

EFFORTS IN RESIDUE CHEMISTRY HARMONIZATION— A CROP PROTECTION INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

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CropLife International, the global federation representing the plant science industry and a network of regional and national associations in 91 countries, has advocated and supported the global harmonization of residue chemistry guidelines and regulatory policies for many years. In particular, it endorses the OECD vision on work sharing that has opened several distinct opportunities for the advancement of regulatory science and harmonization.

Within the crop protection industry many changes have occurred over the past two decades with considerable consolidation of companies and rationalization of product lines. Furthermore, new compound research is primarily now in the hands of only a few companies. At the same time, the regulatory hurdles have significantly increased, making the development of new products with a favourable regulatory profile increasingly difficult, expensive, time consuming and economically riskier. New products are typically developed for global markets and for uses in several geographic regions. However, non-harmonized guidelines and data requirements as well as differences in data evaluation and regulatory policies between individual national regulatory authorities lead to additional development costs, obstacles to work sharing between regulatory authorities, and trade barriers for internationally traded food (and feed) commodities.

In conclusion, the currently ongoing regulatory harmonization efforts of FAO, WHO, CCPR, and in particular, those of the OECD Residue Chemistry Expert Group (RCEG), are supported strongly and actively by CropLife International and will hopefully lead to:

- faster review and regulatory decision-making on a sound scientific base,
- reduced redundancy in regulatory studies required,
- increased cooperation among regulatory bodies,
- higher quality of the monograph or review report, and
- more predictable timelines and outcomes for companies
- reduced trade barriers due to further harmonization of MRLs .