

ISSUES RELATED TO MINOR CROPS AND RESIDUES ON FOOD

Luis Eduardo Pacifici Rangel

General Coordinator for Pesticides in Ministry of Agriculture, Brasilia, Brazil

All around the world the pesticides registration demands a lot of technical guaranties in order to guarantee security for worker, consumer and environment. This situation created a complex scenario on agriculture in different countries. The uses for some pesticides need to be indicated for crops and plagues, so there's a need, for the registry process, of scientific studies that prove its efficacy and also their residues tests, all in GLP. All the tests aim to prove how high the levels of residues on food are.

These procedures for development are expensive and are lead by companies. Obviously all the companies direct their researches only for molecules that will be used on market relevant commodities. That means they focus their attention on large scale commodities, whose future gains will be enough to pay all costs for development researchs. This reality is common on many countries and began since authorities created templates for studies and tests for pesticide registration support. Theses demands had been created to guarantee more security but also created this idiosyncrasy.

To solve such problem, which origin is the liberty of market and independency of choice by the companies, the first Project was created in USA at 1962. This project is an inovation in public and private relationship, including the creation of a fund to support a work sharing system. This Project is a reference to show society that extrapolation concept is based on scientific methods and does guarantee food safety. The scientific concept is based on population diet, botanic similarities and in agriculture practices.

Some important points still need to be discussed like laboratories framework, data compensation and a good scientific argument to prove that this huge project could become a successful work. However, in other countries, like some from Europe, the same issue started to be solved differently, and in that case the situation was simpler because the matrix of production for some countries is smaller than US.

Since 2007, when occurred the Global Summit of Minor Uses in Rome, others countries, like Latin America and Africa nations, also started the discussion for the same issues. At such a moment The Codex Alimentarius started to be a great forum to keep this discussion in a high level of scientific argument and also because many countries are represented in that meeting which sets (JMPPR) the concepts for MRLs determination.

The legislation to create a efficient public policy for minor uses needs: clear concepts of MRLs extrapolation; explain how companies can add new uses on labels. However, for a sucessful project the system needs good structure like labs framework (with BPL accreditation), rules on data compensation for the first companies who conducted studies, and resources to fund national needs researches. And the main aim is: to create a national coordination for "*minor uses*" in Brazil, in a similar way to the US solution.

The main problems to overcome are:

- Clarify the scientific concepts for extrapolation MRLs and keep food safety;
- Legal rules without burocracy;
- Estimulation for companies to add new uses in label;
- Create a financial fund (public and private) to support new studies and Brazilian needs;
- Global harmonization to keep fair trade on "*minor crops*";

The Ministry of Agriculture consider this Project a great opportunity to solve a important problem for agriculture policy in Brazil. This situation is important because the pesticides using inspection is executed by the same ministry with support for federation states staff.

The modern food production model demands good alternatives to control plagues and, in general, will result in low levels of residues . The world scenario shows that farmers will not stop to pesticide using. So authorities need to know how to measure the risks willing to keep food safety and security together.