Revision in the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (2013)

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Abstract Since the year of 2006 when the extended revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds was undertaken, considerable progresses have been made in revising the Classification. This paper aimed to summarize the present status on revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, focusing remarkable achievements such as 1) the draft revision of the Codex Classification for the fruit commodity group and 2) the draft Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups, adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2012. Additionally, it included information on lists of crop group or subgroup which are holding at Step 7 and were adopted at Step 5, and further have not been yet discussed by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. These information will be very helpful for a pesticide regulatory regime.

Key words Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds, Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Pesticide residue

Revising the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds

The extended revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds was undertaken by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, called as the Committee in this paper, when the new work was approved by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2006. Since then, considerable progresses have been made in revising the classification by adding new commodities and proposing new crop groups or subgroups. At the beginning of the revision process (2007), the Committee agreed that revised individual commodity groups should not be adopted until all the revisions had been completed, in order to avoid problems, especially with the transfer of commodities from one group to the other. However, in 2010, the Committee noted the importance of the early completion of the revision of the Classification so that the revised commodity groups could be implemented in international trade as soon as possible. Then it was agreed to advance the draft revision of the classification for the fruit types for inclusion in the classification system when all of the fruit types were completed.

The Classification for the fruit commodity groups

In 2012, the draft revision of the Codex Classification for the fruit commodity groups was adopted by the Commission at Step 8 of an elaboration procedure of Codex Standards. In addition, revocation of the corresponding provisions in the Classification in force (CAC/MISC 4-1993) was made. Thus the revised fruit commodity groups became to supersede existing corresponding provisions in the Classification. In parallel with the adoption of the revision of the classification for the fruit commodity groups, the draft Principles and Guidance on the Selection of Representative Commodities for the Extrapolation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides to Commodity Groups was adopted by the Commission at Step 8 in 2012. The adopted one included Table 1: Examples of the Selection of Representative

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Commodities—fruit commodity groups. The examples of representative commodities by the crop group or subgroup are listed below.

Group 001 Citrus fruit: lemon or lime; mandarin; orange and pummelo or grapefruit
   001A Lemons and limes: lemon or lime
   001B Mandarins: mandarin
   001C Oranges, Sweet, Sour: orange
   001D Pummelos: pummelo or grapefruit

Group 002 Pome fruits: apple or pear

Group 003 Stone fruits: cherry, sweet or cherry, sour; plum or prune plum or peach or apricot
   003A Cherries: cherry, sweet or cherry, sour
   003B Plums: prune plum or peach or apricot
   003C Peaches: peach or apricot

Group 004 Berries and other small fruits: blackberry or raspberry; blueberry or currants, black, red or white; elderberry; grape and strawberry
   004A Cane berries: blackberry or raspberry
   004B Bush berries: blueberry or currants, black, red or white
   004C Large shrub/tree berries: elderberry
   004D Small fruit vine climbing: grapes
   004E Low growing berries: strawberry

Group 005 Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits — edible peel: table olives; fig or guava and date
   005A Small: table olives
   005B Medium to large: fig or guava
   005C Palms: date

Group 006 Assorted tropical and sub-tropical fruits — inedible peel: litchi or longan or Spanish lime; avocado; pomegranate or mango; banana and papaya; atemoya; pineapple; pitaya; prickly pear; kiwifruit or passion fruit and miriti or palmyra palm
   006A Small: litchi or longan or Spanish lime
   006B Medium to large fruits, smooth peel: avocado; pomegranate or mango; banana and papaya
   006C Medium to large fruits, rough or hairy peel: atemoya and pineapple
   006D Cactus: pitaya and prickly pear
   006E Vines: kiwifruit or passion fruit
   006F Tropical palm fruits: miriti or palmyra palm

Some commodities were moved to another crop group as below.
- Kumquat: subgroup 001A lemons and limes from tropical fruit group
- Persimmon, Japanese (or Chinese), Kaki: group 002 pome fruits from tropical fruit group
- Jujube, Chinese: subgroup 003B plums from tropical fruit group
- Tamarillo, tree tomato: inedible peel group from edible peel group of tropical fruits

Consideration for the relevant group MRLs of fruit commodities

Regarding with the need for revision of relevant group MRLs (maximum residue limits) for fruit commodity groups, the Committee (2003) agreed that no changes would be made to existing relevant group MRLs until such a time JMPR would revise the group MRLs following the procedures in place for the establishment of Codex schedules and priority list of pesticides:

"The Committee considered that the procedure used by JMPR for recommending MRLs acknowledged that the consumption and residue data for the commodities on which data are available are thought to adequately cover commodities for which no data are available ("unless there is information to the contrary, the group MRL covers the added minor commodities with no further dietary risk assessment required") and noted that MRLs were established if there was an approved use however it would be a large task to verify the GAP for the group MRLs when they were applied to the new lists of commodities."

Furthermore, for citrus fruits, it was agreed that the indication "excluding kumquats" would be inserted in the MRLs for citrus fruits for 19 pesticides which dietary risk assessment was conducted based on residues in pulp by JMPR during 1997-2012. In the next 46th Session of the CCPR (2014), Japan is supposed to provide results from dietary risk assessment using consumption data for kumquat.

The other commodities except fruit type

For the other commodities except fruit type, the Committee has made progresses on revision of the Classification as follows:
i) Commodity groups that have been holding at Step 7

Group 009 Bulb vegetables (2010)
- 009A Bulb onions
- 009B Green onions

Group 010 Brassica vegetables (except Brassica leafy vegetables) (2013)
- 10A Flowerhead Brassicas
- 10B Head Brassicas
- 10C Stem Brassicas

Group 012 Fruiting vegetables, other than Cucurbits (2010)
- 012A Tomatoes
- 012B Pepper and pepper-like commodities
- 012C Egg plant and egg-like commodities

Group 013 Leafy vegetables (including Brassica leafy vegetables) (2013)
- 013A Leafy greens
- 013B Brassica leafy vegetables
- 013C Leaves of root and tuber vegetables
- 013D Leaves of trees, shrubs and vines
- 013E Leafy aquatic vegetables
- 013F Witloof
- 013G Leaves of Cucurbitaceae
- 013H Baby leaves
- 013I Sprouts

Group 017 Stalk and stem vegetables (2013)
- 017A Stems and petioles
- 017B Young shoots
- 017C Others

Group 018 Edible fungi (2010)

Group 022 Tree nuts (2011)

Group 023 Oilseed (2010)
- 023A Small seed oilseeds
- 023B Sunflower seeds
- 023C Cotton seed
- 023D Other oilseeds
- 023E Oilfruits (fruits of palm trees)

Group 027 Herbs (2011)
- 027A Herbs (Herbaceous plants)
  - HH 3200 Edible flowers (2012) commodity was included in this subgroup.
- 027B Leaves of woody plants (leaves of shrubs and trees)

Group 028 Spices (2011)
- 028A Spices, seeds
- 028B Spices, fruit or berry
- 028C Spices, bark
- 028D Spices, root or rhizome
- 028E Spices, buds
- 028F Flower or stigma
- 028G Spices, aril
- 028H Spices, Citrus peel

ii) Commodity groups that have been adopted at Step 5

Group 016 Root and tuber vegetables (2013)
- 016A Root vegetables
- 016B Tuberous and corm vegetables
- 016C Aquatic root and tuber vegetables

iii) Commodity groups that have not been discussed by the Committee

Group 011 Fruiting vegetables, Cucurbits
Group 014 Legume vegetables
Group 015 Pulses
Group 020 Cereal grains
Group 021 Grasses for sugar or syrup production
Group 024 Seed for beverages and sweets
Primary Food Commodities of Animal Origin
Primary Animal Feed commodities
Processed Foods of Plant Origin
Processed Foods of Animal Origin

For primary food commodities of plant origin, which are the most important commodity group regarding a pesticide regulation, it is prospected that the revision of the Codex Classification be completed within several years. The revised one will have a great impact on a pesticide regulatory regime.

Literature Cited