

Recent Work in the WTO SPS Committee on MRLs

**2017 MRL Harmonization Workshop
San Francisco, California
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Goals of this presentation

Role of the WTO SPS
Committee

Recent Discussions on MRLs

Joint proposal by Kenya,
Uganda and the US

Possible Next steps



WTO SPS Committee

- Regular forum for consultation and to carry out functions related to implementation of the SPS Agreement
 - Non-discrimination
 - Based on science: international standards or risk assessment
 - No more trade restrictive than necessary
 - Transparency



Role on International Standards



- Encourage and **monitor** the use of international standards
- Sponsor technical consultation and study
 - “with objective of **increasing coordination and integration between international and national systems** and approaches for [...] establishing tolerances for contaminants in food...”
- Maintain close contact with Codex
 - “with objective of securing the **best available scientific and technical advice...**”

Role on Specific Trade Concerns (STCs)

- Forum for consultations with countries to **resolve trade concerns** with specific SPS measures
- Raise trade concerns, singly and **in coalitions**, on the “floor” of the Committee
- Provides **regular access to SPS and trade officials** for “bilateral” meetings on the margins



Recent Work on MRLs

- STC discussions on EU Proposal for the Categorization of Compounds as Endocrine Disruptors and EU Regulation 1107/2009
- Glyphosate: Monitoring Use of the International Standard
- India 2015 Paper: “Need for Measures on Detection of Pesticide Residues Not Registered in the Country of Import for Unimpeded Flow of Trade”
- October 2016 Pesticide MRL Workshop



EU Endocrine Disruptors

generation, which was on the lower end of the recommended spectrum. The European Union remained committed to continue working with Members and addressing their concerns on this issue.

Categorization of compounds as endocrine disruptors (STC 382)	
Raised by:	Argentina, China, United States of America
Supported by:	Australia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia
Dates raised:	March 2014 (G/SPS/R/74, paras. 4.3-4.4), March 2015 (G/SPS/R/78, paras. 3.20-3.22), July 2015 (G/SPS/R/79, paras. 3.50-3.52), October 2015 (G/SPS/R/81, paras. 3.34-3.37), March 2016 (G/SPS/R/82, paras. 3.15-3.20), June 2016 (G/SPS/R/83, paras. 4.32-4.37), October 2016 (G/SPS/R/84, paras. 3.18-3.23)
Relevant document(s):	Raised orally
Status:	Not reported
Solution:	
Date reported as resolved:	

2.181. In March 2014, the United States noted that the European Union planned to publish a roadmap outlining different options and a preliminary impact assessment in its process to assess, classify and regulate endocrine disruptors. The United States urged the European Union to swiftly

“Specific Trade Concerns – Note by the Secretariat”

7 March 2017

G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.17

Codex Standard for Glyphosate

- July 2015: U.S. raises concern that Members are considering/taking action to withdraw tolerances based on hazard report; **Ukraine** supports.
- October 2015: U.S. again raises concern; **Brazil, Canada, China and Paraguay** support.
- July 2016: U.S. again raises concern, calls out EU for not reauthorizing based on EFSA opinion; **Argentina, Brazil and Canada** support.
- October 2016: U.S. raises concern, stresses JMPR conclusion; **Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada and New Zealand** support.
- March 2017: Argentina raises concern, calls out EU extension to end-2017; **U.S., Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia and Chile** support.



India – LOD Paper*

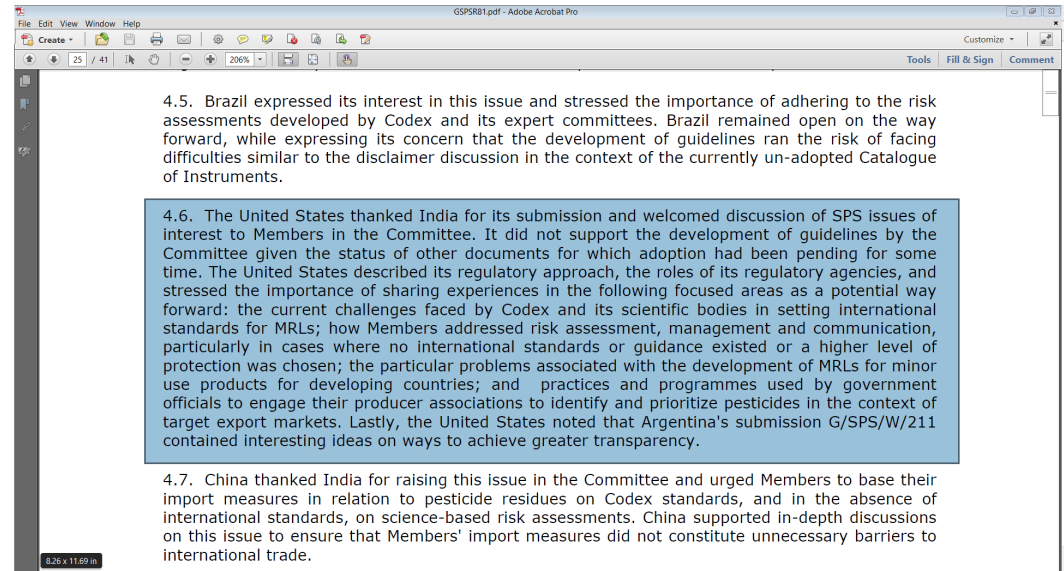
- Focused on LOD problems faced by developing country exporters in major import markets
- Recommended the Committee develop guidelines before importing countries resort to LOD for non-registered pesticides
- Many countries noted importance and complexity of issues; no consensus on developing guidelines
- Committee agreed to explore issues in more depth



*G/SPS/GEN/284

U.S. View: Focus Trade Community on...

- Current challenges in Codex and JMPR
- Central role of risk analysis in setting MRLs
- Minor use & specialty crop issues
- Vital role of producer groups/private sector
- Need to increase transparency



MRL Workshop: Objectives

- Review elements of the SPS Agreement and dispute settlement reports relevant to MRLs
- Review issues and approaches to MRL work in Codex and scientific bodies
- Share information on relevant international, regional and bilateral work on MRLs
- Share experiences in establishing and complying with MRLs, including information on Members domestic legal and regulatory frameworks



Workshop on Pesticide MRLs

October 2016

Program and Presentations: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/wkshop_oct16_e/wkshop_oct16_e.htm

Summary Report:
[G/SPS/R/85](#)



Joint Paper: Kenya, Uganda & US

- Set out core conclusions of workshop
 - Central role of risk analysis in protecting health, enabling safe use, and facilitating trade
 - Broad range of MRL-related issues are currently having a significant impact on trade in food and agricultural products
- Proposed next steps in 5 areas of MRL-related trade issues



Proposed Next Steps for Committee

- **Enable JMPR to Better Respond to Increased Demand and Monitor Progress on New Codex MRLs**
- **Strengthen Notification Practices for Greater Transparency and Predictability on MRLs**
- **Expand Reporting to the Committee on International and Regional Activities on MRLs**
- **Collaborate on Solutions for MRLs for Minor Use and Specialty Crops**
- **Strengthen Role of the Committee in Increasing Coordination and Harmonization**

VEHICLE?



Thank You

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