



PRESS RELEASE

Outcome of the International Workshop on the Safe Use of Pesticides and Harmonization of Legislation for Food Safety, 25-27 January 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The **International Workshop on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Cocoa and Harmonized Legislation for Food Safety** was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from **25-27 January, 2011** with generous sponsorship provided by the Malaysian Cocoa Board, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation of the Netherlands and the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative. The Workshop was jointly organized by the ICCO and the Malaysian Cocoa Board. The overall objective of the Workshop was to promote the safe use of pesticides throughout the cocoa value chain and to enhance the process of harmonization of legislation and regulations on pesticide residues in cocoa and related products, including standardization of analytical methods on pesticide residues.

The International Workshop brought together more than 200 participants from 18 countries spanning the five continents of the world. They included representatives from cocoa producers, traders, exporters, processors, chocolate manufacturers, chemical manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and universities. The workshop was conducted over three days with 15 presentations in four focus areas, each followed by a Question and Answer session and by panel discussions. The four focus areas were: ***legislation for food safety and analytical methods***; the ***safe use of pesticides***; ***alternatives to pesticides***; and ***perspectives on pesticide legislation from key stakeholders***. On the final day, following active deliberations between the audience and the prominent experts serving on the Panel, the Workshop adopted a list of final recommendations, as follows:

FOCUS AREA 1: LEGISLATION ON FOOD SAFETY AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

1. ICCO will consult with relevant experts and institutions/agencies in the establishment of an **international expert working group (EWG)** on **cocoa quality and food safety**. The EWG will work towards the harmonization of the different analytical methodologies used to measure pesticide residue levels in cocoa and determine how MRLs are measured in cocoa;
2. The proposed **EWG** will establish a comprehensive list of active ingredients, including both authorized and banned pesticides in cocoa and provide MRLs for each pesticide according to regional recommendations;
3. The proposed **EWG** will establish a list of pesticides in use in cocoa for which MRLs are required;
4. The ICCO will request the co-operation of the relevant countries, agencies/institutions and manufacturers to compile a dossier of pesticides recommended for use in cocoa and, with the help of relevant experts and agencies, submit a request to the relevant authorities in the EU, US, Japan, Australia, etc. for the MRLs on these pesticides to be regularly updated accordingly;
5. The ICCO will collaborate in research on new pesticide products in order to provide a range of pesticides with diverse modes of action in producing countries for the safe and effective control of key cocoa pests;
6. Importing countries, manufacturers and other donors will be requested to encourage and to help origin countries to establish, equip and effectively operate laboratories able to analyse and measure MRLs in cocoa;

7. The ICCO will maintain the publication of its Manual on the Responsible (Safe) Use of Pesticides with the financial support of relevant agencies/institutions, updating it yearly and making it widely available on its website free of charge to all interested parties; Appendix 3 of the Manual will be updated as required;
8. The ICCO will continue to monitor existing cocoa certification schemes for compliance with recommended pesticides and traceability; and
9. Establish an international working group to monitor the issue of pesticides worldwide, collect relevant information and cooperate with relevant bodies for its wide dissemination.

FOCUS AREA 2: SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

10. The concept of Responsible Pesticide Use (RPU) was adopted to replace the concept of the Safe Use of Pesticides, for wide dissemination; and
11. It was agreed to encourage the development of farmers' organizations as appropriate channels to introduce and to implement effectively GAP and GWP in the use of pesticides.

FOCUS AREA 3: ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

12. Adequate funding should be provided for intensive research on alternatives to pesticides such as Host Plant Resistance, Cultural practices and Biological Control of Cocoa Pests and Diseases.

FOCUS AREA 4: PERSPECTIVES ON PESTICIDE LEGISLATION FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS

13. A strategy should be developed with producing countries, importing countries, pesticide manufacturers and other relevant partners to fund capacity building programmes for all stakeholders along the supply chain, in particular in origin countries;
14. Collaborative measures should be developed or established to enforce the ban on the production and trade of prohibited pesticides in cocoa;
15. The use of Integrated Pest Management as a component of a comprehensive programme of capacity building on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Warehousing Practices (GWP) should be promoted;
16. The support provided by donors for the ICCO Cocoa SPS project should be extended to other origin regions;
17. ICCO will encourage origin countries to implement measures aiming at compliance with international regulations on pesticide residues.

There was consensus that the Workshop had succeeded in its objectives and that the ICCO should organize similar meetings for the stakeholders (every three years) to review progress achieved in the recommendations on cocoa pesticides and to make pertinent suggestions for improvements as necessary.

Participants expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Government and to the people of Malaysia for their warm hospitality and for the perfect organization of the International Workshop, which had made a strong contribution to its resounding success. The generous sponsorship of the Workshop provided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands and the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative was also acknowledged with appreciation.