

Report on South Korea and Taiwan Import MRL Workshops, February 2017

Lois Rossi

**Rossi Regulatory Consulting Group
2017 MRL Harmonization Workshop**

May 31 – June 1, 2017

San Francisco, California

TASC Grant: Workshops on Import MRLs (Tolerances)

- **Background:**
 - **US specialty crops faced with a lack of pesticide MRLS in key export markets.**
 - **Lack of export MRLs limits the choice of crop protection products as well as export markets.**
 - **Agricultural exports to the Republic of South Korea and Taiwan are \$6.9 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively (2014 figures).**

TASC Grant: Workshops on Import MRLs (Tolerances)

- **Need:**

- In 2011 South Korean issued a WTO notification initiating a process for updating its MRL regulatory system to a Positive List System. This new process would result in deleting all existing MRLs for pesticides not registered for domestic use in South Korea.
- Taiwan continued to process import MRL applications for pesticide/ crop combinations on the priority list submitted by USDA-FAS in 2014 as well as other applications received.
- Industry had some experience in submitting applications for import MRLs to both countries but also had many questions.
- Idea to have in-country workshops with regulatory officials and representatives from industry and commodity associations.

TASC Grant: Workshops on Import MRLs (Tolerances)

TASC Grant:

- **Crop Life America applied to USDA-FAS for a TASC grant to hold workshops in the Republic of South Korea and Taiwan.**
- **Goals for the workshops:**
 - **To build on the constructive dialogue already established with competent authorities and industry and commodity group stakeholders.**
 - **To gain an in-depth understanding of the Import MRL regulatory system in both countries to allow industry to support and promote a safe, abundant and affordable globally traded food supply.**
 - **To improve the quality of future import MRL submissions, increase the rate of the successful establishment of import MRLs, and promote harmonized MRLs to reduce the potential of trade irritants.**

TASC Grant: Workshops on Import MRLs (Tolerances)

Workshops:

- **Delegation of representatives from company members of Crop Life America, in-country company representatives, USDA-FAS (In-country and Washington, DC) , representatives from commodity groups attended workshops with representatives from the South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) on February 9-10, 2017 in Seoul;**
- **Similarly , on February 13, 2017 a workshop was held with representatives of the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) in Taipei.**

TASC Grant: Workshops on Import MRLs (Tolerances)

Results:

- **Informative presentations and fruitful discussions occurred in both workshops.**
- **Many questions asked of the regulatory officials and information openly shared.**
- **Meeting summary reports and guidance documents (in the format of question and answers) are in the process of being reviewed and finalized in the next month.**



Update: Increasing the Capacity of JMPR

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Background: International Year of Pulse (IYP) Initiative

- 2016 was the International Year of Pulse (IYP) and the Global Pulse Confederation dedicated resources to advocacy efforts concerning the extent of the lack of or misalignment of maximum residue limits (MRLs).
- MRLs that have been established in other jurisdictions but not (yet) at Codex may disrupt trade and constrain growers' productive use of pesticides, including newer, safer products, in pulse growing regions of the world, including farmers in developed and developing countries alike.
- Ongoing MRL challenges as:
 - more countries develop national MRL lists without continuing to reference Codex; applying zero or near-zero default MRLs in absence of established MRLs.

Never a greater need for a single, global MRL reference.

Specifics Initiatives of Strategy

The Global Pulse Commission (GPC) has developed a strategy to aid in support the JMPR/CCPR and Codex MRL establishment initially in the context of the 2016 International Year of Pulses (IYP). Specifics include:

- **The framing of the universe of Codex MRLs needed to minimally match those established in other countries and to address specific specialty crops in countries now globally traded with few Codex MRLs;**
 - **Would be achieved through the development of a “catch-up” plan or closing the gap.**
- **Involve developing countries where the MRLs issues are creating obstacles for farmers.**
- **Increase the number of experts on JMPR, with the support of member countries.**
- **Ensure budget is available to JMPR /CCPR.**

Specifics: “Catch-Up” Plan – Closing the Gap

- The first cut of the universe of needed Codex MRLs is identified, discussions with industry to determine which active ingredients they will support through the Codex process will occur.
- Commodity groups will be contacted to determine priorities for the need for a Codex MRL. The preliminary “catch-up” plan will be refined to further define the Codex MRLs needing to be established.

Specifics of “Catch-Up” Plan

- The “catch-up” plan has been discussed with the FAO and WHO JMPR Secretariats and possible options on how to accomplish the work will be identified.
- Process improvements to efficiently complete the “catch-up” plan and sustain the required pace of establishing Codex MRLs going forward will be critical to the implementation of the plan.
- Additionally, funding options to complete the work in the “catch-up” will be developed in consultation with FAO and WHO.
- Coalitions to advocate to the WHO/FAO leadership and member states the need to establish the MRLs identified in the “catch-up” will be critical to advance the initiative.



Key Messages

- Trade is critical to food security and the ability to trade in food is central to the livelihoods of many of the world's rural poor.
- Delays in the establishment of MRLs and the resulting lack of harmonization have important consequences for market access, productivity and farmer livelihoods
- Enabling Codex to perform its role effectively by addressing current capacity challenges and ensuring adequate resources are available is essential to supporting global food security.

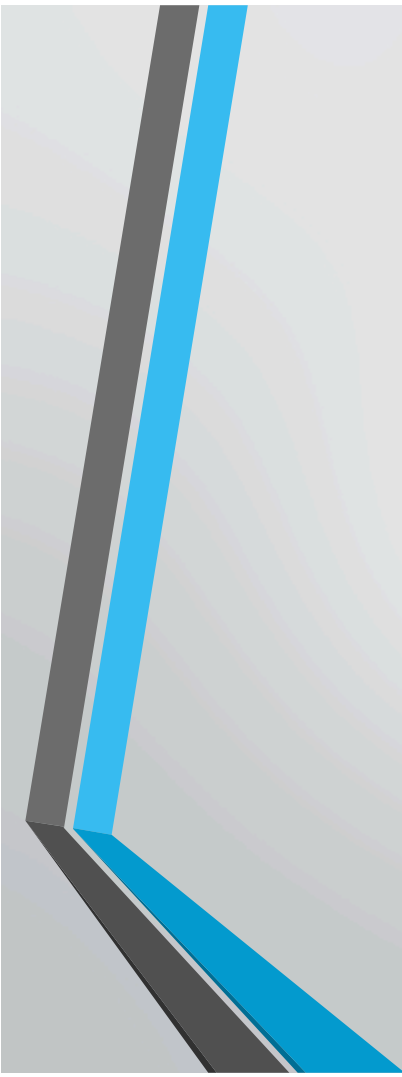
49th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR): April, 2017

Side Event:

- **Global Pulse Confederation 2016 International Year of Pulse Initiative – Wrap-up and Next Steps. *Presentation by Lois Rossi***
- **International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) Coalition to Support Codex Alimentarius to Support Food Security. *Presentation by Coalition Member Louise Roberge, Tea and Herbal Association of Canada***
- **Workshop on Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs): Possible Next Steps for Consideration by the SPS Committee. Joint submission by Kenya, Uganda and the United States. *Presentation by Lucy Namu, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services. (Kenya) and Geoffrey Onen, Government Chemist and Analytical Laboratory, Uganda***

49th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR): April 2017

- 49th CCPR advanced 488 MRLs for 26 active ingredients, the highest number of MRLs advanced to date for approval at the CAC in July.
- Several crop groups advanced to Step 8 and onto adoption by CAC.
- FAO and WHO have agreed to hold extraordinary meetings of the JMPR in addition to the annual meeting held every September provided funding and experts are available; funding for an extraordinary meeting to be held in 2019 was provided by the delegation from Canada and agreed to be FAO, WHO and CCPR delegates.



Thank you for your attention!