

PESTICIDE RELATED MRL AND OTHER MATTERS WHICH MAY IMPACT TO SA AT THE WTO LEVEL

DAFF MINOR CROPS 2018 STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DIRECTORATE: FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT STANDARDS

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**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ISSUES

- At the WTO, trade concerns are rising with regard to MRLs.
- WTO Members highlight the cost implications for ensuring compliance with changing MRLs.
- Trade is interrupted in case where there are no registered pesticides where MRLs are often set at levels of detection.
- In case of MRLs for older pesticides, it is costly and difficult to find safe alternatives that are affordable, especially for producers in developing countries.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Harmonisation of MRLs based on the standards of Codex Alimentarius.
- Regional approaches to evaluating risks.
- Coordination and collaboration in the MRL establishment process.
- Availability of legislative, institutional and technical capacity to countries.

US IR-4 Project

- Project funded by the US Department of Agriculture.
- It is the primary entity in the US that works to facilitate registrations of conventional and bio-pesticides on specialty (minor use) food crops.
- The IR-4 Project develops research data, mostly pesticide residue, that support US Environmental Protection Agency registrations and MRLs.
- The developed data is often packaged and submitted to Codex to establish Codex MRLs.
- Some countries benefited from the US IR-4 Project wherein they collaborated with the US on residue projects on identified pesticide MRL priorities.



TRANSPARENCY OBLIGATION OF THE WTO SPS AGREEMENT

- Its aim is to achieve a greater degree of clarity, predictability and information about trade policies, rules and regulations of Members.
- Notifications are used to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trading partners.

Purpose of notification system:

- Facilitation of consultation at an international level.
- Allows Members to comment on proposed measures.



TRANSPARENCY OBLIGATION OF THE WTO SPS AGREEMENT (Cont'd)

Member proposing to introduce SPS measure is required to:

- Notify other WTO members of their intention;
- Provide copies of the draft measure on request;
- Allow reasonable time for other WTO members to make comments in writing;
- Discuss these comments on request;
- Take the comments and the results of the discussions into account;
- Explain to the submitting country how it plans to take their comments into account;

How to benefit from incoming notifications

- Comment where necessary.
- Adapt measures where necessary.



WTO SPS NOTIFICATION INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN SA

Members are obliged to designate "a single central government authority" as responsible for the implementation at the national level of the provisions concerning notification procedures.

DAFF have designated the Sub directorate SPS Coordination within DFIES as the official National Notification Authority (NNA) and National Enquiry Point (NEP) in terms of the WTO SPS Agreement.

Functions of NNA and NEP:

- Finalising the draft notifications from SPS directorates/ Departments, and submission to the WTO SPS Secretariat.
- Evaluation and dissemination of SPS notifications made by other WTO Members.
- Requesting information from other WTO Members when necessary.
- Maintaining communication with WTO SPS Secretariat and SA's representatives at the WTO



WTO SPS NOTIFICATION INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN SA (Cont'd)

Handling of incoming comments:

- To be determined while preparing the notification.

Analysing and commenting to notification received:

- NNA coordinate the process
- NNA consolidate comments in consultation with the relevant directorate/ department
- NNA submit final comment to the NEP of notifying WTO Member



ROLE OF INDUSTRY ROLE PLAYERS

- Liaise with the responsible Department/ DAFF technical directorate with regard to possible impact of the notified measure.
- Where necessary, draft comment together with the responsible Department/ DAFF technical directorate.
- Adapt measure/s to ensure compliance with new/ amended measure



Thank You



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