

A Global Approach to the Regulation of Agricultural Pesticides

A Vision for the Future



Background

Every year new pesticides are introduced to the market. Before these new products can be made available they must be rigorously assessed by governments to ensure that they meet current health, environment and safety standards. Older pesticides, already on the market, are re-evaluated to ensure that they continue to meet these standards. In the past, this process of pesticide approval and registration was carried out by each country individually and hence was duplicative and resource-intensive.

Since 1992, the OECD Pesticide Programme has worked to *streamline* this process by helping governments ***work together*** to evaluate the risks of individual pesticides more quickly and thoroughly. The Programme brings together experts from OECD countries to combine and share their knowledge, methods and findings. As a result, governments are able to approve the introduction of safer products to market and replace more hazardous ones more quickly and efficiently.

The Vision¹

Building on progress achieved, the OECD has adopted the vision that by the end of 2014, through the co-operation of OECD member countries working with relevant stakeholders, it will ensure that:

- the high level of protection afforded to human health, animals and the environment is further enhanced and the levels of risk arising for man, animals and the environment as a consequence of the marketing and use of agricultural pesticides, are minimised to the extent possible,
- the regulatory system for agricultural pesticides will have been harmonised to the extent that country data reviews (monographs) for pesticides prepared in the OECD format on a national or regional basis (*e.g.* EU or NAFTA) can be used to support independent risk assessments and regulatory decisions made in other regions or countries,
- the preparation of data submissions (dossiers) for pesticide active substances and for end-use



¹ OECD's vision relates to the regulation of agricultural pesticides. An OECD vision statement on the management of biocidal products may be developed after more experience in international co-operation in their management has been gained.

products is co-ordinated globally by industry, to the extent possible, such that opportunities are maximised for work-sharing between the regulatory authorities of OECD member countries,

- work-sharing arrangements between regulatory authorities in OECD countries take place as a matter of routine such that data submissions (dossiers) prepared by industry in the OECD format are accepted in all OECD countries and made available and used globally, notwithstanding the need for supplementary data submissions to address particular local/national conditions and issues, or country-specific legal requirements,
- the generation of a single monograph for each active substance, serving the needs of the regulatory authorities in all OECD countries, has become commonplace², notwithstanding the need for separate independent risk assessments and regulatory decisions in each jurisdiction,

and in relation to other inter-governmental organisations--

- countries will ensure that the benefits derived from work-sharing and the experiences gained



² It is recognised that for existing active substances, even if review schedules become broadly aligned, situations will arise requiring the preparation of monographs for use in just one country or region. Similarly, commercial considerations may dictate that particular new active substances are developed for use on a regional rather than on a global basis.

through the work of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides are taken into other relevant international fora (*e.g.* JMPR), thereby helping developing countries efficiently manage their pesticide regulatory systems.

Past Achievements

To facilitate work sharing across governments, specific work has been completed and achievements realised, including:

- ❑ A database* listing schedules for regulatory reviews of pesticides so that a government planning a review can identify if other governments have also reviewed a substance, or will review it, which facilitates the sharing of assessment reports. To date, review schedules for more than 1300 active ingredients have been posted on this public database.
- ❑ A detailed and uniform format (or “monograph



format”*) used by all OECD governments in writing pesticide assessment reports. This improves a report’s clarity and comprehensiveness and makes it easier for countries to use each other’s reports.

- ❑ A detailed format (or “dossier format”*) for pesticide producers to use when submitting reports of the tests done to identify pesticide

risks. This helps reduce the industry's workload and provides a uniform standard of reports.

By promoting ***work-sharing***, the OECD Pesticide Programme helps governments more efficiently and effectively protect human health and the environment and work towards the goal of sustainable development.

** The OECD Database on Pesticide/Biocide Review Schedules, the “dossier” and “monograph” formats, as well as all OECD publications concerning registration of and risk reduction for plant protection products are available, free of charge, at the following web site:*

www.oecd.org/env/pesticides