

Plant protection products: Focus on consumer safety

International meeting of experts on residues in food convening in Berlin for the first time

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The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) in Berlin is this year's host of the annual Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR). This committee, which was set up jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) of the United Nations, convenes regularly either at the WHO headquarters in Geneva or the FAO headquarters in Rome. This is the first time that the JMPR is being held at a national assessment authority. The event is to take place at the BfR until 27 September 2018.

For over 50 years now, roughly 50 experts from all five continents have been getting together for a total of two weeks to assess the effects on consumers of residues of plant protection products in foods and feeds and to make recommendations on maximum levels to the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Experts from the BfR and its predecessor organisations have been collaborating in the JMPR for more than 20 years, making a decisive contribution towards the further development and international harmonisation of assessments. The concepts have often been groundbreaking for European developments too.

The objective of staging this year's JMPR in Berlin is to link international scientific advisory committees and national assessment authorities more closely together. Discussions are being held on the health risk assessment and establishment of toxicological limit values, such as the permitted daily dosage (Acceptable Daily Intake, ADI) and Acute Reference Dose (ARfD). Other topics are the deriving and assessment of globally valid maximum residue levels for more than 30 active substances and the harmonisation of assessment approaches between the JMPR and Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). In addition to this, the JMPR is to become involved in the development of guidelines issued by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Further links:

JMPR (FAO):

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/jmpr/en/>

JMPR (WHO):

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/chemical-risks/jmpr/en/

Codex Alimentarius:

<http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/en/>

About the BfR

The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) is a scientifically independent institution within the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in Germany. It advises the Federal Government and Federal Laender on questions of food, chemical and product safety. The BfR conducts its own research on topics that are closely linked to its assessment tasks.

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