

A joint invitation from the FAO, USDA, and US EPA to attend the

Global Minor Use Summit

Including 3 days of formal meetings and 1.5 days of training sessions

Background

The increasing consumption and global trade of specialty / minor crops demand efficient crop protection measures that facilitate international trade, suit the needs of farmers, ensure efficacy, ensure food and environmental safety, and benefit consumers. Obstacles, such as disincentives for pesticide development and registration, financial and technical constraints for residue data generation and discrepancies in regulatory standards among countries, limit access to newer and less hazardous pest control methods for growers, raise trade issues and increase food safety concerns.

While various countries have worked to develop registration strategies for specialty crops and minor uses, disparate standards and control measures prevent growers from fully utilizing these strategies. The US IR-4 Project, which has been working for over 40 years on this subject, has developed a model which is recognized by several international partners. The IR-4 Project is willing to share its experiences with the global agricultural community and to work collaboratively to seek international solutions for minor use problems. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the US Department of Agriculture (USDA: the Foreign Agricultural Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service's IR-4 Project) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) have jointly initiated the **Global Minor Use Summit**, to improve crop protection for specialty crops in industrialized and developing countries, to facilitate the trade of agricultural commodities internationally and to learn from the IR-4 specialty crop model.

Organizers



The Summit Organizing Committee:

IR-4 Project
Jerry Baron
Chairperson,
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USDA FAS
Jason Sandahl,
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Objectives

- To bring countries and organizations together and address challenges in specialty crops and minor uses;
- To discuss requirements for residue trials and residue data generation that are acceptable nationally and internationally;
- To discuss approaches on a harmonized data generation programme and ways to share residue data developed for minor and specialty crops in support of national and international tolerances / MRLs;
- To support crop classification systems and crop grouping approaches in promotion of international trade under Codex;
- To support countries' access to advanced residue programmes and to inform on the establishment of such programmes.

Proposed Activities

- 1) **Summit format:** formal meeting 3 - 5 December 2007; training sessions 6 - 7 December 2007.
- 2) **Language:** English
- 3) **Invited speakers and panel discussions:**
 - Established specialty crop and minor use programmes
 - Harmonization of data requirements for national, regional

and international tolerances / MRLs

- Development of international MRLs through the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPPR)
 - Regional and international minor use activities
 - Minor use harmonization proposals and efforts
- 4) **Action items and follow-up:**
 - Determine concrete steps resulting from the Summit, such as developing a guidance document on conducting trials that would be accepted by major national and international regulatory authorities
 - Discuss role of governments, international organizations, pesticide industry, commodity associations and other stakeholders
 - Initiate an information network and long-term training programmes
 - Publication of the Global Minor Use Summit report
 - 5) **Training Sessions:**
 - IR-4 Minor Use Programme
 - Initiation of harmonized residue research protocols
 - GAP or GLP trial procedures
 - Generation of tolerance petitions
 - Tolerance petition review and risk assessment procedures
 - MRL procedures in Codex, EU, Japan and the US

Who Should Participate?

- Government regulatory officials
- Commodity groups, agricultural organizations and researchers
- Agrochemical companies and agricultural consulting firms

Financial and Technical Support

- The Organizing Committee encourages countries and organizations to contribute financial support to the Summit
- Interested experts and other specialists are invited to contact the Organizing Committee in support of the Summit preparations

Registration and Hotel Information

To be announced in early 2007. Please check the Summit updates on IR-4 website at www.ir4.rutgers.edu or FAO website at www.fao.org/AG/AGP/AGPP/Pesticid/

For Further Information

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