



APEC Initiatives to Promote MRL Harmonization and Facilitate Trade



MRL Harmonization Workshop
May 30, 2019

Julie Chao, Senior Technical Trade Advisor
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs
International Regulations and Standards Division



- What is APEC and why is it important for agriculture and trade?
- MRL Harmonization in APEC
- Two Tools for Implementing the APEC Import MRL Guideline
- New MRL Compliance and Enforcement Workstream
- Future Plans For Advancing APEC MRL Harmonization Efforts



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21 APEC Member Economies



Source: APEC

Source: APEC



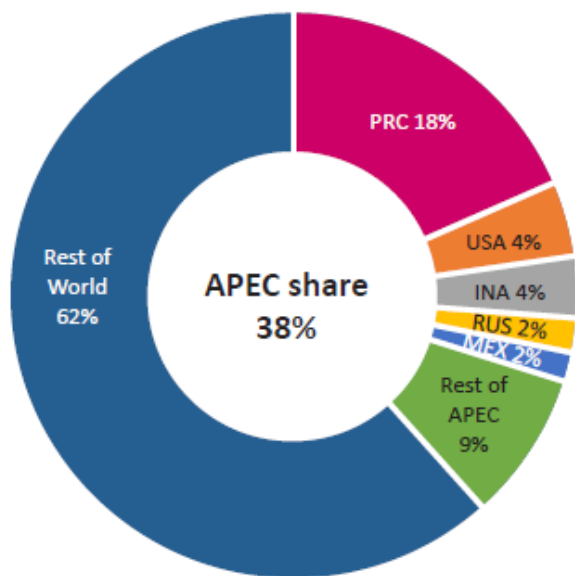
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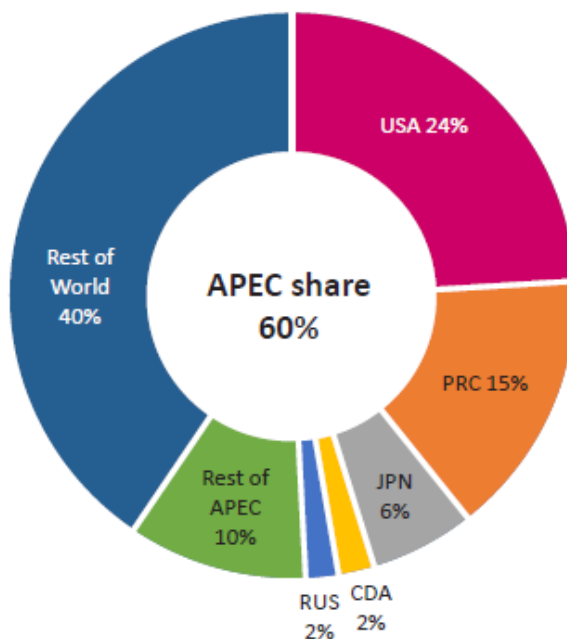
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APEC in the Global Economy (2017)

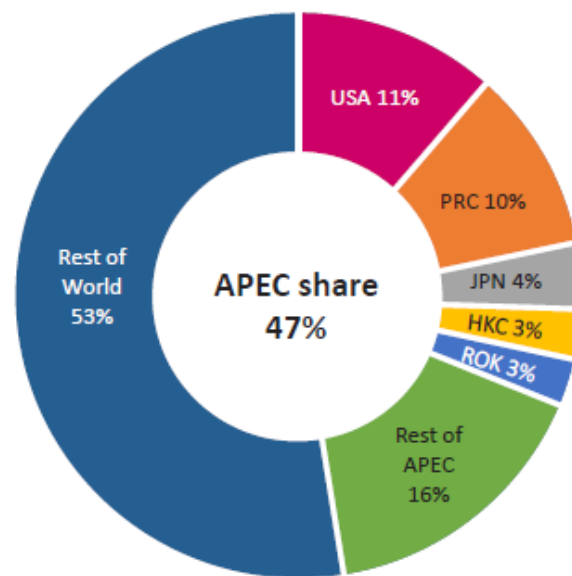
Global Population



Global GDP



Global Trade



Source: APEC in Charts 2018



Agriculture Across APEC

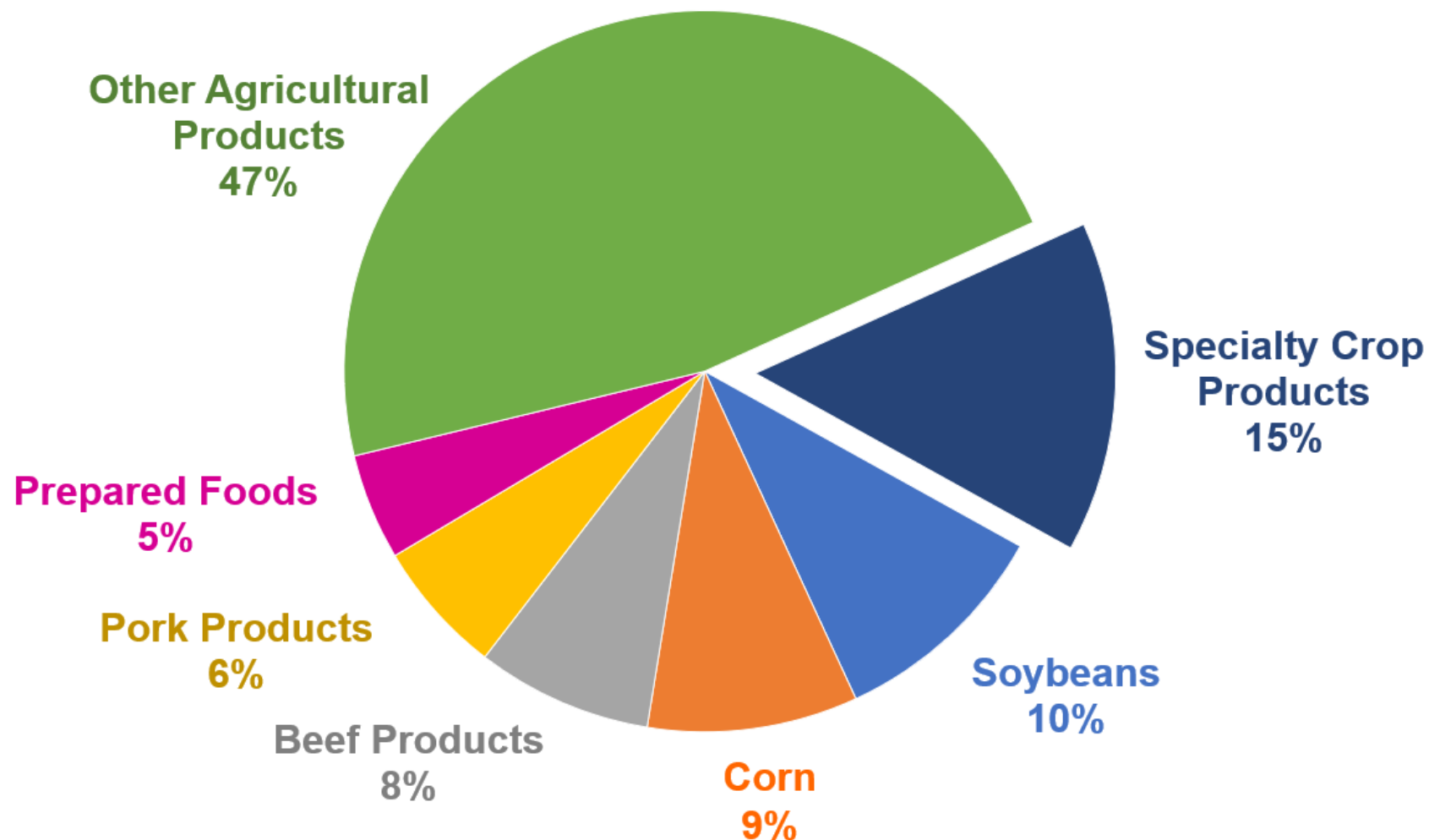


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\$96.4B of U.S. Agricultural Products Exported to APEC in 2018



Data Source: USDA GATS

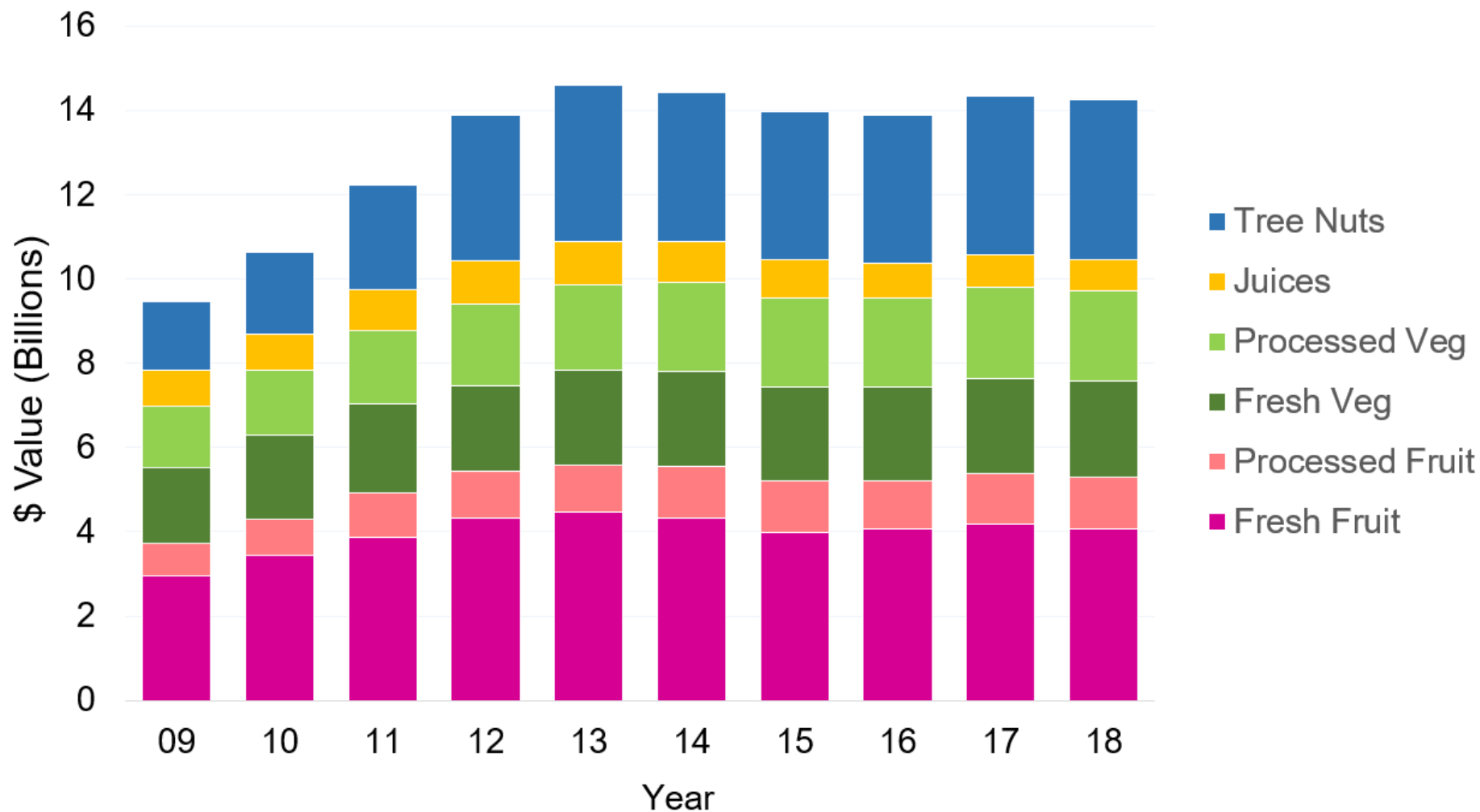


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\$14.3B of U.S. Specialty Crops Exported to APEC in 2018



Data Source: USDA GATS



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\$80.2B of Agricultural Products from APEC Imported to United States in 2018

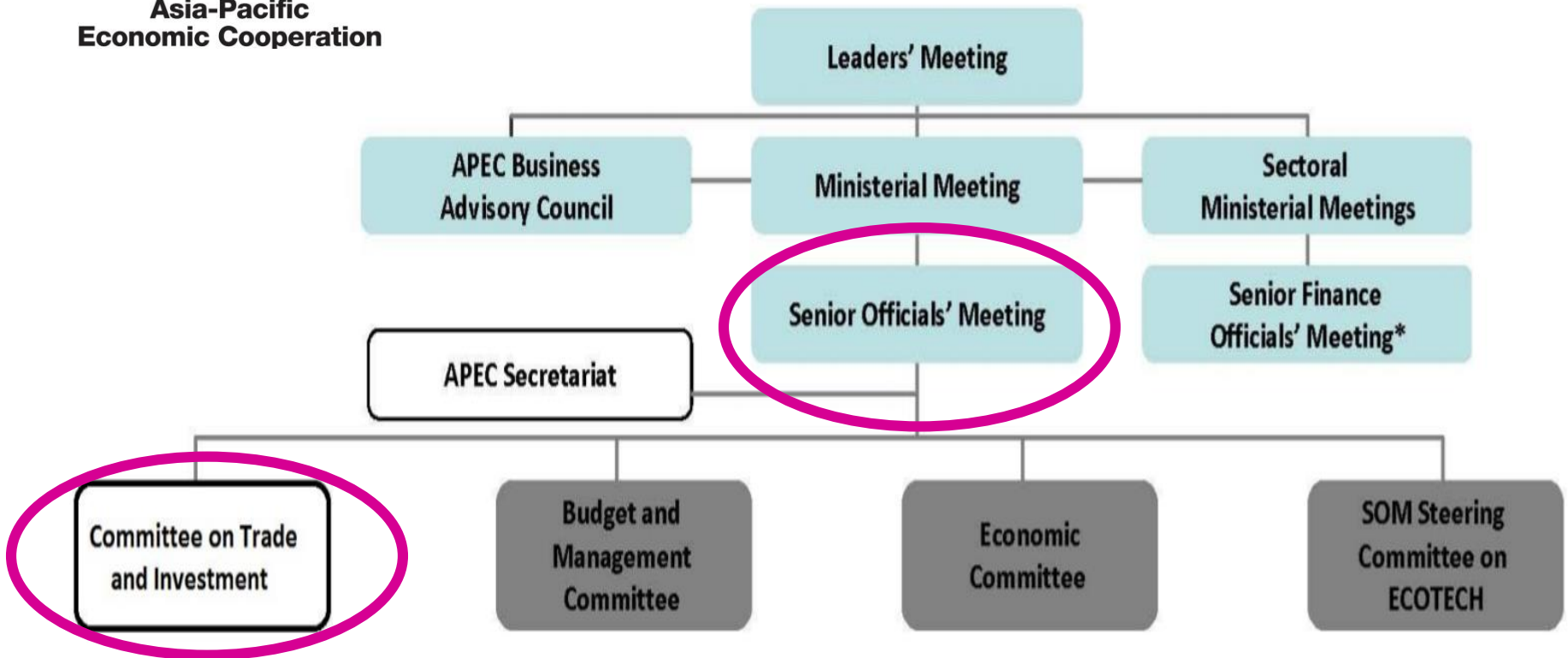


Data Source: USDA GATS

APEC Organizational Structure



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**



Source: APEC

APEC Organizational Structure

Committee on Trade and Investment

Sub-Committees and Expert Groups

- Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance
- Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures
- Market Access Group
- Group on Services
- Investment Experts Group
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Business Mobility Group
- Electronic Commerce Steering Group

Food Safety Cooperation Forum (FSCF)

Partnership Training Institute Network (PTIN)

MRL Harmonization



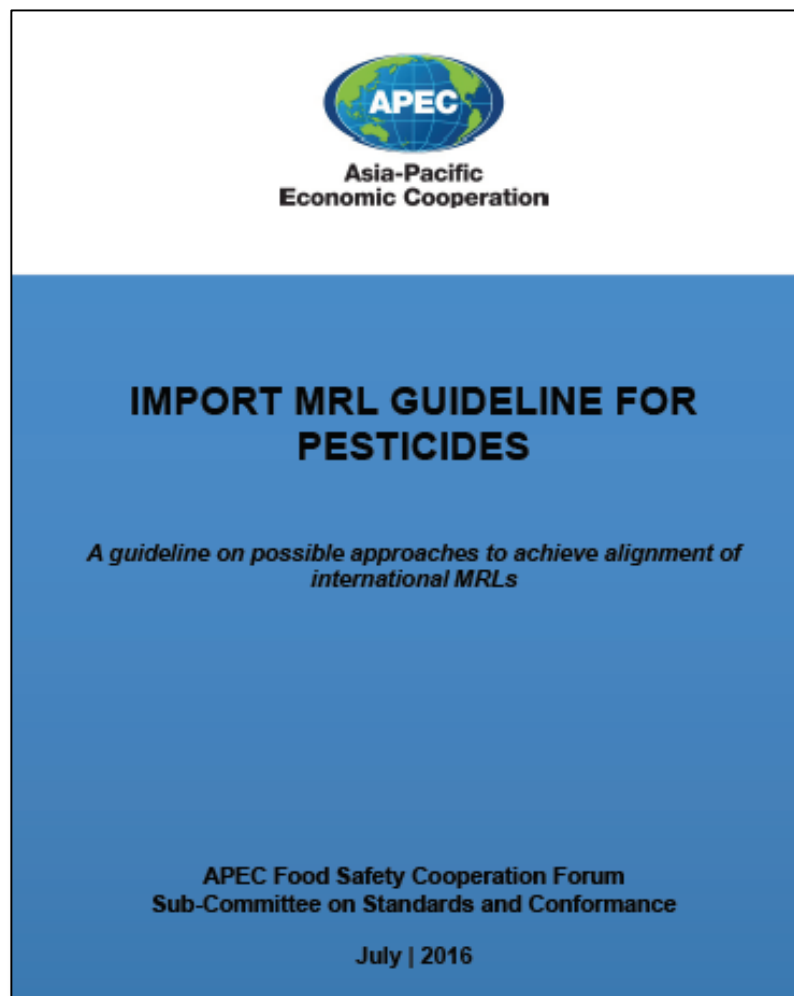


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APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides



- Developed from a series of APEC workshops in 2015 and finalized in 2016.
- Seeks to minimize MRL discrepancies and facilitate trade while continuing to protect human health.
- Describes approaches to achieving alignment of MRLs for pesticides within APEC.



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APEC Import MRL Guideline: Two New Implementation Tools



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC COMPENDIUM OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION IN SETTING MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR PESTICIDES

Begin |  Click

June 2019
Food Safety Cooperation Forum
Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance

Advancing **Free Trade** for Asia-Pacific Prosperity



Unofficial



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



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APEC Import MRL Guideline: Two New Implementation Tools



Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation

APEC IMPORT MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMITS FOR PESTICIDES APPLICATION FORM

June 2019
Food Safety Cooperation Forum
Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance

Advancing **Free Trade** for Asia-Pacific Prosperity



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance



"When pesticide MRLs are missing in key export markets, it costs everyone in the value chain - including customers. Costs to ensure compliance and prevent trade disruption may not be visible to customers, but these costs are real and significant."

-Canola Council of Canada



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APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

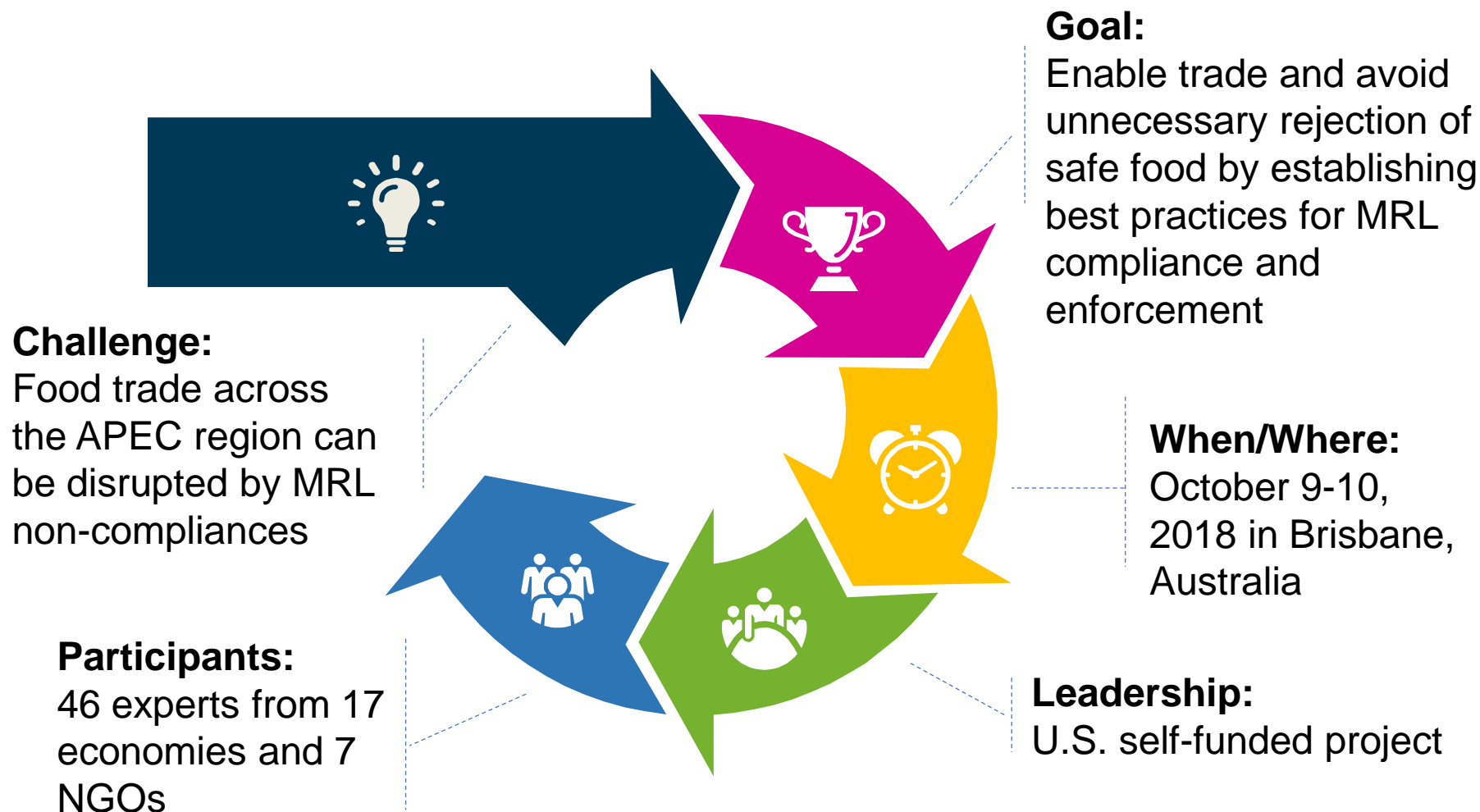
"When an MRL violation occurs, both the growers and the processors who rely on the input commodity have to manage the financial cost and also have to work to protect their reputations and relationships."

-Grower Association



* The study relied on publicly-available MRL violation data from the following economies: Australia; Hong Kong; China; Japan; and Chinese Taipei

APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance





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APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

Workshop Goals



Explore relationships between missing and disharmonized MRLs with MRL violations, trade, and other economic and social factors

Examine private sector role in maintaining high levels of MRL compliance



Share information on how APEC economies enforce MRLs and manage violations

APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

Structure

①

Expert Panels



②

Breakout Sessions



③

Group Discussion





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APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

Topics of Discussion

1

**Current MRL
Enforcement
Practices
Across APEC**



2

**Challenges
and Best
Practices for
MRL
Compliance**



3

**Flexible
Approaches
to Managing
MRL Non-
Compliance**



4

**Scenario-
Driven
Breakout
Groups**



APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

Workshop Outcomes

The overarching themes from the discussions were that:



MRL non-compliances rarely present an actual food safety concern



Most MRL non-compliance results from missing MRLs as opposed to exceedances of established MRLs



Flexible, risk-based approaches to MRL enforcement can support food security, prevent destruction of safe food, and facilitate trade to promote economic prosperity

APEC Workshop on MRL Harmonization: A Trade Facilitative Approach to MRL Compliance

Workshop Outcomes

Participants identified the following as potential future work:

**Compendium of
MRL enforcement
practices to
facilitate
compliance**



**Guidance on best
practices for risk-
based MRL
enforcement**



**Risk
communication
tools to explain
MRLs, food safety,
and trade**



All workshop materials and summary report available at:

<http://mddb.apec.org/Pages/search.aspx?setting=ListMeeting&DateRange=2018/10/01%2C2018/10/end&Name=Workshop%20on%20a%20Trade%20Facilitative%20Approach%20to%20Maximum%20Residue%20Limit%20Compliance%202018>



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APEC Senior Officials Meeting: Food Safety Cooperation Forum



Source: APEC FSCF



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APEC Import MRL Guideline: Two New Implementation Tools



FSCF MRL Implementation Tools
Showcase Workshop

May 06, 2019. Viña del Mar, Chile





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APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum Statement

Viña del Mar, Chile, 10 May 2019



APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum Statement

Viña del Mar, Chile, 10 May 2019

“We commend member economies for engaging in discussions on the use of a scientific risk-based approach to ensure food safety and facilitate trade in the APEC region as it relates to MRL compliance...”

“We commend member economies for the endorsement of the two Implementation Tools to support the uptake and implementation of the APEC Import MRL Guideline for Pesticides on possible approaches to achieve the alignment of MRLs between economies and with international MRLs...”



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Future Plans for Advancing APEC MRL Harmonization Efforts



U.S. APEC MRL Team

- Anna Gore, USDA-FAS
- Lori Tortora, USDA-FAS
- Jason Sandahl, USDA-FAS
- Renee Hancher, DOC-ITA
- Megan Crowe, DOC-ITA
- Kelly McCormick, FDA-CFSAN
- William Correll, FDA-CFSAN
- Lauren Robin, FDA-CFSAN
- Charlotte Liang, FDA-CFSAN
- David Miller, EPA-OPP
- Michael Doherty, EPA-OPP
- Nancy Fitz, EPA-OPP
- Kent Shigetomi, USTR
- Julia Doherty, USTR
- Joan Hurst, USTR

FSANZ/Australia

- Steve Crossley, FSANZ
- Hong Jin, FSANZ
- Kate Riley, FSANZ
- Ian Reichstein, DAWR
- Chris Williams, DAWR

Non-Governmental Partners

- Nathan Associates Inc.
- Bryant Christie Inc.
- CropLife America/International
- Minor Crop Farmer Alliance

Special thanks to FAS' graphics expert, Sarah Fasano!



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Stay in Touch!



Julie A. Chao, MA, MSPH

Senior Technical Trade Advisor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs

International Regulations and Standards Division

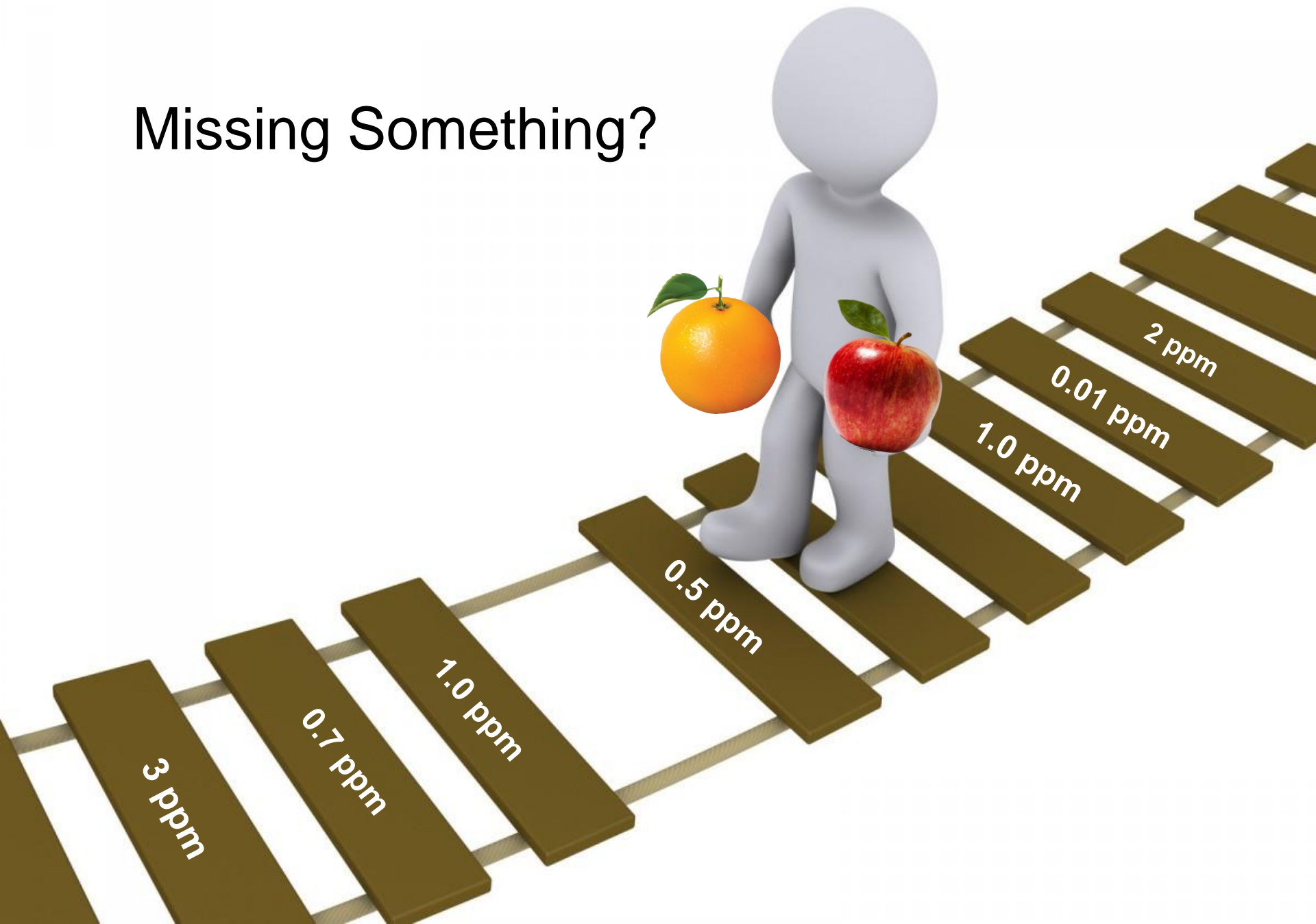
1400 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC 20250

Tel: (202) 378-1056

Email: Julie.Chao@fas.usda.gov

Missing Something?



Join us this afternoon for the Second
International Discussion on Missing MRLs!

Together we can build
bridges to support
agriculture, trade, and
food security!



International Cooperation



Public-Private Partnerships