European Food Safety Authority

Pesticide UNIT

Parma, June 2012

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Networking Group on Pesticide Monitoring

Parma, 30-31 May 2012

EFSA/PRAS Unit

Adopted by written procedures by the Networking Group

on 08 August 2012

Participants

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EU COM: Luis MARTIN PLAZA

EURLs : Michelangelo ANASTASSIADES (EURL-SRM), Paula MEDINA (EURL-FV)

Observers : Lucia KLAUSER (Switzerland), Sanja MILOŠ (Croatia), Lidija DAMEVSKA (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Nedeljko LATINOVIĆ (Montenegro), Baris YILMAZ (Turkey)

EFSA: Daniela BROCCA (chair), Ileana MIRON, Hermine REICH, Giuseppe TRIACCHINI, Francesco VERNAZZA

Agenda

1. Welcome and practicalities
2. Declaration of potential conflict of interests
3. Agenda adoption
4. Adoption of the minutes of the 6th NG meeting
5. Introduction of the observers from the candidate countries
6. 2010 pesticide monitoring data collection: EFSA feedback on improvements and most frequent mistakes in selecting the SSD codes
7. New version of the data collection Framework (DCF)
8. 2011 data collection EFSA support
9. 2011 data collection: "National Summary Report" proposal for new format
10. EFSA new FOODEX catalogue for the coding of the food items
11. Extension of the use of the SSD to the zoonoses area; reporting back from the EFSA Working Group
12. Quality assurance: understanding laboratory accreditation and method validation
13. DG SANCO MRL database: future changes and access
14. News from the Commission/EURLs
15. Agreements
16. Future meetings
17. AOB

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the participants. In particular, EFSA welcomed the meeting participants from the candidate countries Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Turkey. Apologies were received from Spain and the United Kingdom.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the Networking Group

The minutes of the 6th meeting of the Networking Group (NG) were adopted by written procedures on 25 February 2012.

4. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Declarations of Interests, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interests (ADoI) filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the beginning of this meeting.

5. Discussions

The main topics presented and discussed during the 7th meeting of the (NG) were the review of 2010 Data Collection, the presentation of the new version of Data Collection Framework (DCF), the status of the laboratories accreditation in the reporting countries and the introduction to the new food classification "FoodEx 2" in the future release of the Standard Sample Description (SSD).

EFSA presented the latest version of the DCF and its enhanced features. A new User Guide on the use of the DCF has been prepared by EFSA and will be made available after the meeting.

EFSA reviewed the 2010 pesticide monitoring Data Collection and announced that about 74,000 food samples were collected in the reference year among the 29 reporting countries. The number of single analytical determinations accounted for ca. 16,000,000. EFSA appreciated the efforts made by the reporting countries in reporting the data monitoring results in line with the SSD. In view of improving the future data collections EFSA highlighted the most frequent mistakes or underreported pieces of information in the course of the 2011 calendar year: the use of SSD terminology no longer valid, the incorrect use of the paramTypes, the reporting under the LOQs, the pesticide residue levels expressed with the wrong units, the reporting of duplicate measurements for the same sample and the under-reporting of the ProdTreat.

For the on-going 2011 data collection EFSA has provided the reporting countries with supporting tools; among these, a new compilation (see "PPP-PARAM_2011_V1" file) allocating to each of the SSD parameter the appropriate parameterType and forming "chemical families" meant to support the data providers to identify the substance of interest in the extensive list of PARAM codes. However, being these features introduced for the first time in the PPP_PARAM_2011 table, the extensive list of the paramType may contain some mistakes and/or inconsistencies. Should the users of the PPP_PARAM_2011 file identify any inconsistency and/or mistake EFSA would be grateful to be notified.

During the meeting the NG discussed the possibility to make mandatory the individual reporting of the single analytical results concerning the elements of the legal Complex Residue Definitions (CRD) set for pesticides. In general, the meeting participants expressed a positive opinion on the proposal to report the results separately. An agreement for this proposal will be sought at the next meeting of the NG (October 2012).

The status of accreditation method/laboratories in the reporting countries was discussed as well. According to Regulation EC 882/2004 laboratories involved in official food controls must be accredited according to ISO 17025. Furthermore, according to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 the analytical methods used to carry out pesticide residues analysis shall comply with the criteria set out in the relevant provisions of the EU law. The NG noticed that there is a different interpretation and implementation of the laboratory accreditation procedures among the reporting countries throughout Europe. While reviewing the lab accreditation, the NG discussed the data quality with regard to the validation of the analytical methods implemented for pesticide residues analysis. The NG examined the possibility to make mandatory the reporting of the status of the accreditation/validation procedures in the EU labs for the analytical methods used when returning the control results to EFSA by means of the SSD. On the basis of the discussion, EFSA proposed to prepare a revised version of the Guidance Document on the use of the SSD for the reporting of pesticide monitoring data and to further discuss this topic at the next meeting of the NG to reach a formal and general agreement among all experts of the NG. Once agreed upon it, the proposal will be formalised among the EU delegations of the SCoFCAH.

For the first time EFSA introduced the experts of the NG to FoodEx2, the new food classification and food description system developed by a WG of EFSA coordinated by the DCM Unit and including representatives from different food safety domains. If a general agreement is achieved to use the new food classification system it will be implemented also for the pesticide data collection and it will replace the currently used food catalogue in the SSD (i.e. the “MATRIX”), which reflect the food classification used in the pesticide MRL legislation. While moving to the new food catalogue the major changes to be expected impacting the pesticide data collection will concern the replacement of the Matrix codes (prodCode data element), the information on the product treatment (prodTreat data element) and on the production method (prodProdMeth data element). EFSA has set up a working group (WG) dedicated to the revision of the current catalogues of the SSD to support all EFSA reporting of the national control results of the biological and chemical monitoring by means of the SSD and to integrate the FoodEx2 in the current version of the SSD; a few members of the newly established WG are also members of the NG. Regarding the FoodEx2 implementation timeline, in the time window 2013-2014 the reporting countries will have the possibility to choose to move to SSD2 with full implementation of FoodEx2; in 2017 it is envisaged that the SSD2 (integrating the FooEx2 in the SSD) will be fully implemented. A formal agreement with regard to the implementation and the use of the FoodEx2 for the pesticide data collection will be sought in first instance among the members of the NG and subsequently with the EU member States, Commission and EFSA at the SCoFCAH as requested by the European legislation.

The presentations given at the meeting are available on the EFSA Extranet platform.

Agreements

No agreements were sought at the meeting.

AOB

At the meeting the COM distributed the draft proposal for the EU Multiannual Control Programme 2013-2015 and sought the feedbacks from NG participants.

No additional issues were raised at the meeting.

Next meeting date

The 8th Networking Group meeting will take place on 23-24 October 2012 in Parma.