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OUTCOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES IN COCOA AND HARMONIZED LEGISLATION FOR FOOD SAFETY

Note by the Secretariat:

This document contains a report on the proceedings of the International Workshop on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Cocoa and Harmonized Legislation for Food Safety which took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25-27 January 2011 at the kind invitation of the Malaysian Government and Malaysian Cocoa Board, and with generous sponsorship provided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands, the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative and the Malaysian Cocoa Board. The document also reports on the recommendations adopted by the Workshop.
OUTCOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES IN COCOA AND HARMONIZED LEGISLATION FOR FOOD SAFETY

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
25–27 JANUARY 2011

INTRODUCTION

1. The International Workshop on the Safe Use of Pesticides in Cocoa and Harmonized Legislation for Food Safety, which was jointly organized by the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) and the Malaysian Cocoa Board (MCB), was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 25-27 January, 2011. Financial assistance for the Workshop was generously provided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands, the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative and the Malaysian Cocoa Board. In addition, guest speakers were also kindly provided by the Governments of Brazil, Côte d’Ivoire, the European Commission, Ghana and Malaysia; as well as from the following cocoa/chocolate associations: the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries in the European Union (CAOBISCO), the Cocoa and Chocolate Association of Japan, the European Cocoa Association (ECA), the National Confectioners’ Association of the USA; a development agency from Germany, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); a research institution, the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI); a global federation, CropLife International and the private sector, Mars Incorporated.

OBJECTIVE

2. 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.

PROCEEDINGS

3. The International Workshop brought together more than 200 participants from 21 countries from across the globe. 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 of the Workshop, following active deliberations between the audience and the prominent experts serving on the Panel, the Workshop adopted 17 final recommendations for further action.

4. The Opening Ceremony on 25 January 2011 began with welcoming addresses given by Dato’ Dr Azhar Ismail, Director General of the Malaysian Cocoa Board; by Mr. Ewald Wermuth, representing the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands; and by Dr. Jean-Marc Anga, the Executive Director a.i. of the International Cocoa Organization. The Workshop was officially opened by H.E. the Honourable Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia.
5. **Focus Area 1** centred on “Legislation for Food Safety And Analytical Methods” and was conducted on Day 1 of the Workshop. The remaining three focus areas were held on day 2. These included “Safe Use of Pesticides”, “Alternatives to Pesticides” and “Perspectives on Pesticide Legislation from Key Stakeholders”.

6. There were six presentations in **Focus Area 1**. The first of these, entitled “The implementation of the EU legislation on pesticide residues – Regulation (EC) 396/2005 – Issues related to Cocoa” was delivered by Mr. Ewald Wermuth representing the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands. This was followed by a speech on “The positive list system in Japan and our approach to the issues of pesticide residues in cocoa” delivered by Mr. Kenji Kaminaga from the Cocoa & Chocolate Association, Japan. Ms. Alison Bodor from the National Confectioners’ Association, USA gave a presentation entitled “Pesticide regulations in the U.S. for cocoa” which was followed by a presentation on “Assessing and addressing pesticide practice in cocoa producing countries to meet regulatory standards” by Dr. Mike Rutherford, from CABI, UK and a presentation on “Analytical methods used to determine minimum residues levels of pesticides” by Prof. Dr. John J. Brown, from Washington State University, USA. Dato’ Dr. Azhar Ismail of the Malaysian Cocoa Board gave the concluding presentation of Focus Area 1, entitled “Comparative studies of pesticide residue analysis in cocoa beans”. The summary of the discussions in Focus Area 1 is as attached as Annex 1. In the evening, an official dinner attended by 220 guests, was hosted by the Chairman of the Malaysian Cocoa Board, H.E. the Honourable Datuk Siringan Gubat.

7. **In Focus Area 2**, Dr. Roy Bateman of Imperial College, University of London in the United Kingdom gave a presentation on “The Safe Use Of Pesticides In Cocoa”. The summary of the discussion of Focus Area 2 is attached in Annex 2.

8. **In Focus Area 3**, there were two presentations. The first, entitled “Host Plant Resistance, cultural and mechanical control in cocoa” was delivered by Dr. R. Adu-Accheampong of the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana. This was followed by a presentation on “Biological Control in cocoa: Current status” delivered by Dr. Jayne Crozier from CABI, Costa Rica. The summary of discussions in Focus Area 3 is as attached in Annex 3.

9. **Focus Area 4** comprised of six presentations. The first, entitled “Producer Countries’ Perspective on Legislation and other Measures on Pesticide Residues and Food Safety” was presented by Dr. Kouamé Lucien, Ministry of Agriculture, Côte d’Ivoire. This was followed by a presentation entitled “Brazil’s perspective on legislation and other measures for pesticide safety in cocoa” delivered by Dr. João Louis Pereira, CEPLAC, Brazil. Dr. Keith Jones of CropLife International in Belgium gave a presentation entitled “Pesticide Manufacturers’ Perspective on Legislation and other Measures on Pesticide Residues and Food Safety”. This was followed by a presentation from Ms. Penelope Alexandre, CAOBISCO, Belgium on the “Trade and Industry’s Perspective on legislation and other measures on pesticide residues and food safety”. Dr. Wolfgang Schimpf of GIZ in Germany delivered a presentation entitled “Problems and challenges with the application of pesticides in developing countries - from the point of view of the GIZ – a national developing organization”. The final presentation of Focus Group 4 was given by Mr. Marc Joncheere, Cargill Cocoa & Chocolate, Belgium entitled “Review of pesticide residues in cocoa in relation to deshelled and unshelled beans from an industry perspective”. The summary of the discussions on Focus Area 4 is as attached in Annex 4.
10. An optional field trip to the Malaysian Cocoa Board’s Research and Development Centre, Jengka, Pahang was held on the 28 January 2011 which attracted 14 participants.

11. The presentations stimulated active and useful discussions amongst the different stakeholders during the course of the two days. Upon completion of the four focus areas, the rapporteurs prepared a draft list of recommendations for discussion by the Panel of Experts facilitated by the Moderator. After Panel deliberations, the draft recommendations were open to the floor, before reaching final panel discussion moderated by the two co-chairs namely Dr. Jean-Marc Anga, Executive Director a.i. of the ICCO and Dato’ Dr. Azhar Ismail, Director General of the Malaysian Cocoa Board. Following final discussion among the participants, the workshop developed and adopted a list of recommendations for each of the focus areas on the final day of the Workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were adopted by the Workshop:

FOCUS AREA 1: LEGISLATION ON FOOD SAFETY AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

i. 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;

ii. 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;

iii. The proposed EWG will establish a list of pesticides in use in cocoa for which MRLs are required;

iv. 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;

v. 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;

vi. 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;

vii. 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;

viii. The ICCO will continue to monitor existing cocoa certification schemes for compliance with recommended pesticides and traceability; and

ix. Establish an international working group to monitor the issue of pesticides worldwide, collect relevant information and co-operate with relevant bodies for its wide dissemination.
FOCUS AREA 2: SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

x. The concept of Responsible Pesticide Use (RPU) was adopted to replace the concept of the Safe Use of Pesticides, for wide dissemination; and

xi. 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

xii. 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

xiv. 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;

xv. Collaborative measures should be developed or established to enforce the ban on the production and trade of prohibited pesticides in cocoa;

xvi. 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;

xvii. The support provided by donors for the ICCO Cocoa SPS project should be extended to other origin regions;

xviii. ICCO will encourage origin countries to implement measures aiming at compliance with international regulations on pesticide residues.

CLOSING REMARKS

12. Participants agreed that the workshop had achieved its objective of bringing together key stakeholders 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.

13. Participants strongly urged the ICCO to 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.

14. Finally, 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 warm appreciation.
ANNEX 1

FOCUS AREA 1: LEGISLATION ON FOOD SAFETY AND ANALYTICAL METHODS

- Need to harmonize the sampling method of collecting cocoa beans including the intensity and the sample size.
- Dilution factor is applied to finished product in practice for certain countries; hence it was suggested that harmonization along this line could be considered to standardize such practices.
- Industry has to keep origin countries informed/updated on the status of legislation and provide advice and support as necessary including financial information, and training support in order to facilitate countries to act accordingly and swiftly.

The workshop outputs proposed were:

1. Protocols to determine MRLs.
2. A list of active substances in the pesticide for which MRLs are required.
3. Which institute to determine MRLs and what resources are needed to derive MRLs?

- International committee to harmonize the analytical methodology on measuring MRLs.
- Harmonization of analytical method to determine pesticide residues in cocoa beans.
- Equivalence in the methods of analysis needs to be established to assist the regulatory bodies as some countries have limited but compatible facilities.
- Research on new safe compounds to replace the pesticides which had been banned.

ANNEX 2

FOCUS AREA 2: SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES

- Harmonization of standards by all importing countries.
- Strategic cocoa pesticides according to regional recommendation.
- Capacity building for applied R&D in crucial areas.
- Communication is required to place rational pesticide use “on the agenda” (FFS etc.)
- Developing skills in pesticide scientists.
ANNEX 3

FOCUS AREA 3: ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

• More research and funding on Host Plant Resistance.
• More intensified research on Biological Control Agents.

ANNEX 4

FOCUS AREA 4: PERSPECTIVES ON PESTICIDE LEGISLATION FROM KEY STAKEHOLDERS

• Need to harmonize international regulations with clear principles based on realistic approaches and feasible practices in the production conditions.
• Capacity building in the supply chain (training, awareness and the need to sensitize all stakeholders).
• Adaptation of private standards to local conditions.
• Determination of Limit of Detection (LOD) in MRLS.
• Ban on the production of prohibited pesticides.
• Some participants raised the issue of un-ethical dumping of illegal pesticides.
• Need to ensure good practices and stewardship.
• What has the EU industry done to sensitize farmers in order to comply with EU legislation, to promote IPM and identification of problematic pesticides?
• What have cocoa producing countries done to cope with new EU safety requirements?
• GIZ recommends the adoption of the modular system in the ‘Safe Use of Pesticides’.
• Harmonization of legislation regarding reference material to be used for testing for MRLs would be highly welcomed.
• Alignment on the processing factors would equally be appreciated.
• Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is paramount.
• Cocoa producing countries are key stakeholders to implement and ensure safe and rational pesticide use in cocoa.
• Industry welcomes the ICCO project of reinforcing SPS capacity building in cocoa producing countries (farm school training, in-country control capacities).
• The cocoa industry is committed to high standards of safety and quality, not only to ensure the food safety for the consumer, but also by promoting a safe and rational use of pesticides in the entire cocoa supply chain.