Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

Call for
Toxicological and Epidemiological Experts
issued 29 March 2022

Application Deadline: 31 August 2022

Background

The Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) is an expert ad hoc body administered jointly by FAO and WHO in the purpose of harmonizing the requirement and the risk assessment on the pesticide residues.

The JMPR has met annually since 1963 to conduct scientific evaluations of pesticide residues in food. It provides advice on the acceptable levels of pesticide residues in food moving in international trade. The JMPR consists of experts who attend as independent internationally recognized specialists who act in a personal capacity and not as representatives of national governments.

The current JMPR comprises the WHO Core Assessment Group and the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Residues in Food and the Environment. The WHO Core Assessment Group is responsible for reviewing pesticide toxicological data and estimating Acceptable Daily Intakes (ADI), acute reference doses (ARfDs) and characterizes other toxicological criteria.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee are summarized in reports that are published by FAO. Detailed summaries of the residue data (Evaluations, part I) are published by FAO and of the toxicological data (Evaluations, part II) are published by WHO.

WHO uses procedures for the selection of experts that assure the excellence, independence, and transparency of the recommendations of its scientific committees. This process was developed to ensure that the pool of available experts includes a diversity of expertise and viewpoints and includes scientists from all geographic regions of the world.

The objective of this call is to identify scientists to serve as WHO experts to assist the Secretariat in the preparation of working papers.
Expertise and resources required

WHO chooses scientists on the basis of their expertise in the areas under consideration, which include toxicology, pharmacology, metabolism, pathology, epidemiology, mathematical modeling and molecular biology. Scientists applying to the JMPR should be recognized within their scientific community through peer-reviewed publications in national and international journals or otherwise have demonstrated expertise in one or more of the components of the risk assessment process (hazard identification, hazard characterization, exposure assessment, risk characterization) at national or regional level. An understanding of the risk analysis process would also be of advantage.

The scientific food safety risk assessment is a multidisciplinary exercise that involves specialists in biology, chemistry, toxicology, medicine and applied statistics. The mutual respect and understanding between scientists from various disciplines is a key element of success in reaching a consensus based on the best available science. The selected experts must be able to work in such a multidisciplinary environment and should prepare their contribution to be integrated in the overall monograph and report to be produced by the Meetings.

Qualified experts will be selected from the roster for each meeting depending on the expertise required and are then requested to review the literature and prepare background papers in advance of the meeting. Meetings are conducted in English and participation in the meeting is required for the whole duration, usually 10-12 days. Cost of participation is covered by WHO, honoraria are not provided.

Successful candidates should meet most or all of the following qualifications:

a. Hold an advanced university degree(s) in toxicology, pharmacology, biochemistry, pathology, epidemiology, molecular biology, microbiology or statistics
b. Professional experience in pesticides or a related field
c. Scientific excellence evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed specialized journals
d. Practical experience in reviewing, analyzing, evaluating, and extrapolating experimental animal data on toxic chemicals to humans
e. Experience in delivering scientific opinions at the national or international level
f. Ability to converse and write documents in English
g. Ability to prepare documents and spreadsheets in electronic format
h. Familiarity with the risk assessment processes, in particular as it relates to JMPR and Codex Alimentarius
i. Ability to work with people from different cultural backgrounds as well as with scientists from various disciplines

Application

Interested scientists are invited to submit their curriculum vitae.

- The applicant should include a description of education, work experience, and a list of peer-reviewed publications in the application, including reference to two persons with knowledge of the professional qualifications.
- Scientists preparing background papers and draft evaluations should have hands-on experience in reviewing toxicological dossiers and in preparing evaluation reports
Experts should also indicate whether time would be made available by his or her employer for the review of dossiers and preparation of working papers before the meeting and if he or she would have ready access to other experts, such as pathologists, pharmacologists, epidemiologists or statisticians to offer advice on various scientific issues as they arise during the review and preparation of the working papers.

**Process for selection of experts**

WHO chooses scientists on the basis of their expertise in the areas under consideration. Procedures for the selection of experts are applied to assure the excellence, independence, and transparency of the recommendations of its scientific committees.

The curriculum vitae that are submitted will be reviewed by a selection panel, which will determine whether the applicant meets the essential requirements outlined in this call.

Complementarity of scientific backgrounds and representation from various geographic regions will be taken into account in the selection process, as well as gender balance.

The experts who are selected will be appointed to a roster from which experts for individual meetings are selected. Additional experts can be recruited if required to address specific questions at certain meetings.

**Appointments to the roster will be for a period of 4 years. The names and affiliations of those scientists placed on the roster will be public information.**

Before participating in meetings, candidates will be required to declare any potential interests associated with the substances according to the standard WHO process. Experts attend the Committee meeting as independent internationally recognized specialists who act in their personal capacities and not as representatives of their employers, governments, or other institutions.

**Applications should be submitted by August 31st 2022 to:**

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