



Leveraging the APEC Import MRL Guidelines for Trade Facilitation in ASEAN

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Principles of Guideline

- Recognition of differing pesticide use among economies
- Science-based, internationally-accepted risk assessment methodologies
- Minimization of data requirements
- Protection of public health and safety, while facilitating trade
- Emphasis on use of Codex MRLs, including supporting JMPR monographs, where such MRLs exist

**How to do this in a practical way?
Don't reinvent the wheel!**

ASEAN import MRL Pilot Project

- Apply the APEC Import MRL Guidelines using real case and real data
- Gain experience in reviewing import MRL submissions (to establish ASEAN MRLs) under different scenarios
- Gain experience in submitting import MRL applications of ASEAN interest to APEC partners (to establish import MRLs)
- Share lessons learned and areas for improvement with APEC community (and beyond if interested)

A Pilot for ASEAN Members

Concept for Pilot:

1. Develop a pilot mechanism for the EWG to receive, process, and evaluate import MRL applications
2. Develop criteria (“tests”) for potential applications to be submitted to ASEAN EWG
3. Develop a process to prioritize/limit potential applications in the future
4. Receive a few (e.g. 3-5 applications) import MRL applications, submitted by APEC economies
5. ASEAN members (e.g. 3-5 applications) submit to partnering APEC economies for consideration to establish import MRLs
6. Based on experience of pilot, consider how to improve process and to continue initiatives on import MRLs

Next Steps

1. Selection and proposal of pesticide/commodity combinations for the import MRL pilot to importing economy for acceptance

- From ASEAN to partner economy
- From partner economy to ASEAN

2. Pre-submission consultation with importing economy authority

- Scope, requirements
- Timeline

3. Prepare and submit the dossier using APEC iMRL application form - [available online](#)

- Work with manufacturers
- Might need additional documents if required by importing authority

Review and, if required, including Dietary Exposure Assessment (DEA) by importing economy authority

- Establish import MRL if acceptable
- Decline if not acceptable

Closing thoughts- What are the emerging MRL challenges?

- Loss/Lowering of MRLs in global markets
 - *Need to expand market options for farmers*
- Violations Damage Food Safety Confidence
 - *Need to maintain trust in regulators and science*
- Codex MRLs may not exist
 - *Need efficient mechanism to gain alternative MRLs*



Questions

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