

Overview

The Second Global Minor Use Summit (GMUS2) was held at the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization Headquarters in Rome, Italy, February 21-23, 2012. Building on the strong foundation of cooperation and collaboration established during the first Global Minor Use Summit (2007), GMUS2 participants showed great interest and enthusiasm in their efforts to resolve minor use issues. The importance of establishing a governing body, identified as a Steering Committee to coordinate activities and to maintain progress in addressing matters around minor uses, was a key outcome. The Steering Committee would centralize communication, coordination, and would be charged with developing the terms of reference for a global needs database.

Other areas highlighted at the Summit included discussions to promote regulatory incentives that would encourage minor use registrations and MRLs at the same time they are being developed for the major commodities. There was continued support for capacity development in areas that lack the necessary capability to regulate and manage pesticides effectively and to support Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and integration of new safer technologies more quickly.

All of the action items were outlined in a five year work plan as a means to track progress in addressing each of these important issues.

**Table 1. Work plan:
Themes and Tasks resulting from GMUS2**

Theme	Task	Updates
Coordination Collaboration	1.1 Global priority setting process for minor uses* 1.2 Databases 1.3 Participation in joint initiatives 1.4 GMU Steering Committee*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop is being planned. Global residue studies are underway. Steering committee established.
Communication	2.1 Enhancement of the GMU Portal* 2.2 Risk communication 2.3 Benefit communication 2.4 Establish list of (and networks of) existing working groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several other national databases and programs have been added to website
Incentives	Monitor, implementation and Promote regulatory incentives 3.1 Funding structures and programs 3.2 Import MRLs* 3.3 Authorization procedures and requirements 3.4 Economic 3.5 Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GMUS2 Final report published with incentives listed.
Capacity Development	4.1 Increase National and regional capacity* 4.2 Engage policy makers to implement regulatory initiatives* 4.3 Establish national minor use programs 4.4 Encourage greater participation in data generation 4.5 Provide guidance on Codex processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous global residue studies underway. Technical working groups and minor use programs have been/are being established
Registration of Minor Uses and MRL setting	5.1 Harmonized data requirement and submission documents 5.2 Crop Grouping for both residue and efficacy/value 5.3 JMPR capacity building* 5.4 Transparency in registration decisions 5.5 Working towards common MRLs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing work in CCPR, OECD and a national and regional level are ongoing.

* Denotes items to be addressed first under the 5 year work plan.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is a governing body currently made up of 25 members (15 countries and 3 organizations) that provides coordination and oversight of activities. This committee also provides communication of activities to working groups and to other stakeholders and should serve as a link to decision makers (regulators, government etc.). The Steering Committee strives to maintain focus on the 5 year work plan and timelines and to assist other workgroups in completing their task.

The Steering Committee is developing a white paper to highlight many of the issues around minor uses. These include the following items:

- To further support the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR/Codex) process both financially as well as in keeping it as a valued standard for trade.
- The summit recognized that greater awareness is needed regarding how import Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs, or lack of import MRLs) affect commodities in trade.
- As well as import MRLs, the impact of secondary standards (private or "supermarket") can significantly affect trade and choice of products for the growers.
- In countries with economies in transition, the need for training and equipment is critical to properly monitor pesticide residues and for data generation.
- Many countries provide incentives to support minor uses, one goal of the white paper will be to encourage greater use of these incentives among all countries.

Working groups

Global Needs Database and Data Sharing Database Group

- Serve as a conduit for others to join in research development
- Promote interaction and encourage more communication (meetings)
- Provide a forum for a Global Workshop
- Construct a database – with components that identify needs.
- Develop and utilize Research hubs to generate data to address global minor use needs
- Utilize crop groups
- Provide examples and data to regulatory authorities
- Encourage Import MRLs – support white paper
- Efficacy data – EPPO guidance etc.

Global Priority Setting Workshop – Current target for Fall of 2015

The proposed workshop will focus on workshop data needs as well as a short update on the main themes and task coming out of the summit. In advance of the workshop, the working group will develop and conduct a survey of needs (Crop/pest) to begin populating a database. The database will serve as a discussion point at the workshop. The workshop should also be a means to bring regulators into the discussion.

Expected outcomes of the workshop will be a set ranking of priorities to be used to develop next steps of how to proceed to address needs. The workshop will gather ideas on how to conduct research under Good Laboratory Practices and identify funding. It will be important to select a pilot(s) project to go forward (must be a "winner", one that we would expect success) as a joint study or data sharing project to address a need. The focus will be on low risk products that can address multiple needs (requests), such as a new active ingredient or a biopesticide.

Other issues to consider: maybe that the use is registered in one part of the world already, a product important to address resistance, how to deal with multiple Good Agriculture Practices etc. Project leads (coordinator, study director etc), details regarding who and how the project can be completed will be determined before the conclusion of the workshop.

Figure 1. Working Groups



Capacity Development Group

- Training and data generation
- JMPR support
- Encourage IPM practices
- USDA-Foreign Ag Service (FAS) – global data development project

A key action item coming out of each of the Global Minor Use Summit was to support greater capacity development in areas of need. This included the promotion of lower risk pesticides, along with increased coordination and cooperation to assist countries in need to generating pesticide residue data. Early on, USDA-FAS took the lead and has provided significant resources for many meetings and workshops to increase the communication and coordination within the three target regions of: Asia, Africa and Latin America. This work proved to be important and continues. In March of 2012, specific Standards Trade Development Facility grants were secured to initiate further training modules and residue studies in each of the regions. Each of the regions have residue projects in various stages, working on newer reduced risk products (azoxystrobin, spinetoram, and pyriproxyfen) on tropical fruits as a crop group, especially the inedible peel subgroup. The final expectation for these global projects would be to help generate data that could be submitted to the JMPR and ultimately establish Codex MRLs.

These projects support collaborative residue data generation that incorporates all technical aspects of supervised studies while also providing broader national residue monitoring experience. This work will further develop expertise in these nations to conduct field and laboratory pesticide residue studies under Good Laboratory Practices and support their ability to provide data to local authorities and Codex for product registrations, particularly on lower risk products. Work in the three regions is progressing and is in various stages, with the commitment to start making submissions to JMPR in 2015.

Areas of need still include acquisition of state of the art equipment and better integration of IPM practices in these areas.

Communication Group

- Website – updates (www.gmup.org)
- Promote Incentives
- Communicate Value of Codex Standards
- Communicate Value and commitment to state of the art reliable Risk/Benefit assessments, to ensure safety of pesticides
- Posting of a Calendar of Events

