



**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
CODEX COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES  
53rd Session  
(Virtual)  
4-8 July and 13 July 2022**

(Comments of USA supported by Costa Rica)

**AGENDA ITEM 18**

**Enhancing operational procedures of JMPR and CCPR to eliminate the backlog of evaluations and meet the future demand of establishment CXLs**

The United States appreciates the contributions of CropLife International (CLI) in developing the Agenda Item 18 discussion paper on enhancing the operational procedures of JMPR and CCPR.<sup>1</sup> The discussion paper highlights that the global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the operations of JMPR and CCPR and resulted in the postponement of JMPR evaluations scheduled for review in 2019 and 2020 and further scheduling delays in 2021 and beyond. The discussion paper follows a workshop held on March 31, 2022, that was sponsored by CLI.<sup>2</sup> As also noted by CLI in their discussion paper, these delays continue to impact the schedule/priority list for JMPR and will require additional coordination between JMPR, CCPR, and sponsors to reduce the current backlog of scheduled evaluations and ensure that the Codex system meets the needs of the global agricultural supply chain.

The CLI discussion paper recommends that CCPR develop a discussion document based on the following two workstreams:

- I. JMPR or the scientific panels of FAO and WHO undertake a review of processes and ways of working to assess if the output of JMPR could be enhanced through procedural efficiencies.<sup>3</sup>
- II. Establishment of a CCPR electronic working group (eWG) to:<sup>4</sup>
  - i. Estimate the anticipated workload: currently pending; future new active ingredients; future new uses; periodic reviews;
  - ii. Estimate the resource needs (such as but not limited to human resources, expertise, meetings, budget, processes, and infrastructure) to respond to the anticipated demand for CXLs (new active ingredients, new uses and periodic reviews) for a sustainable functioning of JMPR and CCPR;
  - iii. Identify possible solutions that can be addressed within JMPR and CCPR: To identify and assess processes in JMPR and CCPR that could help increase the output, reduce the backlog and meet the demand for CXLs today and in the future, whilst maintaining the independence, scientific rigor and reputation of the Codex system; and
  - iv. Identify synergies with other ongoing work with CCPR eWGs such as parallel reviews, management of unsupported compounds, registration database, the schedule and priority list.

The United States recognizes the merit of the work proposed by CLI. However, the United States is concerned about requesting that JMPR undertake a review of its operational procedures while it is currently working to reduce the backlog of evaluations that were delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Splitting JMPR's efforts on reducing the existing backlog and procedural enhancement may not be possible due to the workload requirements of the JMPR experts and ultimately limit the adoption of enhancements if JMPR is unable to fully participate. Furthermore, the recommended terms of reference for the proposed eWG are substantial – and possibly beyond the expertise of CCPR and JMPR members - and will require knowledge in a range of subjects to estimate future workload, forecast organizational resource requirements, and propose solutions to process and organizational challenges.

<sup>1</sup> CX/PR 22/53/20.

<sup>2</sup> <https://croplife.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Summary-of-CropLife-International-Codex-Enhancement-Workshop.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> CX/PR 22/53/20, para. 17

<sup>4</sup> CX/PR 22/53/20, para. 18

Based on these concerns, the United States believes further deliberation is needed between CCPR Members, Observer organizations, and JMPR. To help structure this deliberation and set the stage for future work on the enhancement and modernization of JMPR, we instead make the following recommendations for CCPR and JMPR<sup>5</sup> :

- I. Establish an eWG to initiate discussion on the potential enhancements of CCPR and JMPR. The terms of reference for this this proposed eWG are:
  - a. Develop a Circular Letter to request information from Codex Members and Observers on the need to enhance CCPR/JMPR and opportunities and challenges. In addition, the CL may wish to invite interested parties and Observer organizations to consider a second or possibly additional subsequent workshops that would expand on and further develop some of the themes of the March 31, 2022, CLI-sponsored workshop described above.
  - b. On the basis of the responses to the Circular Letter, prepare for CCPR54 a summary of submitted information and a discussion paper that summarizes findings for consideration at CCPR54 and later transmission to JMPR.
- II. CCPR requests that JMPR develop a workplan during JMPR 2022 to reduce the existing backlog of evaluations that were delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This workplan should include a tabular summary of new compounds, new uses, and periodic reviews that have been scheduled for JMPR evaluation and provide updated information on their respective target year of evaluation. Based on this workplan, JMPR should make recommendations to CCPR on whether one or more extraordinary meetings are needed to help reduce the backlog.

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<sup>5</sup> More specific proposed verbiage for the ToR would be developed in the near future after Member country and observer dialogue. What is here is meant to describe the tasks that might be assigned.