

Report of the 15th meeting of the Arab Codex Contact Points

As a follow-up to the activities of the Arab Codex Initiative, a coordination meeting of the Arab Codex Contact points was held virtually on Wednesday, 21 June 2023, with the aim of reviewing the report of the Second Arab Codex Colloquium held in attendance on 10 and 11 June 2023 in Muscat-Sultanate of Oman as well as to prepare for the main meeting of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR54) To be held from 26 June 2023 to 1 July 2023 in Beijing-China, with the participation of representatives of the following Arab States:

- Jordan
- UAE
- Bahrein
- Tunisia
- Algeria
- Sudan
- Syria
- Iraq
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- State of Libya
- Morocco
- Mauritania
- Yemen

As well as AIDSMO, GFORSS and GSO representatives.

The coordinator of the Arab Codex initiative within AIDSMO launched the meeting with introductory remarks. He commenced the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all the participants and expressing his gratitude for their prompt response to the invitation, as well as for their active participation in the Second Arab Codex Colloquium held on 10 and 11 June 2023 in Muscat-Oman.

The meeting agenda was approved and included the following items:

Agenda item	Subject matter
1	Opening Remarks and adoption of Agenda: Coordinator Arab Codex Initiative, AIDSMO
2	Review and adoption of the report of the Second Arab Codex Colloquium
3	Review and analysis of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR54) agenda Items
4	Presentation on pesticide residues in rice

The Coordinator of the Arab Codex Initiative introduced the second item on the review and adoption of the report of the Second Arab Codex Colloquium, reviewing all observations received by participants in the colloquium, the item included a series of interventions by the CCPs, including the representative of the UAE, Jordan, Algeria, Oman, Libya, and Morocco. At the request of the meeting's participants, the deadline for observations on the report was extended until Friday, 23 June 2023.

Subsequently, Dr. Karima Zouine and Dr. Wiem Guissouma/Experts of the Arab Codex Initiative presented an analytical presentation on the agenda items of the meeting (54) of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR54) as follows:

- **Item3:** Matters referred to CCPR by CAC and/or other subsidiary bodies
- **Item4(a):** Matters arising from FAO and WHO
- **Item4(b):** Matters arising from other international organizations
- **Item5(a):** Report on items of general consideration arising from the 2022 JMPR meeting
- **Item5(b):** Report on responses to specific concerns raised by CCPR arising from the 2022 JMPR meeting
- **Item 6:** MRLs for pesticides in food and feed (at Steps 7 and 4)
- **Item7(a):** Class B – Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin and Class E - Processed Foods of Animal Origin (All Types) (at Step 4)
- **Item7(b):** Tables on examples of representative commodities for commodity groups in different types under Class B and Class E (at Step 4)
- **Item7(c):** Portion of the commodity to which the MRLs apply, and which is analyzed for Group 006 Assorted Tropical and Sub-tropical fruits - Inedible Peel and Group 023 Oilseeds
- **Item7(d):** Review the Guidelines on Portion of Commodities to which MRLs apply and which is analyzed (CXG 41-1993) with a comparison to the Classification of Food and Feed (CXA 4-1989)

- **Item8:** Coordination of work between CCPR and CCRVDF: Joint CCPR/CCRVDF Working Group on Compounds for Dual Use –Status of work

The agenda items for the meeting were concluded with an item that included a presentation by Dr. Fadi Al-Natour of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Agriculture and Food Safety of the United Arab Emirates, in which he addressed the remaining pesticides in rice and reviewed the following:

- Statistics on countries' imports of rice indicate that the quantity of rice from the United Arab Emirates exceeds the amount imported from the European Union combined. However, there is a greater commitment from India towards the European Union.
- European notifications associated with Basmati rice, with India taking the largest share of pesticide notifications in rice at 45% of the total notifications followed by Pakistan at 15% and then Bangladesh at 11%.
- A summary of the EU's audit of India No. DG (SANTE) 2018-6535 regarding pesticide residue for 2018, issued by the recommendation: adopt a pre-export accreditation programme for EU Basmati rice, ensuring that samples are withdrawn in accordance with the global practices of the guidebook and that no dispatches are exported until they have conformed to the requirements of European legislation.
- Study on Pesticide Residues in Rice 2021-2022 in the United Arab Emirates, and observations and recommendations regarding proposed updates on maximum residue limits for pesticides.

Lastly, the following conclusions and recommendations were adopted:

1. Inclusion of all documents and presentations presented during the meeting in the interactive platform of the Arab Codex Initiative (www.Arabcodex.com).
2. Extending the period for submitting comments on the draft report of the Second Arab Codex Colloquium (Muscat 10-11 June 2023) until Friday, 23 June 2023.
3. The Secretariat of the Arab Codex Initiative prepared the final version of the report of the Second Arab Codex Colloquium, after considering the observations received thereon, and then sharing it with the Arab CCPs.
4. Thanking Dr. Karima Zouine and Dr. Wiem Guissouma for the analytical presentations made.
5. Thanking Dr. Fadi Al-Natour for the presentation on rice pesticide residues and called on the Arab countries to coordinate the Arab position in this field in defense of the common Arab interests.