

JOINT EVALUATIONS AS A MECHANISM FOR ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION FOR THE REGULATION OF NEW ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

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Production of agricultural chemicals, including research and development, and production of agricultural products are both globalized industries. The U.S has been a leader in the effort to extend global cooperation in the regulation of pesticides into the actual registration processes of the major national authorities and registrants. This work has revolutionized the way that pesticides are regulated. Global harmonization of pesticide registration (MRL setting, global work sharing, global joint reviews) has accelerated to the point of fast becoming the recognized way of doing business among established regulatory and is also being recognized as part of the solution to the problems of regulatory authorities that are just beginning to develop their own MRL setting systems. This global work:

- Greatly facilitates transition to *actual use*, as opposed to just registration, of newer, safer pesticides by establishing *harmonized* MRLs in export markets at *essentially the same time* as these MRLs are established domestically, allowing growers to use the new pesticides without fear that their products cannot be exported
- Provides a broader range of scientific and regulatory expertise and experience that can be applied to new pesticide evaluations
- Develops a network of international relationships that allows working together on difficult or controversial scientific and regulatory issues, and significant trade issues when these arise
- Avoids trade problems which affect regulatory authorities, registrants, growers, and consumers by harmonizing from the start and establishing MRLs in export markets as well as domestically
- Provides a single set of documents in a common format that represent the results from many national
- Saves resources of regulatory authorities through sharing of the review work and reduces the need for additional government and private resources to address trade and other issues that inevitably result from a disjointed and disharmonized system
- Saves registrant resources in data development, preparation of application packages, and by providing predictable registration decision timeframes which allow simultaneous global market access