

REPORT

12th FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management

19–22 November 2019

Geneva, Switzerland



**World Health
Organization**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

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1. Introduction

The 12th FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management (JMPM), hosted by WHO, was held at the Hotel Warwick in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 22 November 2019.¹ The agenda comprised updates on the activities of the joint Secretariat and participating organizations; a review of progress in developing new JMPM guidelines; plans for revision of existing guidelines; plans for revision of the JMPM terms of reference; discussions on emerging issues and priorities in pesticide management, including an overview of global actions on highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), input to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers, an update on activities of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on illegal trade in pesticides; a review of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 FAO/WHO global survey of pesticide management; and consideration of other issues. The recommendations of the JMPM are summarized in [section 19](#).

2. Opening of the meeting

The opening session was coordinated by Mr Rajpal Yadav, Scientist, Vector Ecology and Management unit, department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. On behalf of WHO as joint Secretariat of the JMPM, Mr Yadav welcomed the WHO and FAO panel members, members of the WHO and FAO Secretariat and other meeting participants and observers. He also welcomed a new WHO panel member, Ms Nguyen, Thi Lien Huong, Director-General, Health Environment Management Agency, Ministry of Health, Viet Nam.

Mr Raman Velayudhan, Coordinator, Vector Ecology and Management unit, also welcomed participants and observers and expressed his appreciation for their work.

Mr Bao Gen Gu, Senior Agricultural Officer for Pest and Pesticide Management, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, Rome, welcomed all present on behalf of FAO and introduced two new FAO panel members: Mr Sylvain Nafiba Ouedraogo, Permanent Secretary, Sahelian Pesticides Committee, and Mr Sherif Mohamed Taha, Central Laboratory of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food. Mr Gu communicated the regrets of two FAO panel members who were unable to attend the meeting: Mr Lance Wormell of the US Environmental Protection Agency Office of Pesticide Programs and

¹ The JMPM was created in 2007 to advise FAO and WHO on implementation of the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (the Code of Conduct) and on new developments, problems or issues in pesticide regulation and management that deserved attention. JMPM members are drawn from the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Management and the WHO Panel of Experts on Vector Biology and Control. Representatives of other international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), pesticide and biopesticide producers' associations and selected nongovernmental organizations involved in pesticide risk reduction are invited to participate in meetings as observers. Secretariat support is provided jointly by FAO and WHO. The annual meetings of the JMPM are organized by FAO and WHO in turn.

Mr Tao Chuanjiang of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals. The list of participants is attached as [Annex 1](#).

Ms Mwelecele Malecela, Director, WHO department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, opened the meeting and also welcomed the participants. She expressed her appreciation for the work of the JMPM and recalled that its meetings resulted from a 2007 memorandum of understanding between WHO and FAO for a collaborative programme in pesticide management with a view to ensuring effective use of pesticides in both agricultural pest control and vector control and reducing human and environmental risks due to such use. She urged the group to ensure that the efficacy of pesticides was preserved by sound management, as they are one of the key tools for vector-borne disease control. She noted that WHO and FAO are promoting sound pesticide management within the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management and expressed her appreciation for the excellent advice provided by the JMPM to both WHO and FAO and for its contribution to developing and revising guidelines on pesticide management at different stages of their life-cycle, which are valuable to Member States. Ms Malecela expressed the hope that the recently completed WHO–FAO global survey on pesticide registration and management practices would assist the JMPM in identifying priorities. In recognition of the important role played by UNEP in reducing the risk posed by pesticides, she looked forward to it joining the FAO-WHO collaborative programme on pesticides formally in the near future.

3. Appointment of chairperson and rapporteurs and adoption of the agenda

Ms Andrea Rother, University of Cape Town, South Africa, was appointed Chair of the meeting and Mr Donald Ward, Ministry for Primary Industries, Wellington, New Zealand, as Co-Chair. Ms Lilian Tornqvist, Swedish Chemicals Agency, and Mr Michael Eddleston, University of Edinburgh, were appointed rapporteurs.

The provisional agenda was adopted and is reproduced in [Annex 2](#). Adjustments were made during the meeting to facilitate timing.

4. Meeting procedure

Mr Yadav informed the participants about logistics and working procedures. He and Mr Gu had received and reviewed declarations of interest from all panel members participating in the 12th session and had concluded that they disclosed no circumstances that could give rise to a potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest with regard the subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

5. Developments and actions since the previous session of the JMPM

Representatives of WHO, FAO, UNEP, the Pesticide Action Network (PAN), the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), CropLife International (CLI) and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) reported on their activities since the JMPM in 2018. The reports are summarized in [Annex 3](#).

In the discussion that followed the presentations, the JMPM:

- supported inclusion of UNEP in the joint Secretariat of the JMPM, which should increase the JMPM's engagement with environmental assessment and risk management;
- recommended that an agenda item be included for the next JMPM in which panel members would make presentations on pesticide management activities in their countries and collaboration in their regions;
- recommended that JMPMs include sharing of information on successful steps taken in countries to limit adverse effects of pesticide use;
- recommended that FAO and WHO undertake further work to improve access to and the capacity of under-resourced countries to conduct laboratory analyses of the quality of pesticide and of residues;
- recommended that UNEP be invited to present an update on its African Chemical Observatories capacity-building project at the next JMPM;
- recommended that consideration be given to including the work of Chemical Observatories in relevant JMPM guidelines;
- recommended that the Pesticide Registration Toolkit be updated to include data requirements and guidance on testing and evaluating biopesticides, to be prepared by a small group of experts convened by the Secretariat (the author of the Toolkit); and
- recommended that WHO and FAO, with stakeholders, organize a global workshop on legislation and registration of biopesticides.

6. Review of new guidelines

6.1. Guidelines on management of household pesticides

The JMPM discussed the revised draft of the guidelines and inclusion of issues such as:

- advertising of household pesticide products;
- registration of slow-release and odourless pesticides;
- guidance on finding information, such as on registration status;
- references to the WHO and globally harmonized system (GHS) classifications and to the Pesticide Registration Toolkit; and
- key messages.

The group recommended that the guidelines be finalized by taking into account the discussion at the meeting and written comments to be provided by JMPM panel members by 15 December 2019 for publication in first half of 2020.

6.2. Guidelines for inspection of pesticide producers, importers, distributors and retailers

The JMPM discussed the revised draft of the guidelines and recommended addition of:

- reference to the Code of Conduct on e.g. siting of manufacturing plants, storage, distribution and trade;
- consideration of complaints by customers or other companies;
- financing of inspections;
- reference to the guidelines on legislation with regard to fines and penalties;
- boxes to highlight issues such as fees and penalties;
- storage of biopesticides and
- checks on health monitoring of workers.

The group recommended that the guidelines be finalized by taking into account the discussion at the meeting and written comments to be provided by JMPM panel members by 15 December 2019, if possible, for publication in 2020.

6.3. Guidelines on pesticide licensing

The JMPM considered a first draft of guidelines on pesticide licensing, the aim of which is ensure that people, entities and businesses that work with pesticides are qualified to do so. Panel members described the licensing systems in their countries and stressed the importance of enforcement and adequate financing of licensing programmes. They also underscored the complexity of licensing smallholder farmers and the emerging issue of sales of pesticides on the Internet. It was noted that, in some countries, training but not licensing of smallholder farmers is required, and considered that this approach was effective.

The JMPM recommended that the draft guidelines be revised to take account of the discussion and of additional written comments, notably to include more country examples, which the Panel members agreed to submit to the JMPM Secretariat by 15 December 2019. The JMPM also recommended that the title of the document be changed to “Guidelines on pesticide licensing schemes”. The group recommended that the guidelines be finalized for publication in 2020.

7. Revision of existing guidelines

7.1. Guidelines on monitoring implementation of the Code of Conduct

The JMPM discussed revision of the guidelines on monitoring and observance of the Code of Conduct, published in 2006. The Meeting noted that the revised introduction includes a new paragraph stating that the responsibility for responding to reports of weakness or issues in implementing the Code lies not with the JMPM (or FAO/WHO) but with national governments, which have jurisdiction over pesticide management in their countries. The JMPM (or FAO/WHO) would therefore forward reports to the relevant authorities and, if requested, help them to respond. The Meeting agreed that this would not be appropriate for transboundary and international issues. It also noted that, although the JMPM has neither the resources nor jurisdiction to respond directly to reports of inadequate implementation of the Code, it could suggest revision of the Code if that were judged to be appropriate.

Title of the guidelines

The JMPM tentatively agreed to change the title to “Guidelines on monitoring the observance of (or “the implementation of”) the Code of Conduct” but invited the participants to propose alternative titles at a later date if they so wished.

Scope

The JMPM agreed that the guidelines should cover (i) the process whereby governments, industry, nongovernmental organizations and other interested parties could monitor and report national implementation of the Code to the JMPM, and (ii) how the JMPM Secretariat should respond to such reports. The JMPM also tentatively agreed to add reporting of success or failure in addressing HHPs to the scope of the guidelines, for consideration at the next round of review.

Monitoring and reporting

The group noted that the guidelines have not achieved their purpose, as few regular or ad-hoc reports of non-observance of the Code have been submitted since 2006. The possible reasons are lack of awareness of the Code and associated guidelines and, because the JMPM lacks the capacity or authority to support countries in addressing pesticide management problems, countries are not motivated to report them. In a wide-ranging discussion, the group explored various ways of strengthening the guidelines to facilitate and encourage monitoring and reporting. These included:

- outlining what should be monitored; how, where, when and by whom and whether it should be continuous (which would require a monitoring system) or intermittent (e.g. as decided by each government);
- outlining the process for reporting and identifying what should be reported;

- providing more detail on how the JMPM Secretariat should respond to reports and how it should use them, e.g. to evaluate the effectiveness of the Code and identify guidelines that should be updated;
- identifying ways to promote and facilitate reporting, e.g. through contacts in regional groups or organizations (e.g. European Union, The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel); and
- identifying problems in implementing the Code with existing indicators and reports, e.g. from the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

On the topic of use of international reports or indicators for pesticide management, FAO noted the low response rate to the 2018 FAO/WHO global survey (discussed below), despite considerable effort by the Secretariat. FAO noted that the questionnaire was relatively long and not very user-friendly and proposed to replace it with a less ambitious, shorter, easier method, such as an annual online survey with 10 questions with regard to the articles of the Code.

The JMPM noted, however, that revision of the guidelines would not be sufficient to address the many pesticide management problems worldwide. The solution was to recognize the main problems and the stakeholders who could bring about change. It was proposed that the JMPM provide a platform and that the JMPM:

- ask governments and regional organizations to identify the most important problems associated with pesticide use in their countries and regions and indicate how the JMPM (or FAO/WHO) could help them address those problems;
- list the key issues and address them one at a time, e.g. by launching campaigns with country visits by special rapporteurs, as is done under the United Nations Human Rights system, followed by visits by representatives of the JMPM and its Secretariat; and
- launch a campaign to raise awareness about the Code of Conduct, stressing that failure to adhere to it could result in serious problems. The campaign could, for example, include the action plan on HHPs (discussed below) and ensure that it is on the agendas of influential meetings (e.g. assemblies of WHO, FAO and UNEP and meetings of SAICM, CLI and policy-makers).

Next steps

The JMPM recommended that revision of the guidelines be continued, keeping in mind that the current reporting system is not effective, that the resources of the JMPM Secretariat are limited, that the goal is to better protect human health and the environment and that the JMPM's role is to facilitate implementation of the Code. The participants were invited to send comments and propose text to the author, Michael Eddleston, in particular on priorities to be monitored, with references to the Code of Conduct if possible.

7.2. Guidelines on good practice in labelling pesticides

The JMPM heard a report on revision of the labelling guidelines published in 2015. The group approved the amendments made so far by the Secretariat, which were based on the JMPM recommendations in 2018. It then debated means for adding information on chronic toxicity to the colour codes, which currently reflect only acute toxicity. Questions were raised about the possible disappearance of “green labelling” with less testing, the possibility that pesticide

hazard lists might become outdated and inclusion of a “hierarchy of control” in the guidelines. In conclusion, the JMPM:

- recommended that the colour coding reflect the highest hazard category for the pesticide, whether it be acute or chronic toxicity, and
- stressed that the revised guidelines must clearly recommend adoption of the GHS.

The JMPM established a drafting group to help the Secretariat on those issues. Lilian Tornqvist, Sandhya Kulshrestha, Roma Gwynn and Andrea Rother volunteered to participate in the group. The JMPM also suggested inviting experts, including Harold van der Valk, author of the original guidelines, to provide guidance and advice. JMPM members were invited to send any additional comments on the current draft by 15 December 2019, especially on adaptation of the text and colour coding to reflect chronic toxicity.

In a related area, the JMPM further recommended that:

- the WHO Hazard Classification of Pesticides include a column in classification tables showing the GHS categories for chronic toxicity, as for acute toxicity; and
- WHO consider including the JMPM HHP criteria in the hazard classification with those for acute and chronic toxicity.

7.3. Guidelines on data requirements for the registration of pesticides

The JMPM heard a report on updating the guidelines on data requirements for pesticide registration, which is being written by Harold van der Valk on behalf of FAO. Like the guidelines published in 2013, the revised version provides background information in the body of the text and tables of data requirements in annexes. The changes made so far include:

- minor changes to the body of the text, which should be reviewed to ensure consistency with the annexes and with the Guidelines for the registration of microbial, botanical and semio-chemical pest control agents for plant protection and public health uses (2017); and
- partial updating of annexes A and B (chemical pesticides), which do not yet cover data requirements for environmental fate and ecotoxicology.

Updating of annexes C and D (biochemical pesticides, i.e. semio-chemicals) is awaiting finalization of European Union and OECD guidance for this group of pesticides; work has begun with CLI on a new Annex E (minor formulation changes); and a new Annex E (equivalence), to be based on the joint meeting on pesticide specifications manual, is proposed. Other relevant issues discussed by the JMPM suggested that:

- the body of the guidelines should be published separately from the annexes of data requirements to allow more flexibility in updating individual data requirements and easier access to data requirements for groups of pesticides;
- a paragraph be added to the text on the quality and authenticity of data;
- the equivalence data requirements of the joint meeting on pesticide specifications be added, after adaptation to the Toolkit; and
- the data requirements and risk assessment methods for microbials be added to the Toolkit as soon as possible after they have been drawn up by a small group of experts.

The JMPM recommended that updating of the guidelines continue, taking account of the group's comments and suggestions. The new version is expected to be finished by 2020–2021, although the timing is uncertain because of delays by the European Union and OECD.

7.4. Guidelines on good practice for aerial application of pesticides

The JMPM discussed updating of the guidelines on aerial application of pesticides, which were published in 2001, mainly to take into account changes in regulations and technology, such as application by drones, for which the product is more concentrated. It was agreed that the guidelines should be circulated to the JMPM for comment and that working group volunteers, Julio De Britto, Sandhya Kulshrestha, Christoph Neumann (with the relevant CLI working group), Sylvain Ouedraogo, Andrea Rother and FAO/WHO, should first use the review template devised by the Secretariat to identify whether an update is necessary. The WHO Secretariat agreed to engage experts in aerial spraying for advice. CLI offered to make available a recent document on drones. It was suggested that experts in Morocco who use aerial application of pesticides for locust control be approached, and it was agreed that experts should also be recruited to update the guidelines.

8. Proposed new guidelines

8.1. Proposed guidelines for reducing risks during phasing-out of pesticides

The JMPM considered a proposed outline of new guidelines for reducing risks during phasing-out of pesticides, which cover: legal measures, the responsibilities of government, industry and civil society, risk communication, financing and disposal. The JMPM agreed that drafting should commence and that the guidelines should:

- outline the process and steps of phasing-out;
- explain how to reduce risks, including by using alternatives, while use of the pesticide is still allowed;
- refer to the Registration Toolkit, which provides guidance on a decision to ban or phase out a pesticide because of health or environmental risks;
- stress the importance of communication with farmers while problematic pesticides are being evaluated for possible phasing-out (It was noted that, although pesticide producers often know about an impending restriction or withdrawal and begin to reduce production, farmers are not informed.); and
- recommend that a government that decides to ban or phase-out a pesticide should simultaneously stop national production and export.

A guideline working group was created, led by Andrea Rother (who drafted the outline), with Richard Brown (CLI), Sandhya Kulshrestha, Gamini Manuweera, Sylvain Ouedraogo, Lilian Tornqvist, PAN and FAO. It was suggested that advice from outside experts also be sought.

8.2. Proposed guidelines for prevention of suicide with pesticides

The working group reviewed a proposed outline for guidelines providing: information on the nature and extent of the problem, examples of national pesticide regulations that have succeeded in reducing suicide rates, an overview of the (mainly positive) impacts on agriculture of bans on pesticides known to be used in suicides, more data on the HHPs most often used for suicide, pesticide withdrawal as the most effective regulatory approach and possible steps for the JMPM. The JMPM agreed to the proposal and recommended that the guidelines continue to be drafted by a working group led by Michael Eddleston, with Don Ward, Gamini Manuweera, CLI (Richard Brown and/or Christoph Neumann), PAN (Keith Tyrell or Meriel Watts) and WHO.

9. Review of guidelines with the new FAO template

The JMPM expressed its appreciation of the review template developed by FAO and tested on the Guidelines on management options for empty containers (2008) and the Guidelines on post-registration surveillance and other activities in the field of pesticides (1988). The participants were invited to send written comments on the template and to review it again later. In the meantime, the JMPM agreed to continue to use the template for prioritizing updating of guidelines, indicating whether a revision is necessary and its urgency. The JMPM agreed to reviews of the following guidelines by ad-hoc review groups, as indicated:

- the pesticide application guidelines: to be reviewed by CLI, IBMA/Roma Gwynn and possibly some WHO experts (to be contacted by the WHO Secretariat);
- the guidelines on pest and pesticide management policy development (2010): to be reviewed by PAN/Laurent Gaberell, CLI, IBMA, the FAO Secretariat and Lilian Tornqvist;
- the guidelines on highly hazardous pesticides (2016): to be reviewed by Michael Eddleston, CLI/Christoph Neumann, Tadessa Amara, Agrocare/Hans Mattaar, PAN/Laurent Gaberell, Sherif Taha and the JMPM Secretariat;
- the guidelines on registration of pesticides (2010): to be reviewed by Sandhya Kulshrestha, Don Ward, CLI/Christoph Neumann and the FAO Secretariat;
- the guidelines on efficacy evaluation for the registration of plant protection products (2006): to be reviewed by the WHO Secretariat, IBMA/Roma Gwynn, AgroCare/Hans Mattaar, Sylvain Ouedraogo and Julio De Britto;
- the guidelines on pesticide advertising (2010): to be reviewed by Andrea Rother, CLI/Richard Brown, IPEN/Tadessa Amara and the FAO Secretariat; and
- the guidelines for drafting guidelines (2006): to be reviewed by CLI/Richard Brown.

With regard to the two guidelines that had been reviewed with the template, the JMPM agreed that:

- revision of the guidelines on options for the management of empty containers (2008) was not a priority, as concluded by the reviewers; and

- revision of the guidelines on post-registration surveillance and other activities (1988) was more urgent but not an immediate priority; the reviewers found that the guidelines were out of date and that important subjects, references and details were lacking.

10. Preliminary discussion of the report on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways to minimize them (request from the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, in December 2017)

To prepare for the second consultative meeting on the UNEP report, on 22 November 2019, the JMPM received an update on progress in writing the report and a reminder of its context and purpose. It was noted that JMPM participants would take part in the consultative meeting as independent experts and would not officially represent their organizations or the JMPM. The issues raised by the JMPM were:

Cooperation

- FAO, WHO and UNEP should work together and UNEP should join the JMPM, as an example of the cooperation that those organizations recommend to other national or regional entities.
- Cooperation and data-sharing should be ensured at ministerial level, especially among environment, health and agriculture ministries.

Data and information

- The UNEP report should include studies not only of the impacts of pesticides and fertilizers but also of monitoring, use of protective measures and treatment and disposal of pesticide wastes.
- Monitoring data are currently inadequate or outdated and should be improved.
- Consideration should be given to effective farming systems and risk reduction programmes.

Action

- Governments, farmers and other pesticide stakeholders should respond to public alarm about the impacts of pesticides and support for organic food and environmental protection.
- The precautionary principle should be applied in the Code of Conduct and in global dialogue on HHPs.

The JMPM expressed its support for the report and recommended that, when it was completed, it should be publicized internationally.

11. The global action plan and dialogue on highly hazardous pesticides

The JMPM was given a brief overview of FAO's recent activities in addressing HHPs, including: contributions to SAICM and other international programmes on sound management of chemicals; publication of HHP guidelines; implementation of national and regional projects, workshops and training; and publication of brochures. FAO also presented the proposed structure, activities and targets of a global action plan for HHP-free agriculture.

The JMPM then received a report from UNEP on a global dialogue on HHPs held in October 2019 at the third meeting of the inter-sessional process of SAICM, where on-going and planned work on HHPs was reviewed in response to a resolution at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM). The meeting also reviewed gaps in addressing HHPs and possible activities to address them, deliverables for the fifth session of the ICCM in October 2020 and next steps.

11.1. The global action plan

The JMPM generally supported the global action plan and recommended that stakeholders other than international organizations participate in its development and implementation, particularly government representatives from countries that had projects to address HHPs. It was noted that country-to-country advice based on experience was often helpful and well received. The JMPM also noted that implementation of the global plan might take a long time and that more immediate actions were necessary, such as identifying alternatives and providing training and capacity-building. The JMPM emphasized that a resource mobilization strategy should be included in the action plan.

11.2. The global dialogue

In its discussion of the global dialogue, the JMPM strongly agreed that effective alternatives must be found to facilitate the phasing-out of HHPs, without which the group considered that HHPs would probably be sold illegally. The JMPM suggested that lists of alternatives be drawn up for farmers, noting that such a list developed in France had been found useful. The initial focus should be on commodities, as the same ones are often grown throughout an entire region.

The JMPM agreed that the widespread problem of cross-boundary trade in HHPs (see below) should be addressed by national enforcement of pesticide registration and regulations and regional cooperation.

The JMPM debated at length on the merits and challenges of drawing up a list of HHPs. It noted that, when FAO had set its criteria for identifying HHPs in 2008, it did not provide a list of pesticides that met the criteria, as it considered that such decisions should be made nationally, any attempt to make an international list would result in endless discussions and that provision of technical assistance to countries to evaluate pesticides nationally or regionally would be more effective. Several JMPM panel members and observers, however, argued that an agreed list would be helpful for countries that wished to phase-out the use of

HHPs, and that would be consistent with the precautionary principle that the JMPM had recommended for the Code of Conduct. The JMPM therefore recommended that the Secretariat write a discussion paper and initiate dialogue on the concept of HHP lists, taking into account existing lists, related information and project activities. The JMPM also recommended that reviews be undertaken of the 2016 HHP guideline and of the eight criteria for identifying HHPs and that the FAO and WHO Secretariats prepare guidelines on the identification, assessment and management of compounds under the eighth criterion.

12. Revision of the JMPM terms of reference

The JMPM reviewed a revised draft of its terms of reference, which included comments received since the inter-sessional call in September 2019. The terms of reference specify the purpose and functioning of the JMPM, the roles and functions of panel members and observers, the duties and rotation of the chairperson (to be nominated in turn from the WHO and FAO panels and alternating at each meeting) and JMPM meetings, reports and documents. The Secretariat recommended that the terms of reference be finalized with a few minor amendments, notably that the JMPM should have five to seven panel members from each organization, who represented themselves and not their organizations. Observers in JMPM meetings would, however, represent their organizations. Once completed, the terms of reference will be forwarded to the legal offices of WHO and FAO for finalization and adoption.

13. Update on OECD activities on illegal trade in pesticides

In the absence of an OECD representative, FAO gave an update on OECD work on illegal trade in pesticides. The JMPM was reminded that the OECD Pesticide Working Group has worked on this issue since 2010, when it created the Network on Illegal Trade of Pesticides to help countries work together to prevent such trade. The Network consists of inspectors, regulatory authorities, customs officials and other experts from OECD countries and partners from selected non-OECD countries. The aim of the Network is to raise awareness about the problem, improve cooperation among countries through a “rapid alert system” to inform other countries of illegal shipments, to develop best practices against the illegal pesticide trade and to provide training for inspectors.

The OECD Council endorsed a recommendation (available [here](#)), adopted on 20 February 2019, to encourage countries to fight the illegal pesticide trade nationally and cooperate internationally. The Council recommendation includes guidance on best practice that includes identification of and response to illegal practices throughout the life-cycle of a pesticide. An OECD Council recommendation is a legal act, and both OECD and non-OECD countries can adhere to and to be associated with its activities.

The OECD is building capacity in West Africa and the Sahel for compliance and enforcement of pesticide regulations, with workshops for inspectors, inspection service managers and policy-makers. Training of inspectors and investigators is also planned. The FAO noted that its own pesticide programme is focusing on compliance and enforcement of pesticide registration and regulation, and it looks forward to joining forces with the OECD on prevention of illegal activities.

The JMPM commended the activities and agreed that non-OECD countries should be encouraged to participate in international activities led by the OECD.

14. Addressing issues raised in the reports of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Right to food and on Toxics

The JMPM was given an overview of the Rapporteurs' conclusions and recommendations (report available [here](#)) and agreed that the JMPM:

- would support many of the recommendations, while acknowledging that not all were realistic in the modern world;
- should consider the recommendations in developing and revising its technical guidelines; and
- would support work to make the Code of Conduct legally binding.

15. Review of conclusions and recommendations from the 2018 FAO/WHO global survey on pesticide management

WHO reviewed the findings and recommendations from the global survey (available [here](#)), noting that, although the response rate was relatively modest, the results could be considered a reasonable representation of the global situation. The JMPM commended WHO and FAO on the report, which they considered contained relevant information and useful recommendations, although some participants questioned the recommendation for training in use of personal protective equipment unless it applied to professional applicators. WHO and FAO both remarked that it had been difficult and time-consuming to obtain responses to the survey from countries; in particular, the poor response from European countries was disappointing.

The questionnaire sought information from countries about their:

- legislation for both agricultural and public health pesticides,
- provisions for HHPs,
- capacity and guidelines for pesticide registration,

- regional collaboration on pesticide registration,
- use of the FAO pesticide registration toolkit,
- access to a pesticide testing laboratory and national capacity for analysis,
- importation of pesticides for emergencies (by-passing quality control),
- monitoring and enforcement of compliance,
- response to and recording of pesticide poisoning incidents,
- implementation of integrated pest management and integrated vector management,
- monitoring of pesticide residues in food and in the environment,
- capacity for monitoring insecticide resistance,
- procedures for procuring pesticides for vector control,
- certification of pesticide applicators,
- storage and disposal of pesticides and
- general awareness of the risks associated with pesticides.

The report recommended that:

countries:

- review their legal framework for pesticide management, notably to include public health pesticides, biopesticides and HHPs;
- establish and strengthen regional collaboration;
- establish mechanisms to protect pesticide applicators and to monitor residues in food, feed and the environment; and
- reinforce agricultural extension services to train farmers in integrated pest management and use of personal protective equipment.

funding agencies:

- invest in training and capacity-building on good practice in pesticide management and
- establish laboratories and capacity for pesticide quality control.

WHO and FAO:

- monitor progress and lessons learnt,
- test and implement strategies to improve pesticide management,
- advocate sound pesticide management,
- publish information about current pesticide use and management and
- strengthen collaboration in their activities.

16. Review of actions and recommendations from the 11th meeting of the JMPM

The JMPM briefly reviewed outstanding issues from its meeting in 2018 and made two general recommendations for its technical guidelines:

- include cross-cutting issues such as the precautionary principle, HHPs and the hierarchy of control in the guidelines, as relevant; and

- request the Secretariat to seek assistance from communications services to make the guidelines more user-friendly.

17. Other issues

The JMPM discussed whether platforms should be created for sharing information among both JMPM members and countries. For its own platform, the group recommended that the JMPM [web page](#) be improved by adding links to other pesticide management organizations in order to illustrate various activities and by adding an internal site for storing JMPM meeting documents. With regard to an information-sharing platform for countries, Lilian Tornqvist offered to provide a link to the KemI website, which contains links to many useful pesticide management resources, including the Registration Toolkit and the KemI, European and UNEP guidelines, which, she noted, provided practical guidance on working with available information and data. The JMPM suggested that both platforms include a list of contacts that could provide information and/or collaborate with governments in pesticide registration and management.

The JMPM recommended that FAO and WHO improve the functioning of the JMPM and increase awareness of its work, such as by:

- documenting the work of the JMPM for distribution at meetings of the governing bodies of FAO, WHO and UNEP;
- asking member countries to inform relevant government agencies about JMPM guidelines and other resources; and
- seeking funding to ensure that the JMPM can fulfil its functions.

The JMPM also recommended a review to determine whether the Code of Conduct should be updated, such as to include mention of the JMPM, the Registration Toolkit, the precautionary principle, biopesticides and inter-ministerial cooperation.

18. Second consultative meeting on the UNEP report on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways to minimize them

At the second consultative meeting, an update was provided on the consultant's progress on the report, which was requested by the Third United Nations Environment Assembly in 2017, and an opportunity was provided for participants to ask questions and offer comments and ideas. The participants, who comprised worldwide experts on chemical and biological pesticides, fertilizers and soil, commended the consultant on the quality and comprehensiveness of the work done so far. In particular, they were impressed by the comprehensive data on the effects of pesticides on human health. They noted, however, that the data on environmental impacts were far from sufficient, and several participants from

governments and international organizations joined nongovernmental organizations in a “call for action”, commenting that “business as usual” in pesticide management was not enough and that the approach should be changed fundamentally. They noted that, despite many studies, evaluations and regulations on pesticide management, large numbers of people are poisoned every year by pesticides and great harm is done to beneficial organisms and the environment. The call for action echoed similar statements made during the JMPM meeting.

The consultant will take the comments into consideration in the next draft, which is expected to be available for review in late spring 2020.

19. Recommendations

The recommendations of the JMPM referred to in the text above are summarized below.

Increase the visibility and impact of the JMPM.

- The JMPM recommends that its profile on the web be raised by improving its web page and adding links to other pesticide management organizations to illustrate activities.
- The JMPM recommends that documents on its work be prepared for distribution at governing body meetings of FAO, WHO and UNEP.
- The JMPM recommends that FAO, WHO and UNEP ask their representatives in member countries to inform relevant government agencies about the JMPM guidelines and other resources.

The Code of Conduct

- The JMPM recommends that the Code be revised to include topics such as the JMPM, the precautionary principle, biopesticides, the Registration Toolkit and inter-ministerial cooperation.
- The JMPM recommends that consideration be given to making the Code of Conduct legally binding, to increase its impact.

JMPM funding and functioning

- The JMPM recommends that FAO and WHO seek financial resources to ensure that the JMPM can fulfil its functions.
- The JMPM supports continuation of the process whereby UNEP will join the JMPM, which should improve the JMPM’s engagement in environmental assessment and risk management.
- The JMPM recommends finalization and adoption of its terms of reference.

Agenda of JMPM meetings

- The JMPM recommends that the agendas for JMPM meeting include an item for presentations on pesticide management activities by panel members.
- The JMPM invites UNEP to present the results of their capacity-building project, Chemical Observatories, at the next JMPM meeting.

WHO hazard classification of pesticides

- The JMPM supports WHO's inclusion of chronic toxicity (according to the GHS system) in the hazard classification of pesticides.
- The JMPM recommends that WHO consider including the JMPM HHP criteria in the hazard classification, with classifications of acute and chronic toxicity.

JMPM guidelines

- The JMPM recommends that the FAO and WHO Secretariats seek assistance from communications services to make the guidelines more user-friendly.
- The JMPM recommends that the guidelines include cross-cutting issues such as the precautionary principle, HHPs and the hierarchy of pesticide control.
- The JMPM recommends that the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Right to food and on Toxics be taken into consideration in drafting and revising guidelines.
- The JMPM recommends endorsement of the guidelines on personal protective equipment, after minor amendments.
- The JMPM recommends that consideration be given to including the work of the UNEP capacity-building project, Chemical Observatories, in relevant JMPM guidelines.
- The JMPM recommends finalization, if possible for publication in 2020, of guidelines on:
 - management of household pesticides;
 - inspection of pesticide producers, importers, distributors and retailers; and
 - pesticide licensing schemes.
- The JMPM recommends updating the guidelines on:
 - monitoring observance of the Code,
 - labelling (to include chronic toxicity in the colour coding),
 - aerial spraying (based on the outcomes of the review) and
 - data requirements for registration.
- The JMPM recommends development of new guidelines on:
 - risk reduction during phasing-out of pesticides and
 - regulation of pesticides used in suicide.
- The JMPM recommends a review of the potentially outdated guidelines on:
 - application equipment,
 - policy development,
 - HHPs,
 - registration,
 - efficacy,
 - advertising and
 - drafting guidelines.

Laboratories

- The JMPM recommends further work by WHO and FAO to improve access to and capacity for laboratory analysis of pesticide quality and residues in under-resourced countries.

Highly hazardous pesticides

- The JMPM recommends a review of the HHP guidelines.

- The JMPM recommends a review of the HHP criteria.
- The JMPM recommends that the FAO and WHO Secretariats prepare guidelines on identification, assessment and management of HHPs under criterion 8.
- The JMPM recommends that the JMPM Secretariat write a discussion paper and initiate dialogue on the concept of HHP lists.
- The JMPM recommends that countries that have successfully limited the adverse effects of pesticide use share the information with other countries and with the JMPM.
- The JMPM recommends that development of a global action plan on HHPs be continued, in consultation with governments and other stakeholders.
- The JMPM recommends that countries that ban a pesticide for national use should simultaneously stop its production and export.

Biopesticides

- The JMPM recommends that the Registration Toolkit be updated to include data requirements and guidance on testing and evaluation of biopesticides, to be prepared by a small group of experts.
- The JMPM recommends that FAO and WHO, in cooperation with other stakeholders, organize a global workshop to train users and regulators in use of biopesticides.

Annex 1. List of participants

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Annex 2. Final agenda adopted by the JMPM

Monday, 18 November 2019	
Meeting of the FAO and WHO JMPM Secretariat (at WHO headquarters)	15:00–18:00
Tuesday, 19 November 2019	
<i>Closed session</i> Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Declarations of interest ii. Panel working procedures and programme of work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Membership (Panel members) b. Chair, Co-chair and rapporteurs iii. Any other matters 	09:00–09:30
<i>Open session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and welcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcome – Dr Raman Velayudhan and Dr Rajpal Yadav (WHO) b. Introduction of participants c. Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WHO – Dr Mwelecele Malecela, Director, NTD Department ○ FAO – Mr Gu Baogen, Team Leader, Plant Prod. and Protect. Div. 2. Appointment of Chairperson, Co-Chair and Rapporteurs 3. Adoption of agenda 4. Meeting procedure, working arrangements and housekeeping 	
Morning tea / coffee break 	10:30–10:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Summary of developments and actions taken after the 11th JMPM in 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Brief reports (10' max) on progress on pesticide management and initiatives by: b. WHO, FAO/Rotterdam Convention, UN Environment, nongovernmental organizations and industry 	10:45–11:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Review of actions and recommendations from 11th JMPM meeting (quick review) Review of updated "Follow-up Action Plan" 	11:45–12:30
Lunch break 	12:30–14:00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Review of new guidelines in advanced stage of development (first part) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New Guidelines on management of household pesticides (final draft) 	14:00–15:30
Afternoon tea / coffee break 	15:30–15:45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Review of new guidelines in advanced stage of development (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New guidelines for the inspection of pesticide producers, importers, distributors and retailers (final draft) 	15:45–17:45

Wednesday, 20 November 2019		
7.	Review of new guidelines in advanced stage of development (cont'd) b. New Guidelines on pesticide licensing (first draft)	9:00–10:30
Morning tea / coffee break 		10:30–10:45
8.	Revision of existing guidelines (first part) a. Guidelines on monitoring and observance of the Code of Conduct (2006)–update on the revision process b. Guidelines on good labelling practice for pesticides (2015) – update/discussion on the revision process	10:45–12:30
Lunch break 		12:30–14:00
8.	Revisions of existing guidelines (cont'd) c. Guidelines on data requirements for the registration of pesticides (2013) – status of revision process d. Guidelines on good practice for aerial application of pesticide (2001) –working group and exchange on key points for the revision	14:00–15:30
Afternoon tea / coffee break 		15:30 - 15:45
9.	Planning development of new guidelines and review of existing guidelines (and related issues) - Review and prioritization process (<i>cf. list of guidelines as of 15 October</i>) a. Proposal for new guidelines ○ Proposed new guidelines on reducing risks during pesticide phase-out of a pesticide (outline) ○ Proposed new guidelines on pesticide suicide prevention (outline) b. Review of existing guidelines (use of new review template) ○ Quick assessment of Guidelines on management options for empty containers (2008) ○ Quick assessment of Guidelines on post-registration surveillance and other activities in the field of pesticides (1988) c. Prioritization and next steps	15:45–17:30
<i>Closed session</i> (Provisional, as necessary)		17:30
8.	Revision of existing guidelines a. Guidelines on Monitoring and Observance of the Code of Conduct (2006)–JMPP conclusion on the revision process	
<i>Note: Rapporteurs to work on recommendations</i>		17:30–19:30 (flexible)

Thursday, 21 November 2019		
10.	JMPM terms of reference b. Revision process c. Expectations of panel members and observers on JMPM	09:00–9:30
11.	Emerging and priority issues in pesticide management, including gaps, challenges and future directions of FAO and WHO (first part) a. Report on 3 rd Intersessional process (IP3) meeting of SAICM b. Report on global dialogue on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) and discuss strategy of addressing HHPs JMPM inputs for a global strategy and SAICM ICCM 5 (October 2020)	9:30–10:30
Morning tea / coffee break 		10:30–10:45
11.	Emerging and priority issues in pesticide management, including gaps, challenges and future directions of FAO and WHO (cont'd) c. Illegal trade of pesticides and other key issues Review of OECD 2018 Legal Act on Countering the Illegal Trade of Pesticides and associated best practice guidance d. Addressing issues raised in the reports by the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and on Toxics e. Review of conclusions and recommendations from report on the 2018 FAO/WHO global survey on pesticide management f. Other issues to be identified (with advanced contributions from JMPM members and observers)	10:45–11:45
12.	JMPM advanced discussion on preparation of the report on the environment and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers (UNEA-3 request in December 2017) a. JMPM advanced discussion on the process (before Friday meeting)	11:45–12:05
12.5	(new). Status of actions and recommendations from 2018 meeting and not covered in 2019 meeting	12:05–12:15
13.	Any other issues	12:15 - 12:30
Lunch break 		12:30–14:00
<i>Closed session</i> 14. Review of JMPM recommendations		14:00–15:30
Afternoon tea / coffee break 		15:30–15:45
15.	Finalization of JMPM recommendations	15:45–17:30
<i>Note: Rapporteurs to finalize JMPM recommendations</i>		18:00–20:00 (flexible)

Friday, 22 November 2019		
<i>Open session</i>		
16.	Presentation of JMPM recommendations	8.30–9.15
<i>Special JMPM session on participation in United Nations Environment Consultative Meeting</i>		
17.	Second consultative meeting in preparation of a report mandated from UNEA-3 on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers	9.15–10.30
a.	Discussion on the draft report on the environment and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers	
Morning tea / coffee break 		10:30–10:45
17.	Second consultative meeting (cont'd)	10.45- 12.30
Lunch break 		12:30–14:00
17.	Second consultative meeting (cont'd)	14:00–16:30
18.	Closure	16:30–17:00

Annex 3. Developments and actions since the previous session of the JMPM

WHO

WHO reported the following activities:

- publication of:
 - a report on worldwide pesticide management in agriculture and public health;
 - an assessment of public health pesticide management in Bangladesh, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam;
 - a study on monitoring insecticide resistance in adult mosquitoes;
 - new WHO generic risk assessment models for household insecticides, skin-applied repellents and insecticide-treated clothing;
 - spreadsheet files to complement the WHO generic risk assessment models for public health pesticides (for insecticide-treated nets and for pesticides used for indoor residual spraying, space spraying, larviciding and mollusciciding) to semi-automate a significant part of the calculations (files added to the pesticide registration toolkit);
 - a brochure on FAO and WHO pesticide guidelines and other technical resources;
 - guidance for pesticide registrars and regulators on phasing-out pesticides to prevent suicide; and
 - a cost-effective proposal for regulatory bans on HHPs to prevent suicide within the WHO mental health action plan, to be considered by the WHO Executive Board in 2020.
- support for establishment with OECD-GLP of research laboratories compliant with good laboratory practice at nine centres to test the efficacy of vector control products;
- workshops on good laboratory practice and on obsolete pesticide management;
- pilot-testing of tools for vector surveillance and control;
- country capacity-building in vector control and resistance management; and
- progress in updating the WHO recommended classification of pesticides by hazard, anticipated to be published early in 2020 (in English, French and Spanish).

FAO

FAO reported the following activities:

- preparation of four guidelines on pesticide management for final review at the current meeting: on household pesticides, licensing, personal protection equipment and inspection of pesticide producers, importers, distributors and retailers;
- setting of international pesticide quality standards and specifications and criteria for technical equivalence;
- setting of maximum residue levels: 56 pesticides evaluated, 135 maximum residue levels established for new uses and more than 300 maximum residue levels reviewed during two sessions of the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR);
- co-hosting with WHO of the first World Food Safety Day and a workshop in China on pesticide risk reduction and alternatives to HHPs; and

- hosting of the Ninth Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and a Chemical Review Committee meeting.

FAO also continued its participation in global coalitions and conventions on sound chemical management, including SAICM, the ICCM and the Basel Convention, and jointly organized a side event at the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on illegal trade in pesticides with OECD. At regional and national levels, FAO built country capacity in passing and enforcing pesticide laws and regulations, phasing out HHPs, using integrated pest management and alternatives and supporting management of empty containers and disposal of obsolete stock. FAO also supported regional harmonization and collaboration in pesticide management and organized workshops and training in biocontrol of fall armyworm. One of FAO's most important activities continued to be training in use of the Pesticide registration toolkit: 393 people in 64 countries have been trained since 2017.

UNEP

UNEP reported the following activities:

- launch at the UNEP Assembly of the latest edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook in April 2019, which provides an overview of the current status of a broad range of chemicals, including pesticides;
- responded to the Assembly's request for follow-up reports on several areas, including the neonicotinoids;
- conducted a new project to help African countries obtain access to information for decision-making, through an information-sharing platform, Chemical Observatories, which allows establishment of evidence-based policies, sustainable decisions on sound chemicals management and disease burden; and
- made progress in joining the Secretariat of the JMPM.

Several activities were discussed later in the meeting: the UNEP report on the impacts of pesticides and fertilizers on health and the environment, regional activities within the SAICM process and activities on HHPs.

Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

PAN reported the following activities:

- continuation of its worldwide health monitoring surveys and improvement of its survey tool with London hospital surveyors;
- development of a robust global estimate of acute pesticide poisoning incidents from a review of scientific studies and publications;
- updating of the PAN list of HHPs (last updated in 2018), for which PAN is working with retailers and standards;
- field projects in use of agroecology instead of HHPs in countries with a high incidence of HHP poisoning (results have shown increased productivity);
- research on "double standards" in the sale of HHPs by CropLife International members and the export of banned pesticides from Switzerland and the European Union; and
- support for recognition of HHPs as a major international concern (SAICM, ICCM) and worldwide phasing-out.

In response to the Secretariat's invitation to identify gaps and challenges in pesticide management, PAN recommended that the JMPM:

- make a list of HHPs,
- revise the criteria for an HHP,
- revise the Code of Conduct to include issues such as double standards and agroecology and
- support worldwide phasing-out of HHPs.

International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN)

IPEN reported the following activities:

- development of a global HHP strategy to document situations in countries, assess nationally available alternatives to HHPs, raise public awareness and issue educational materials on HHPs and their alternatives, with assistance from PAN; and
- development of an African HHP strategy and studies that showed that, despite the availability of alternatives, HHPs represent 58% of pesticides registered in Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania, 34% in Kenya, 19% in Mozambique, 9.5% in Cameroon and 4% in Zambia.

IPEN described various activities for promoting HHP alternatives, agroecology and/or organic agriculture in Africa, for example by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (a pioneering research institute), PAN-United Kingdom, PAN-Ethiopia and Bio-vision Africa Trust. IPEN also described the work of a farmer field school project in Ethiopia, which has developed alternatives to pesticides for cotton and a food spray organic recipe for biological pest management. The project involved both female and male farmers and produced Ethiopia's first organic cotton, with a 100% increase in yield and a 77% increase in price.

IPEN recommended that an internationally agreed list of HHPs be prepared; adoption of a mechanism to prohibit the export/import of pesticides banned in some countries to the developing world; specific measures to raise awareness about HHPs and progressively ban them; increase agroecology research and mainstream the approach in extension programmes; and build farmers' capacity to use integrated pest management and agroecology.

CropLife International (CLI)

CLI reported the following activities:

- establishment of supply chains to bring personal protective equipment to the market;
- training of more than 200 000 people in responsible pesticide use and use of personal protective equipment;
- promotion of labelling of pesticides according to their mode of action;
- raising awareness about counterfeit pesticides, including in partnership with governments and international organizations;
- training and research on control of fall armyworm;
- funding, information and support for the Better Rice Initiative and Sustainable Rice Platform;
- with partners, training farmers in integrated pest management and responsible use of pesticides;
- an initiative to improve and establish pesticide incident reporting;
- development of an industry position on criterion 8 for identifying HHPs;

- training in risk assessment and risk management in Africa and Asia, with support for use of the FAO Pesticide registration toolkit, in regulatory harmonization (in ASEAN) and in operator exposure for toxicologists in Thailand;
- raising awareness about SAICM and promoting the Code of Conduct; and
- participating in the HHP stakeholder meeting, sector meetings on agriculture and biodiversity and the GHS coalition.

In lieu of recommendations, CLI asked for a more realistic approach to HHPs. Notably, CLI considered that it would be difficult to draw up a list of HHPs to which all stakeholders would agree. CLI noted that half of the pesticides on PAN's HHP list are registered in OECD countries; therefore, a better starting point is necessary.

International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA)

IBMA reported the following activities:

- the growing global market for biopesticides (currently approximately 3.8 billion), with the largest share in Canada and the United States of America but the highest growth rate in Latin America and particularly Brazil, which has a specific regulation for biopesticides that ensures that they are on the market more quickly than conventional pesticides;
- a growing percentage of biologicals on the global plant protection market: 5.6% for total crop protection, 9.0% after exclusion of herbicides and 18.4% for pest control in fruits and vegetables;
- in 2019:
 - production of a one-page definition of biopesticides and the four types of biocontrol: microbiological pesticides, natural substances (e.g. botanicals and minerals), invertebrate biocontrol agents (e.g. insects, fungi and nematodes that control other pests) and semiochemicals (pheromones);
 - creation of a decision tree or framework to help regulators determine when risk assessment of a biocontrol product is necessary (e.g. for microbials) and when it is not, because of the inherent nature of the product; and
 - organization of the annual biocontrol industry meeting, which is larger every year, with 1227 participants from 52 countries in 2019.

IBMA also described its continuing work to promote global harmonization of biopesticide regulations and its interest in demonstrating real-life examples of biocontrol. It noted that the European Union is revising its data requirements for microbials in response to a demand by the European Parliament.

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