effective planning at global and local levels with practical **tools** and **training**
  - Encourage regulatory **molecule strategies** with explicit coverage of MRL issues, including existing MRL discrepancies
  - Ensure development of **regional strategies** to address significant changes in MRL regulations
  - Cultivate **external** relationships for advancing MRL harmonization and a favorable regulatory climate

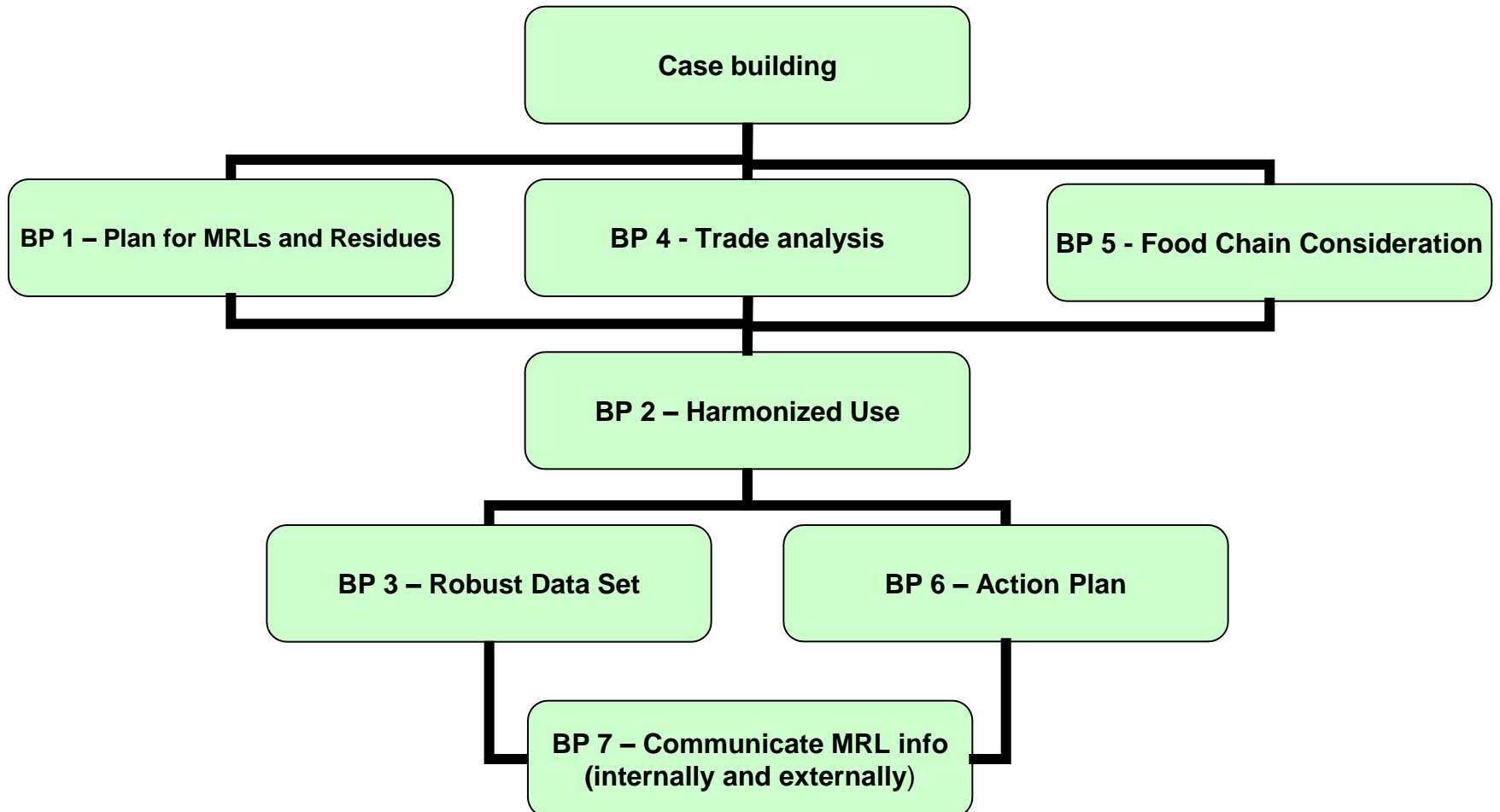
## 7 Best Practices for MRL/Residue Focus in New Projects

- To minimize impact of potential trade issues associated with **new product or use** development /launch from residue issues or disharmonized MRLs globally
  - Can also be used for existing uses for unaddressed MRL gaps, at times
- Bridge **intersection** of commercial planning , marketing & regulatory legal requirements

## 7 Best Practices for MRL/Residues

1. Develop **residue and MRL assumptions** at planning stage of new actives, crop uses, and formulations.
2. For new use in multiple countries, **standardize GAP** to support harmonized MRL standards.
3. Develop **robust residue database** for regulatory, food chain and stewardship.
4. Perform **global trade analysis** of treated crops to identify and prioritize critical import/export connections.
5. Assess **food chain** needs in residue/MRL assumptions, action plans, and communication.
6. Forge **MRL action plan** to minimize residue concerns and trade irritants.
7. **Communicate MRL/residue strategy** with stakeholders as appropriate..

# MRL Practice Interrelationships



# Best Practice 1: Planning

***Develop residue and MRL **assumptions** at planning stage for all projects involving new active ingredients, new or revised crop uses, and new formulations***

## Planning Tools

- Residues and MRLs Checklist
  - Series of diagnostic questions to catalyze planning
    - e.g., (examples from next slide)
- Technical Assumptions and Issues document
  - Captures key residue and MRL assumptions
- USDA IR-4 Project Clearance Request (PCR) form

# Example of Checklist



## Residue, Food Chain, and MRL Considerations for CPS Projects

Key Question	Project-Specific Responses and Explanation
<p>What specific crops and countries are being supported in the business case, and which local MRLs are being proposed?</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p>

# USDA IR-4 Project Clearance Request (PCR) Form

Is this an export commodity:	<b>Yes</b> <b>No</b>
Key Export Markets:	
Are there MRLs established in key export markets?:	<b>Yes</b> <b>No</b>
	Which markets?:

## Best Practice 2: Use Harmonized

*When pursuing a new crop use in multiple countries, develop **harmonized critical GAP** (i.e., label use directions) for establishment of harmonized MRL*

- Critical GAP = way product used from a maximum residues perspective
  - eg: max use rate, growth stage, No. applications, shortest PHI
- Benefits of Harmonized Use
  - share residue data between countries with fewer trials in each country
- Potential to have same MRLs in each country
  - GAP determines MRL; methods to set are not consistent around world (yet) - Closer with OECD MRL calculator

# Difficulties Harmonizing GAPs

- **Global Variation** in Product Expectations
- Different **agronomic practices** and business cases
- Sometimes acceptable GAP is the result of avoiding **environmental risks** e.g. EU groundwater levels.
- **Local use patterns** can if necessary, be beneath global harmonized GAP.
- Not all countries use the same **crop grouping**; choosing crops for residue analysis can be difficult.

# Not all MRL disconnections are equal

- Case 1 – **Different Use Pattern**
  - observable residue differences are real

US	Codex	EU
2.5	2.0	0.05

- Case 2 – Same Data, but **Different Interpretation**
  - of lower limit by authorities, residue profile is the same

US	Codex	EU
0.04	0.01	0.02

## Best Practice 3: Robust Database

*Develop a **robust residue database** for regulatory, food chain, and stewardship purposes*

A Robust database of residue-related information supports:

1. **Basic Regulatory activity** –registration approval (new products, new uses, re-registration, etc.), obtaining import MRLs, supporting minor uses activity.
2. **Food chain activity** –guidance to stakeholders seeking advice of the fate and behaviour of residues.
3. **Product stewardship activity** - post-registration queries and product stewardship issues

## Best Practice 4: Trade Analysis

***Complete a **global trade analysis** of treated crops to identify and prioritize critical import/export connections supporting MRL and/or food chain action plans.***

## BP 4: Trade Analysis

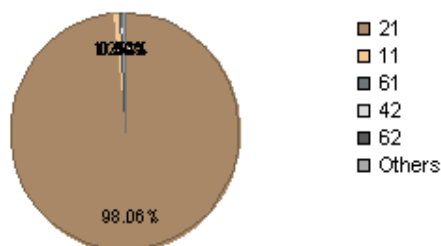
- Identification of **country/crop** (food or feed) combinations (e.g. cherries from US)
- Target **export/import trade relations** of interest (e.g. Canada and Japan are largest US cherry importers; also trade with EU, Korea, Taiwan)
- Consider **total size of market** as well as domestic vs export market (e.g. US exports ~14% of production)
- Determine existing or projected **MRL value** in country of production for a given active ingredient (US tolerance 0.2 ppm)
- Consider national **policies, defaults** and extent of residue **monitoring** program and MRL enforcement in key importing countries (e.g. Japan sets own MRL has very strict program)
- Are there **MRLs** in importing countries that **facilitate trade**? (If none or lower MRL value in importing country compared to exporting country, **then is trade irritant**)
- Consider actions as to establish new import MRL, revise GAPs, conduct residue decline trials, or communicate residue and/or MRL information to growers. (e.g. Japan MRL proposed for further action)

[Home](#)**Shortcut Query**

Show  of  in the year   
 from  to   
 in  classification.

**Trade in Graph**

Other Asia, nes in 2009 :  
 Top 5 imported commodities (2 digit code BEC)  
 from Togo



- Industrial supplies nes, primary** (98.06%)
  - Food and beverages, primary** (1.25%)
  - Consumption goods nes, durable** (0.54%)
  - Parts and accessories of capital goods (except transport equipment)** (0.12%)
  - Consumption goods nes, semi-durable** (0.03%)
  - Others** (0.00%)
- [\(details\)](#). [graph more...](#)

**Data Availability**

The latest reported data from Other Asia, nes was in 2009.

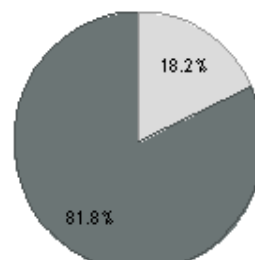
Welcome to UN Comtrade!  
 You are identified as [Comtrade Guest](#).

**What's New on Comtrade** [RSS](#)

[2010.07.28] [Monthly Bulletin of Statistics tables](#) updated [more...](#)

**What's inside**

Available Trade in UN Comtrade as share of World Trade for 2009 (world trade 2009 is estimated at 24.9 trillion US dollars)

**Work on IMTS**

- > [Methodology IMTS](#)
- > [Analytical Tables\\*](#)
- > [Int.Coop. & Workshops](#)
- > [Newsletter\\*](#)

\* regularly updated

Search for  data  help

 
**Help / Guideline / FAQ**

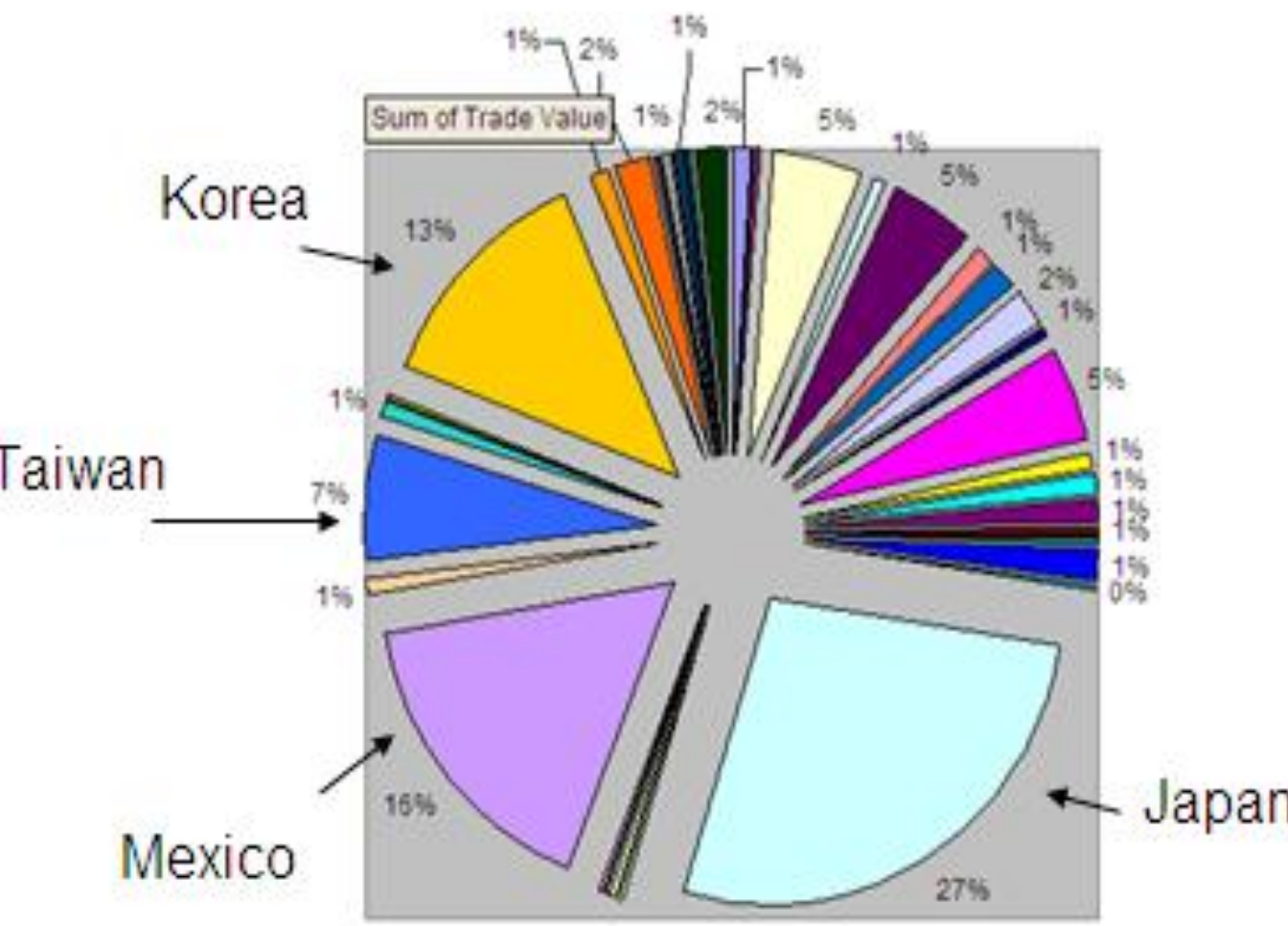
- > [What is UN Comtrade?](#)
- > [Subscribe to UN Comtrade](#)
- > [Use UN Comtrade](#)
- > [Quick search knowledgebase](#)

**Released data**

	# of country periods
<a href="#">today (2010.08.04)</a>	0
<a href="#">in a week</a>	8
<a href="#">in a month</a>	37
<a href="#">year-to-date</a>	238
<a href="#">in a year</a>	392
<a href="#">all data</a>	6084

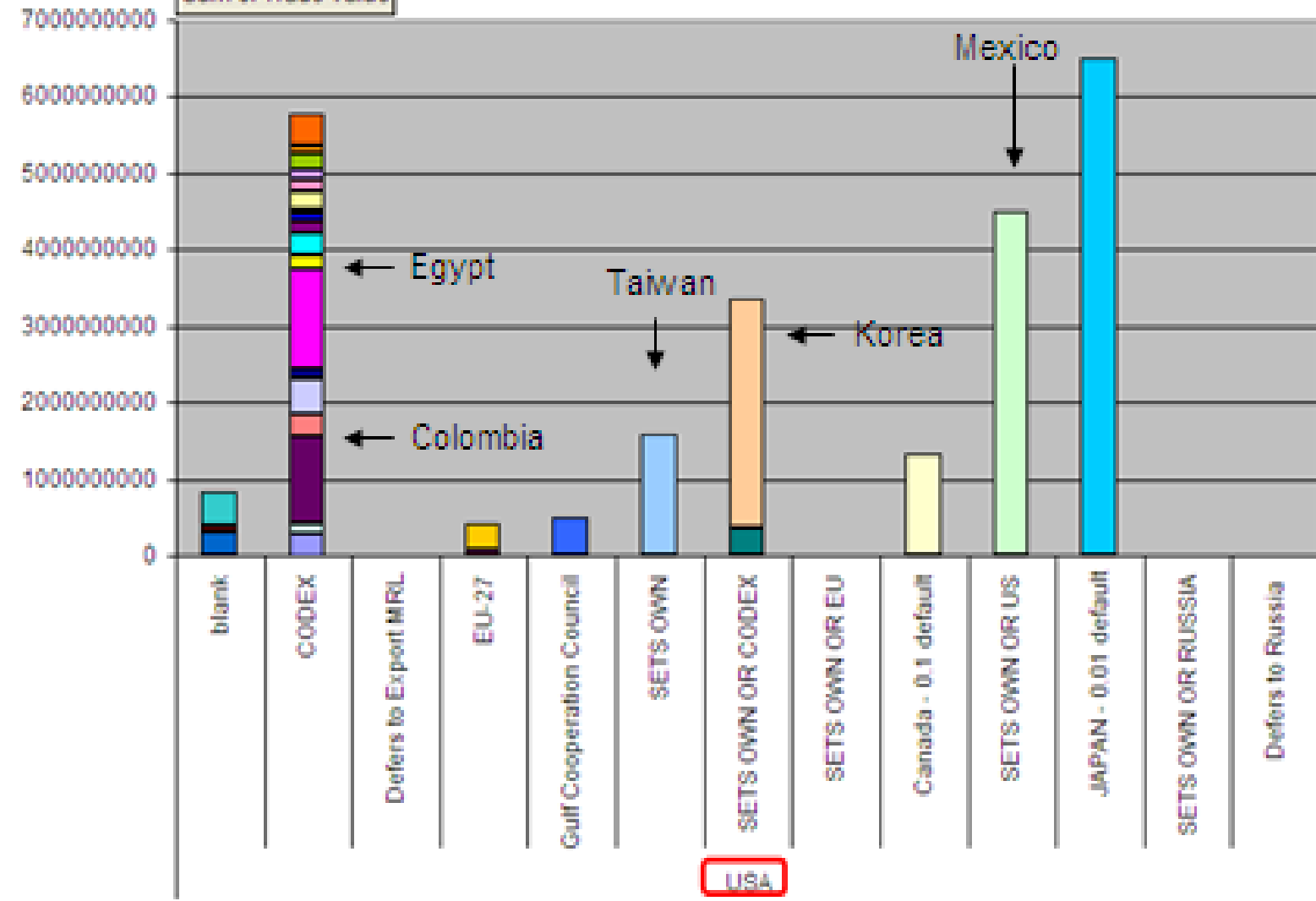


- Partner with EU Grouping
- Algeria
  - Areas, nes
  - Canada
  - Chile
  - Colombia
  - Costa Rica
  - Cuba
  - Dominican Rep.
  - Ecuador
  - Egypt
  - El Salvador
  - EU
  - Guatemala
  - Honduras
  - Iran
  - Israel
  - Jamaica
  - Japan
  - Jordan
  - Lebanon
  - Libya
  - Malaysia
  - Mexico
  - Morocco
  - Other Asia, nes
  - Panama



Commodity Grouping

Sum of Trade Value



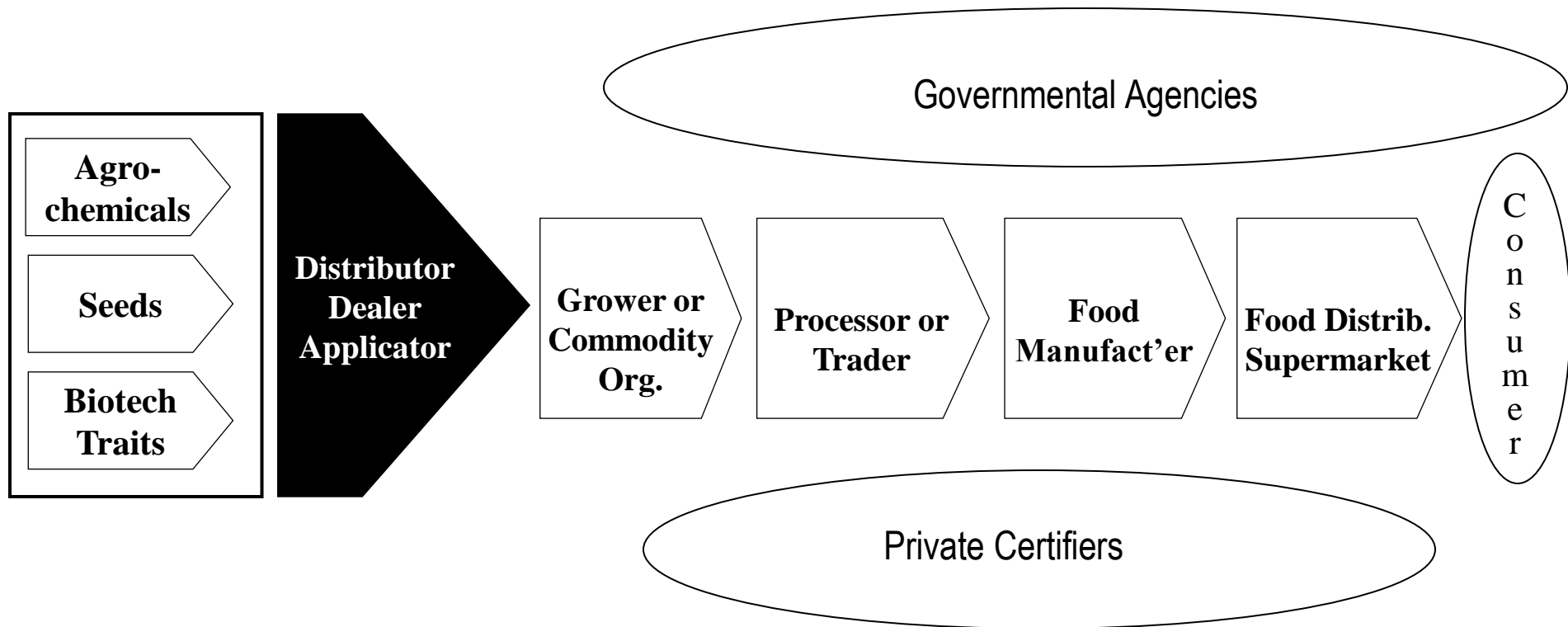
- Partner
- Venezuela
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Turkey
  - Tunisia
  - Syria
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Rep. of Korea
  - Peru
  - Panama
  - Other Asia, nes
  - Morocco
  - Mexico
  - Malaysia
  - Japan
  - Jamaica
  - Israel
  - Iran
  - Honduras
  - Guatemala
  - El Salvador
  - Egypt
  - Ecuador
  - Dominican Rep.
  - Cuba
  - Costa Rica
  - Colombia

## Best Practice 5: Food Chain

**Evaluate *food chain needs* and integrate appropriate food chain considerations into residue and MRL assumptions, action plans, and communication**

- May establish private standards, policies, or preferences related to pesticide residues
  - **Grower cooperative** only use pesticides approved as “**sustainable**” by a private certifying body (e.g., GlobalGAP)
  - **Food distributors** develop lists of **preferred** (green), acceptable (yellow), and prohibited (red) pesticides for foods they handle
  - **Supermarkets** only purchase food containing non-detectable residues or residues at **one-half the legal MRL**
- Although not legally binding, private standards developed for products may be just as influential for use of products

# BP 5: Food Chain Considerations



## Best Practice 6: Action Plan

*Develop and implement an **MRL action plan** to minimize potential residue concerns and trade irritants which may be associated with international trade of treated food crops*

- Pursue **data package** and registration pathway to maximize opportunities for global harmonization
- Establish **Codex MRLs**
- Establish **import MRLs** in key export destinations
- Obtain **registration approval** and MRLs in key export destinations
- Develop residue **decline data** to support export withholding recommendations and/or communications
- *Based on limited trade or small market size, no further action*

## Best Practice 7: Communicate

*Develop **communication strategy** for effective information flow about Residue and MRLs for internal/external stakeholders*

- **Stakeholders want residue/MRL information** for pesticides which they use or that may be present on foods they handle
- Communications may also include **explanations of default MRLs, LOQ MRLs or residue decline data by PHI** to support food chain needs
- Develop **standardized summaries, letter or position paper** regarding progress of global MRL action plans to share with external stakeholders.



## ***News Release***

**Contacts**     Jake LeRoy  
Bader Rutter & Associates  
(262) 938-5494  
[jleroy@bader-rutter.com](mailto:jleroy@bader-rutter.com)

Andy Fordice  
Dow AgroSciences LLC  
(317) 337-4722  
[aifordice@dow.com](mailto:aifordice@dow.com)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Japanese Officials Approve Maximum Residue Levels for Radiant<sup>®</sup> SC and Delegate<sup>®</sup> WG Insecticides from Dow AgroSciences**

**INDIANAPOLIS — April 5, 2011** — Dow AgroSciences announced today that Japan has established Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for spinetoram, the active ingredient in Delegate<sup>®</sup> WG and Radiant<sup>®</sup> SC insecticides. The new MRLs open up a new export market for U.S grown fruits, vegetables and citrus.

# Dow AgroSciences Team Experiences Implementing Best Practices

- Strong support, **easiest** to implement for **new Active ingredients or large new use projects**
- Efforts enhanced by trend in **joint/global reviews**
- Cultivating “residue/MRL mindset” in regulatory and R&D staff
  - Continuing to work with commercial staff and development project leaders

# Acknowledgements

## Dow AgroSciences Global MRL Team

- Ken Racke, US Regulatory, Team Chair
- Carmen Tiu, Residue Expert
- Peter Watson, Regulatory EU
- Cheryl Cleveland, Dietary Risk Assessor
- Al McFadden, Regulatory Canada
- Amalia Ponzio, Regulatory Latin America
- Colin Sharpe, Regulatory Affairs Pacific
- Sheridawn Schoeman, EU Minor Crop Specialist