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**ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
JOINT MEETING OF THE CHEMICALS COMMITTEE AND
THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**REPORT OF THE OECD SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES NEAR/IN
RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

**Series on Pesticides
No. 58**

17 November 2009, Tokyo, Japan

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OECD Environment, Health and Safety Publications
Series on Pesticides

No. 58

**Report of the OECD Seminar on Pesticide Risk Reduction
Strategies Near/in Residential Areas**

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among **FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO, World Bank and OECD**

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Report of the OECD/FAO Workshop on Pesticide Risk Reduction (1995)

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The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organisation in which representatives of 34 industrialised countries in North and South America, Europe and the Asia and Pacific region, as well as the European Commission, meet to co-ordinate and harmonise policies, discuss issues of mutual concern, and work together to respond to international problems. Most of the OECD's work is carried out by more than 200 specialised committees and working groups composed of member country delegates. Observers from several countries with special status at the OECD, and from interested international organisations, attend many of the OECD's workshops and other meetings. Committees and working groups are served by the OECD Secretariat, located in Paris, France, which is organised into directorates and divisions.

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FOREWORD

This document is the report of the OECD *Seminar Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategies near/in Residential Areas* that was held on 17 November, 2009 in Tokyo, Japan. It was hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and was chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

This was the eleventh in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide Risk Reduction Steering Group, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides. These Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD governments. The Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss the issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further OECD activities.

After a series of presentations on governments' and other stakeholders' approaches and initiatives (copies of all presentations are in [Annex 3](#)), the Seminar discussed the various issues associated with pesticide professional use *near* residential areas (e.g. agricultural fields) and *in* residential areas (e.g. horticulture, public/urban areas, sport grounds): legislative context; bystander and resident exposure; risk assessment and management approaches; training of operators; communication aspects, etc. The Seminar developed four main recommendations on developing guidance and further exploring technical, information exchange and economic areas.

The Seminar report was approved out-of-session by the Working Group on Pesticides by written procedure that was finished on 15 January 2011.

This document is being published under the responsibility of the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology, which has agreed that it be unclassified and made available to the public.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the results and recommendations of an OECD *Seminar on strategies to achieve risk reduction regarding professional pesticide use near and in residential areas*. This one-day Seminar, held on 17 November, 2009 was chaired by Wolfgang Zornbach (Germany), Chairman of the OECD Risk Reduction Steering Group (RRSG), and took place in Tokyo, Japan.

2. The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, hosted this Seminar and organized the field trip that took place the day before in the Ibaraki Prefecture area. The field-trip day comprised several visits, including a stop at a bell pepper and paprika production site (greenhouses), a tour of a horticulture research institute including the demonstration of a sensor sprayer in an apple orchard, which was protected against spray drift with a net, and finally a visit to a large, tomato and strawberry production cooperative (greenhouses) including the demonstration of a high-tech tomato sorter. The field trip proved very helpful in the context of the RRSG Seminar that took place immediately the day after. During the field trip, participants could see Japanese agricultural and residential landscapes and understand the context of pesticide use on small farm lands that could be close to houses and densely populated areas.

3. This Seminar was the eleventh in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide RRSG, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides (a group composed primarily of representatives of the 34 OECD governments but that also includes representatives of the European Commission and other international organisations, the pesticide industry, and the environmental community). RRSG Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD countries. The Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss these issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further follow-up OECD activities. The OECD Pesticides Programme has made great accomplishments toward helping national governments coordinate the efficiency and effectiveness of pesticide risk reduction work, in part because of Seminars such as the one held in Tokyo.

4. Past OECD Risk Reduction Seminars are listed below:

Title of Seminar [references of publication]	Date	Place
Compliance and Risk Reduction <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2004)6</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 24)	10 March 2003	Paris, France
Minor Uses and Pesticide Risk Reduction <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2005)4</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 26)	4 Nov. 2003	Canberra, Australia
Pesticide Risk Reduction through Good Container Management <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2005)12</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 28)	22 June 2004	Bonn, Germany
Risk Reduction through Good Pesticide Labelling <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2006)13</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 29)	1 March 2005	Paris, France
Pesticide Risk Reduction through Better Application Technology <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2007)3</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 35)	30 Nov. 2005	Wellington, New Zealand
Joint OECD/EC Seminar on Harmonised Environmental Indicators For Pesticide Risk (HAIR) <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2007)27</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 40)	13 Nov. 2006	Bonn, Germany
Risk Reduction through Better Worker Safety and Training <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2008)9</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 42)	21 March 2007	Brno, Czech Republic
Risk Reduction through Education / Training the Trainers <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2009)35</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 45)	15 Nov. 2007	Mexico City, Mexico
Risk Reduction through Spray Drift Reduction Strategies as Part of National Risk Management <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2009)36</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 46)	12 June 2008	Paris, France
Pesticide Risk Reduction through Better National Risk Management Strategies for Aerial Application <i>ENV/JM/MONO(2010)22</i> (Series on Pesticides No. 50)	24 Feb. 2009	San Francisco, US

The reports from these Seminars are available on the OECD public web site at: <http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides>, under the section “Risk Reduction.”

5. Members of the RRSg selected “pesticide risk reduction strategies near/in residential areas” as the topic of this Seminar considering its significance for pesticide risk reduction in the fields of human health and the environment. Previous OECD Seminars already considered some aspects of issues related to the uses of pesticides near or in residential areas. The first Seminar on *Compliance* stressed the importance of raising public awareness about pesticide risks, e.g. by using media to disseminate information to the public. The Seminars on *Good Pesticide Labelling* and on *Good Container Management* recommended that labels be in clear language and mindful of different users. More recently, the interface between agricultural and residential/urban settings has been a background and recurrent topic, such as during the 2008 Seminar on *Spray Drift Reduction Strategies* and during the last Seminar on *Aerial Application*. For example, issues associated with by-stander exposure or communication between farmers and their neighbouring communities have received a lot of attention.

PARTICIPANTS

6. People attending the OECD Seminar included:
- Representatives of the pesticide regulatory authorities of OECD countries (Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States), the European Commission and Brazil (an OECD enhanced engagement country)
 - Representatives from industry, including CropLife International (the international association of pesticide manufacturers), BIAC (Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD) and IBMA (International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association)
 - International experts dealing with issues associated with pesticide use near/in residential areas from other key stakeholder groups such as Pesticide Action Network Asia-Pacific and Japanese NGOs.
7. A participant list is provided in Annex 2.

PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

8. The main objectives of the Seminar included:
- to identify key issues, specific risks and challenges of pesticide use and risk reduction near/in residential areas
 - to provide updates of national and international legislative, non-legislative and technical activities and initiatives for requiring or promoting the adoption of risk reduction practices and technologies by farmers (and other professional agricultural pesticide users) near residential areas, and for promoting information towards the public
 - to exchange information on OECD countries' current risk reduction activities near/in residential areas
 - to suggest risk reduction policy options for protecting human health and the environment in residential areas and to promote a better understanding of issues among all stakeholders involved
 - to suggest and discuss options of further steps for OECD countries and key stakeholders in OECD and non-OECD countries to address the identified issues
 - to recommend possible further steps for OECD.

SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR

9. The scope of the Seminar was on issues and risk reduction strategies regarding *professional* pesticide uses:

- in agricultural fields near/along residential areas, and
- in residential areas and other settings (e.g. horticulture settings, golf courses, public/urban areas such as sport/leisure yards, streets, public gardens, schools, railways).

10. The topic of private/amateur uses of pesticides in private homes and gardens was not covered during this Seminar. It may be the topic of a future OECD Seminar.

11. In particular, the following issues were presented during the Seminar:

- Requirements/regulations/restrictions for pesticide uses near/in residential areas
- Specific training/certification programs for applications near/in residential areas
- By-stander (including children/infant) exposure models and risk assessment/management approaches
- New/specific application technologies and approaches for managing risks (spray drift, run-off, volatilization) near/in residential areas
- Protection of by-standers and neighbouring communities as well as the environment, including home gardens, streets, public parks.
- Communication/advice/education towards by-standers and neighbouring communities (i.e. information about pesticides and related risks, alert/reporting systems, hot lines, use of media, etc.)
- Conflict between residential development and agricultural lands
- Recommendations for improving risk reduction strategies for pesticide use near/in residential areas.

STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

12. The first part of the Seminar in the morning and early afternoon was devoted to informative presentations from governments and other stakeholders. The second part of the afternoon consisted of roundtable discussions that built on issues that arose from the presentations, and recommendations for the OECD. The Seminar Programme is provided in [Annex 1](#).

GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE & PERSPECTIVES

13. First, government representatives of Australia, Japan, New Zealand, UK, and US, and the European Food Safety Authority presented their experiences and recent initiatives with issues associated with pesticide use in/near residential areas in their own countries/regions. Then representatives of the industry (pesticide manufacturers) and NGOs presented their perspectives, actions and concerns.

14. Below are listed the main topics covered in the presentations. More detailed information can be found in the slides of presentations that are grouped in [Annex 3](#).

- *Recent developments in pesticide and environmental legislative contexts to consider and protect by-standers and residents* (preparation of European guidance for exposure assessment, revision of country regulations to include by-stander exposure to spray drift)
- *Specifics of by-standers and residents* (indirect exposure during and after application; by-standers and residents are not like operators nor like workers; examples of definitions for by-standers and residents were provided)
- *By-stander and resident exposure* (routes of exposure: dermal/oral/inhalation, specific models/scenarios, studies and risk assessment)
- *Spray drift considerations and modelling*
- *Development/promotion of effective technologies (equipment/formulation)* to reduce drift and thus to reduce pesticide risks
- *Promotion of best practices that reflect use context*
- *Urban and rural interface* (issues associated with the urbanisation of the rural landscape, land planning initiatives to protect neighbours while keeping sufficient good quality agricultural lands)
- *Use of (vegetative) buffer zones* (however not always practicable depending on the size of the country and the type of agriculture)
- *Importance of education and appropriate training of pesticide users* (development of specific educational/training programmes, seminars and manuals focusing on environmental and health safety aspects in residential areas; promotion of activities involving local governments)
- *Management of risks through pesticide re-assessment and risk/benefit analysis*
- *Communication and information aspects* (notification to residents and by-standers, other communication programmes to limit complaints and media coverage associated with spraying near homes and public sites)

- *Promotion of mutual understanding between farmers and neighbours* (in order to improve relationships and increase public awareness)
- *Divergence of views and perceptions of pesticide “risks”* by farmers/users or by concerned rural residents
- *Information on websites* (many presentations included links to information on pesticide use and risk assessment in/near residential areas)

SEMINAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

15. Following the presentations reviewing the existing initiatives in OECD countries and among various stakeholders, the floor was opened to all Seminar participants for a roundtable discussion. The following points guided the discussion:

- Specific aspects of uses near residential areas (e.g. agricultural fields) and. in residential areas (e.g. horticulture, public/urban areas, sport grounds)
- Key issues and challenges of pesticide use in or near residential areas
- Good practices and innovative approaches for managing risks near/in residential areas
- Regulatory requirements that exist in different countries, and existing guidance and other voluntary measures concerning pesticide use near/in residential areas
- Risk assessment/management approaches
- Communication aspects (towards by standers and neighbouring communities), i.e. alert/reporting systems, hot lines, media
- Opportunities for further development for all stakeholders, governments, industry, NGOs and OECD.

16. All participants made knowledgeable interventions which contributed to a better understanding of the issues associated with professional pesticide use in or near residential areas and helped the group reach recommendations on follow-up steps for OECD on this topic.

17. Summarising the discussions among participants and taking into account the suggestions made around the table, the Chair developed the following recommendations that fell into four work areas:

1. Guidance development

→ *developing guidance on pesticide spray drift risk assessment*

2. Technical activity

→ *exploring the feasibility of developing standards for the testing of nozzles*

3. Exchange of information

→ *learning about other countries' risk management and risk mitigation approaches as professional pesticide use in/near residential areas is concerned*

4. Economic study

→ *reviewing external costs of urbanization of agricultural lands*

18. Regarding the first recommendation to develop a guidance on pesticide spray drift risk assessment, many participants were interested in reviewing the parameters used in existing spray drift deposition models, as well as reviewing existing data sets, identifying data gaps and listing deposition studies (and spraying conditions under which they are conducted). By collecting this data and using a science-based approach, it was felt possible to identify parameters that lead to variability and differences in outcomes among countries. Thus, it would be possible to explain why, with similar data, individual countries end up using different approaches. The Seminar suggested preparing a short-term and long-term workplan for international work on spray drift risk assessment, including harmonization where feasible and practical. It was also suggested liaising with EFSA to see if the timing of EU guidance development could be aligned with that of OECD.

19. Regarding the second recommendation that is of more technical nature, some participants suggested new work on standards for the testing of nozzles. Before undertaking any new work, it was recommended to look at what other organizations, such as ISO, were doing.

20. Regarding the third recommendation that relates to communication / exchange of information in the area of pesticide risk management, many delegates were eager to learn about other countries' risk management and risk mitigation approaches as far as professional pesticide use in/near residential areas is concerned. A first step could be e.g. a survey to collect, hence better understand, risk management and risk mitigation approaches/options used and developed by governments. This recommendation deals with various risk management issues such as notification and alert systems, buffer zones, risk reduction technologies, training, communication aspects (e.g. behaviours/perceptions of farmers and residents), etc.

21. Regarding the fourth recommendation of more economic nature, some participants were interested in reviewing the external costs of urbanization of agricultural land and identifying those who pay these costs (farmers? society?). An initial study could review the costs of buffer zones. To start with, the Seminar recommended that the OECD Secretariat investigate in-house whether a study on external costs of urbanisation of agricultural land had already been conducted by OECD groups, either in the environment or agriculture directorates.

Note:

The recommendations developed by the Seminar participants will be forwarded to the relevant subsidiary bodies of the OECD Pesticides Programme, the members of which will consider these recommendations and agree on which one(s) to initiate, if any.

ANNEX 1



**PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION STEERING GROUP
SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES
NEAR/IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS¹**

**Tuesday 17 November 2009
Tokyo, Japan**

United Nations University, Elizabeth Rose Conference Hall

Final Programme

Chair: Wolfgang Zornbach, Germany

<p>9.30 a.m.</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and welcoming remarks – Japan (<i>Dr. Yukiko YAMADA, vice-Chair of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides and Deputy Director-General, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</i>) • Purpose and structure of the Seminar - Chair • Tour de table to introduce participants
	<p>Government Regulatory Initiatives, Experience and Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan: <i>Policy on the Pesticide Uses near/in the Residential Area - Current Situation</i> (Ms. Atsuko HORIBE, Deputy Director, Agricultural Chemicals Office, Plant Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) • United Kingdom: <i>Agricultural pesticides and bystander/resident exposures in the UK</i> (Mr. Paul HAMEY, Principal Scientist Human Exposure (Plant Protection Products), Chemicals Regulation Directorate, Health and Safety Executive) • United States of America: <i>Concepts of US EPA's Exposure Assessments for Residential Use Pesticides</i> (Mr. Jay ELLENBERGER, Deputy Director, Field and External Affairs Division, Office of Pesticide Programme, US EPA) • Australia: <i>Public health considerations of bystander exposure to spray drift</i> (Dr Don Ward, Acting Director, Chemical Policy Section, Office of Chemical Safety and Environmental Health, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union: <i>Preparation of a Guidance Document on Pesticide Exposure Assessment for Workers, Operators, Bystanders and Residents</i> (Mr. Paul HAMEY, UK, on behalf of Ms. Muriel DUNIER-THOMANN, European Food Safety Authority)

¹ Note: The topic of private/amateur uses of pesticides in private homes and gardens is not covered during this Seminar. Only **professional pesticide uses** are addressed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand: <i>Managing Pesticide Risk near/in Residential Areas – A New Zealand perspective</i> (Warren HUGHES, Programme Manager, New Zealand Food Safety Authority) • Other countries are invited to make presentations on their experiences
	<p>Industry activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop Life International: <i>Use of Pesticides near and in Residential Areas: A Special Case?</i> (Bernhard JOHNEN / Keith JONES)
	<p>Perspectives from the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green and Safety Promoters Association, Japan: <i>Education/Training for Reducing Risk Arising from Spraying Pesticides</i> (Mr. Yoshihiko CHINO, Chief, Pesticide Safety Counselling Division) • University of Queensland, Australia: <i>Harmonising Agricultural and Residential Land Practices within Regional Queensland</i> (Mr Mark PACE, Director, G-VEC) • Pesticide Action Network: <i>Request for Reconsideration over Japanese ODA Policy on Promoting Pesticide Impregnated Mosquito Net and Domestic Policy on Aerial Spraying of Pesticide from the View Point of Risk Reduction Strategy</i> (Dr. Koa TASAKA, Steering Council Member of PAN Asia & Pacific) • Other NGOs and associations are invited to make presentations on their experiences
	<p>Round-table Discussion (non-exhaustive list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory requirements that exist in different countries, and existing guidance and other voluntary measures concerning pesticide use near/in residential areas • Specific risks and challenges • Specific aspects of uses near residential areas (e.g. agricultural fields) vs. in residential areas (e.g. horticulture, public/urban areas, sport grounds) • Good practices & innovative approaches for managing risks near/in residential areas • Risk assessment/management approaches • Relative effectiveness of different risk reduction methods • Training/certification for application near/in residential areas • Communication aspects (towards bystanders and neighbouring communities), i.e. alert/reporting systems, hot lines, use of media
	<p>Summary of the Discussion, Ideas for Follow-up, Recommendations for possible further OECD work</p>
6.00 p.m.	End of the Seminar

ANNEX 2

**OECD SEMINAR ON RISK REDUCTION STRATEGIES
IN/NEAR RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

17 November 2009, Tokyo, Japan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Mr. Koa TASAKA

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Citizens Against Chemical Pollutions

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