



## **2022 MRL Harmonization Workshop**

**May 25-26, 2022**

**San Francisco, CA**

# **CODEX MODERNIZATION & INCREASED SOLUTIONS FOR AG-TRADE**

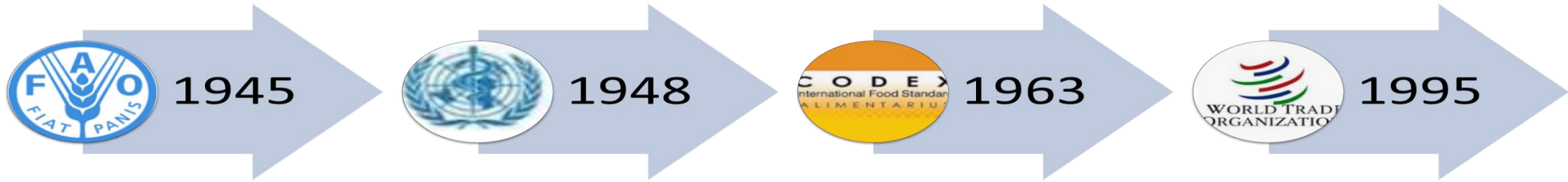
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# Outline

1. Codex Evolution Amongst MRL standards
2. Needs for Enhancement
3. Tool-box for Codex Modernization
4. Call for Cooperation

# C O D E X A L I M E N T A R I U S is about safe, good food for everyone - everywhere.



Codex has been setting pesticides MRLs for more than 50 years at a productivity level of 200-400 MRLs per year. However, most advanced national agencies are setting more than 1,000 MRLs per year, which creates an ever-growing gap between national and international MRLs. This presentation is based on an analysis of MRL regulations at Codex and main agencies setting MRLs and is recommending a set of options (“tool-box” concept) for further enhancements of the Codex-system to increase the MRL productivity, and to achieve true global harmonization through a ONE-MRL system. Some of the options can also serve as basis for countries that intend to develop a local system for MRLs and need new, or updated MRL regulation. In addition to stimulating actions towards increasing productivity for missing MRLs, the recommendations will also increase harmonization of MRL values across countries and should increase acceptability of Codex MRLs from about 70 countries currently, to all 188-member countries.

# Global view of Codex & other MRLs

***The Codex MRL process is repeated in 15 countries/regions setting MRLs, other 70 countries defer to Codex, others defer to US, or EU-MRLs, or have no MRL regulation.***

## **ATTEMPTS FOR HARMONIZATION**

The OECD has enabled harmonization through Residue Guidelines and MRL calculator already implemented by all MRL setting countries, and Codex.

However, MRL values are often not harmonized even for similar datasets, because reviews use different subsets of the globally available residue data.



- Why every country repeats review, if requirements and guidelines are harmonized for data generation?
- Why all countries do not implement Codex-MRLs which is confirmed to pass dietary risks for global diets?
- Why OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) is not implemented for residues and MRLs?
- How can we simplify global MRL processes to increase productivity and harmonization demanded by trade?

Country	MRL Spinetoram-lettuce (mg/kg)
USA, MEXICO	8
CHINA, CODEX, EU	10
BRAZIL	1.5
CANADA	30
AUSTRALIA	0.7
SOUTH-KOREA	1-7
TAIWAN	2

# CAC-44 Magazine (Nov.2021) A Year of Virtual Reality

**CODEX ALIMENTARIUS MANDATE**

**PROTECT**  
the health  
of consumers

**ENSURE**  
fair practices  
in food trade

**PROMOTE**  
coordination of all  
food standards work



## SCIENCE IN A VIRTUAL WORLD



Ian Dewhurst is a retired civil servant from the United Kingdom and Michael Doherty is a residue chemistry expert from the United States of America. They spoke about their work on the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), one of the Joint FAO/WHO expert groups that provides scientific advice to Codex.

# Outline

1. Codex Evolution Amongst MRL standards
- 2. Codex Enhancement Needs**
3. Tool-box for Codex Modernization
4. Can Codex lead a unique global MRL system?

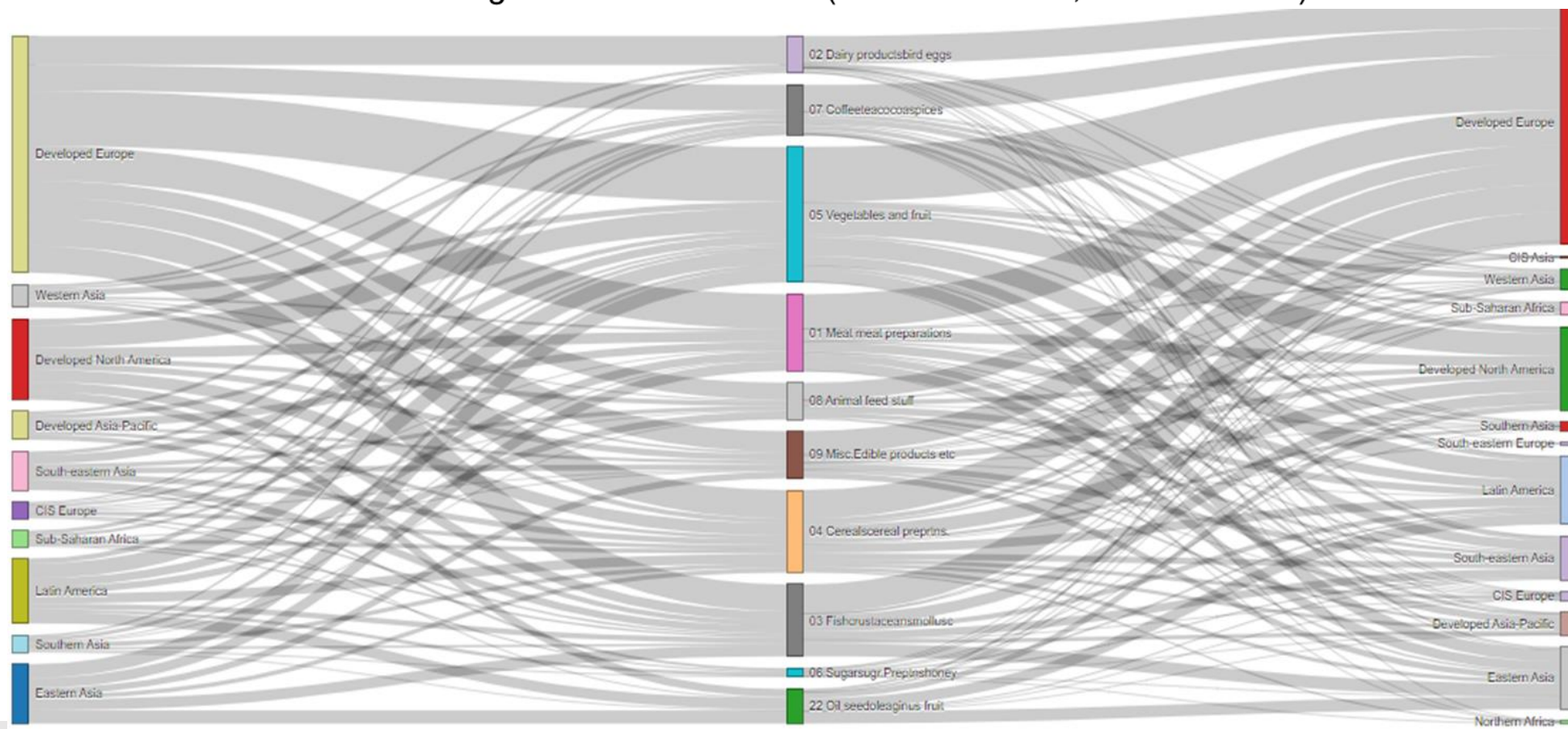
# Food Security, Safety, Trade Standards

Food Security – INCREASE

MORE MRLs are NEEDED !

Food Trade – INCREASE

UN-COMTRADE 2015-2020 Agricultural Trade Flow (38 commodities, 195 countries)



# CODEX COVID IMPACT

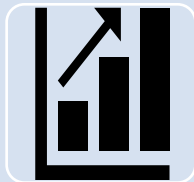
Impact from 2020 lack of JMPR & CCPR activity will delay MRLs for 1 to 3+ years

Submissions	Type	JMPR	No of CXLs	CCPR (1255 MRLs delayed, backup across 3 years)
May 2018	New uses	2019 extra	436	CCPR-52 (July 2021) 436 delayed 1 year
Dec 2018	New uses, new cmpds, periodic reviews	2019 reg		
Dec 2019	New uses	2020 (to 2021)	91	CCPR-53 (April 2022) 135 delayed 1 year 209 delayed 2 years
	New compounds		84	
	Periodic reviews		34	
July 2020	New uses	2021 extra	35	CCPR-54 (April 2023) 175 delayed 2 years 300 delayed 1 year
Dec 2020	New uses	2021 reg	~100?	
	New compounds	2021 (to 2022)	~100?	
	Periodic reviews *	2021 (to 2022)	~75?	
Dec 2021	New uses, new cmpds, periodic reviews	2022	~300?	

# The Need for MRL/IT



## PRODUCTIVITY



- # National MRL has increased
- Trade increase exponential trend
- # Codex MRLs << national MRLs
- Not sustainable

## SIMPLIFICATION



- Regional MRL (EU, NAFTA, ASEAN)
- IT recognize export country MRL (APEC, US)
- # IT not achievable

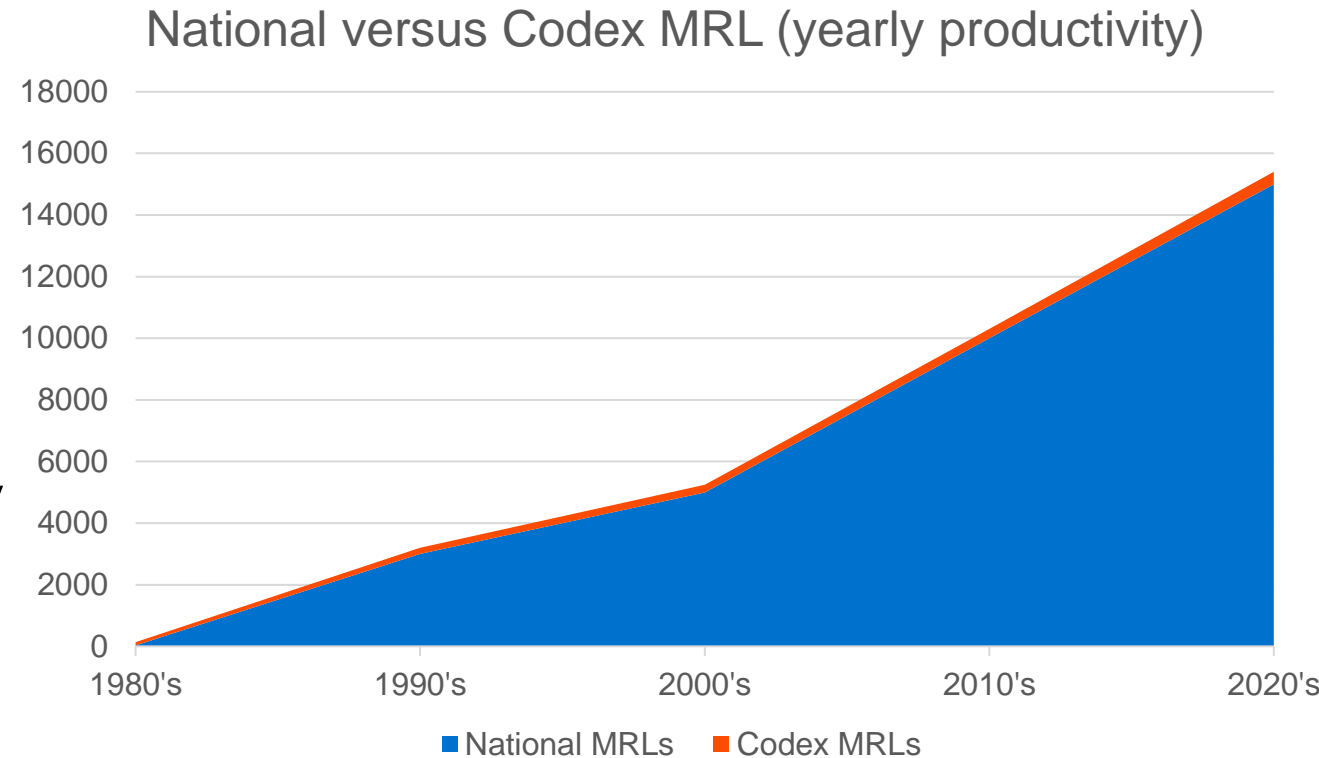
## HARMONIZATION



- OECD harmonized studies
- Codex harmonized criteria
- MRL are still not harmonized

# CODEX CATCH-UP **NEEDS for MID-LONG TERM**

- A. To reduce the ever-growing **gap** between number of national MRLs approved and Codex
- B. To increase **harmonization** of MRL values globally
- C. To increase **acceptance** of Codex-MRL by all Codex members (188 countries)



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# Precedents for Codex Enhancements

- [Review of Working Procedures JMPR](#) (S.Crossley for WHO,FAO –February 2002)
  - clearly a need for an international body, to undertake quality science and evidence-based data assessments for standard setting bodies, such as the CCPR
  - JMPR is currently under considerable strain, with inadequate resources and is arguably at a crossroads.
- [Supporting Codex Alimentarius to support food security](#)
  - 7 potential solutions to increase capacity and meet demand of MRLs (2016)
- [Supporting Codex Alimentarius to enhance food security and food safety](#)
  - 6 recommendations to enhance Codex MRLs setting (2019)



International  
Agri-Food Network

# Codex Enhancement

International  
Agri-Food Network

CropLife  
INTERNATIONAL

## Coalition for an Enhanced Codex

Established in 2016 under the International Agri-Food Network, to advocate for an improved, more efficient Codex MRL process, activities focused on UN Rome-

### 1 Increase availability of experts

Expand the provision of experts and expert time by national governments, as well as re-assess whether the required qualifications are unduly limiting the number of eligible scientists.



### 2 Secure budgetary resources

Secure consistent, predictable and adequate funding for scientific advice from FAO, WHO, and national governments.



### 3 Reduce the delay between registration of a compound and establishment of a Codex MRL

Consider existing reviews completed or MRLs set by competent national authorities, instead of conducting de novo data evaluations.



### 4 Increase use of Crop Grouping and Representative Commodities

Maximize the establishment of crop group MRLs based on a review of representative and all other supporting commodity data.



### 5 Strengthen implementation of JMPR and CCPR procedures and more efficient communication

Utilize the electronic tools to allow for discussion of identified issues before the actual face-to-face JMPR meeting and to increase the number of active ingredients or additional uses reviewed at each meeting.



### 6 Elevate the trade perspective at Codex

Consider the use of MRLs established by national authorities to avoid creating unnecessary trade impediments that have no impact on food safety.



# National Solutions for Missing MRL

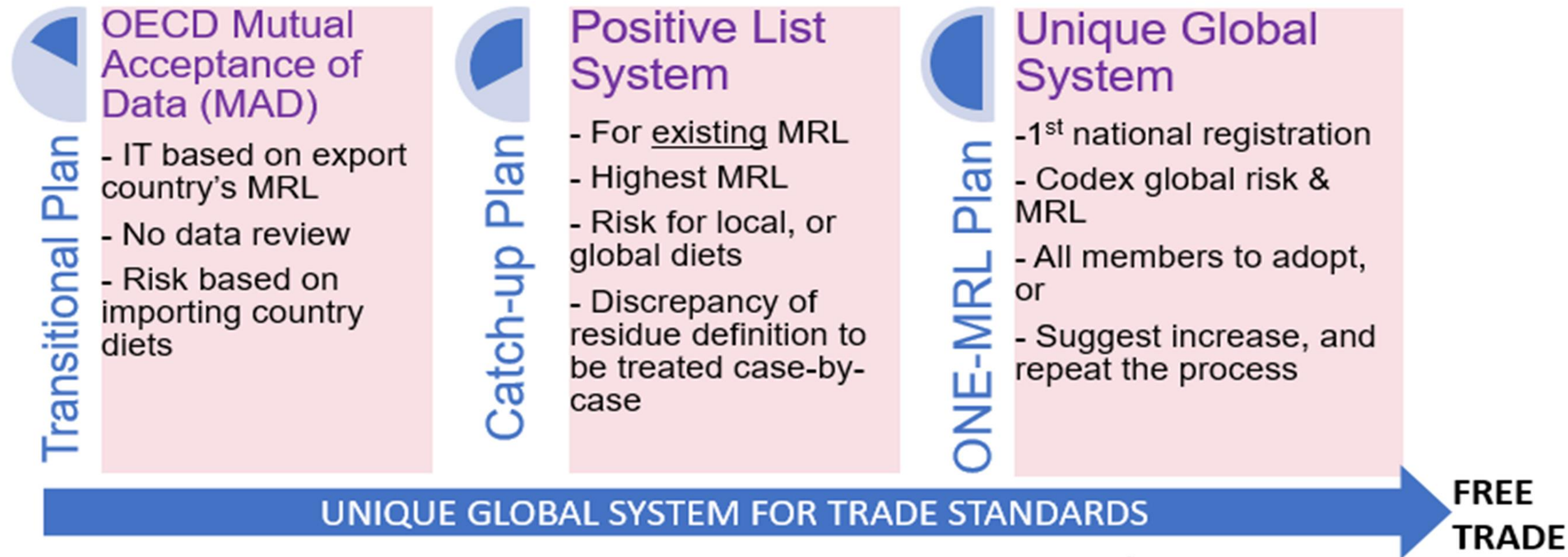
Existing Precedents – all countries accept traces in trade if lower than analytical LOQ (0.01 ppm)

➡ risk to consumers is generally negligible

Agency	Pros	Cons
Codex	- MRL adopted by 70 countries, possibly all 189	Shortest list of MRL (<5,000)
EU	- EU harmonized MRL - Default MRL	88% default MRL Trigger illegal uses
Japan	2006 PSL (highest existing MRL)	Heavy workload periodic reviews
APEC	22 countries mutually accepting MRL, if risk OK	Implementation still in progress
Australia & New Zealand	- MRL for “all other foods, except animal commodities” - Monitoring accepted <0.1 ppm	Contribution to risk < 20%
China	Applied Codex, MRL export country, or LOQ	IT regulation is pending

# MRL Toolbox

- There is no general solution, each country needs different concept(s)



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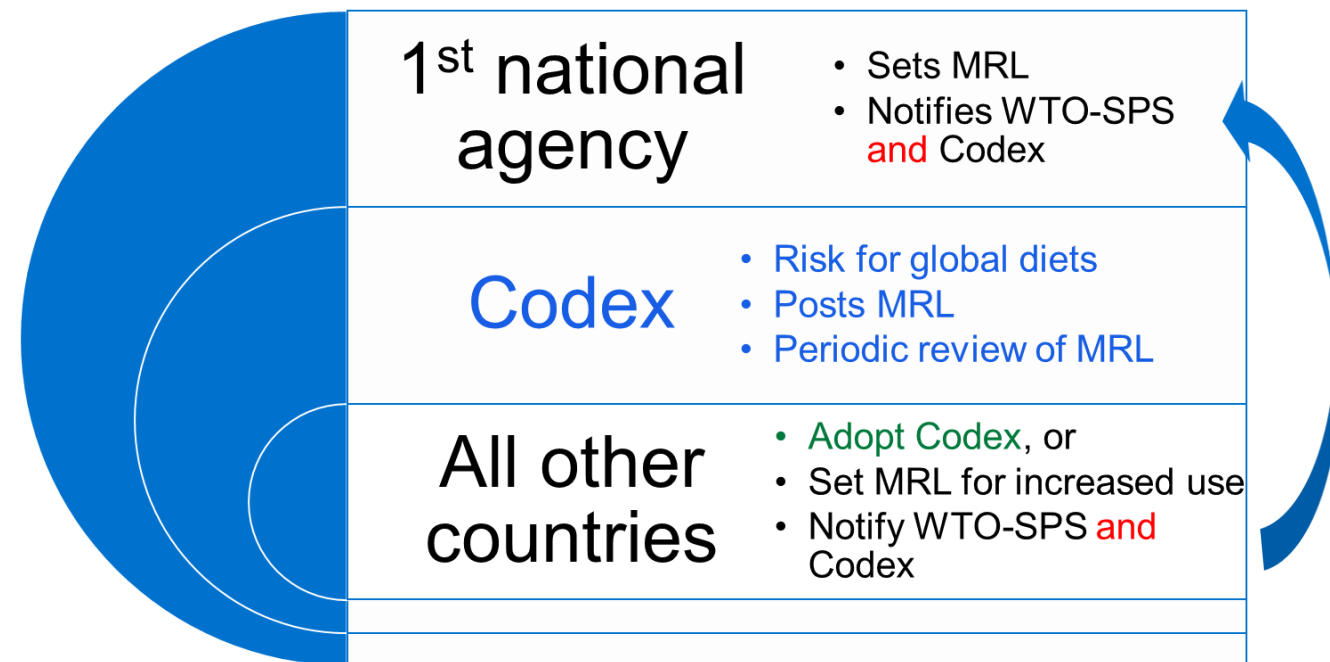
# The ONE MRL Concept

## ONE GLOBAL MRL – THE IDEAL SYSTEM

- First country to approve a new use sets MRL
  - Notify WTO SPS & CCPR for JMPR peer-review, global risk & posting MRL
- All other countries (189) to adopt Codex MRL (same, lower GAP)
  - Submit for increased MRL, in case of increased GAP

- **Benefits**

- Harmonized MRL (domino effect)
- No IT needed (or very few)
- Faster introduction of new uses
- Cost optimization for avoiding re-work
- Less, or no trade-irritants



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## Global Economic Impact of Missing and Low Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels

- <https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/pub5160.pdf>

### Global Effects of MRL Reductions



#### Direct trade effects

MRL Estimates	Heterogeneity	Stringency
Tropical fruit	Trade decreasing	Import Increasing
Temperate fruit	Trade decreasing	Import decreasing
Beans and peas	Trade decreasing	Import decreasing

#### Global effects (direct + indirect)

- EU countries experience the largest effects of changes to EU MRLs
- Countries with close trading relationships or that follow EU MRLs have some significant impacts
- Most other countries face limited impacts
  - Countries shift trade to/from other sources or destinations
- MRLs have compounding and offsetting effects



# NEW PROPOSAL @ CCPR-53 - COVID CATCH-UP PLAN

## ADVOCACY EFFORTS ARE NEEDED AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL LEVELS!

- Resources to duplicate sessions of JMPR & CCPR for 2-3 years to overcome backlog
- 8 regional advocacy sessions and global webinar have captured enhancement solutions
- Official proposal to be made at CCPR-53 in July 2022 for e-Working Group.
- Further Advocacy at higher levels FAO, WHO, WTO, UN
- Food-scare and supply chain issues from Covid, and Russia-Ukraine conflict triggered more flexibility in trade standards.
- Long-term support from members is needed to transform Codex to the **ONE MRL** system that it was intended to be, since 1963.

# THE ONE MRL - ASPIRATION

1. There are more MRL needed than can be set
  - Supporting more than 300 free trade agreements
2. Harmonization is not possible for so many type of MRL
3. Agencies must trust each other, to increase public trust
4. Food standards need to be global
  - Codex needs enhancement to be adopted by all

**ONE MRL**

**Food Security. Freedom to Trade. Food Safety**

Many thanks for the kind invitation  
and for the opportunity to share my experience!

I remain to your disposal for any further needs!

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*To enrich the lives of those who produce  
and those who consume, ensuring progress  
for generations to come*

