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ACROPOLIS

Aggregate and Cumulative Risk Of Pesticides: an On-Line
Integrated Strategy
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Deliverable 6.13 A report describing the user group 'Food authority'
activities and achievements.

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1 Introduction

Within the EU project ACROPOLIS an IT tool has been developed to assess the cumulative dietary exposure to groups of pesticide residues. This tool can also be used to assess the dietary exposure to single compounds or to estimate the intake of beneficial compounds, like micro-nutrients. The IT tool can calculate both the acute and the chronic exposure. The IT tool is an update of the Monte Carlo Risk Assessment (MCRA) software tool and is released as MCRA 8.0 (de Boer and Kruisselbrink, 2013b). The tool is available via mcra8.rivm.nl. During the ACROPOLIS project a training was organized for Food Authorities.

2 Programme Training Food Authorities

On January 16, 17 and 19 2012 three training sessions were organized on the ACROPOLIS tool for Food Authorities, Pesticide industry, Regulators and NGOs in Amsterdam. Appendix 1 gives the list of all participants for the three training days. Below the training programme for the Food Authorities.

Training In Probabilistic Dietary Exposure Assessment Principles

Schiphol Airport, The Netherlands

19 January 2012

10:00 – 10:30 Welcome (drinks)

10:30 – 10:45 Perspective and relevance for stakeholder

10:45 – 11:30 Probabilistic Modelling Pesticide Residues

- History and why
- EFSA developments
- Worked example
- ACROPOLIS and MCRA

11:30 – 12:30 Monte Carlo Risk Assessment software

- Principles of probabilistic modelling
- How does MCRA work
- Comparing probabilistic assessment and deterministic assessment
- Couple of short exercises

12:30 – 13:00 Lunch + continuing exercises

13:00 – 15:00 Relevant input parameters (origin + modelling), including link to EFSA draft guidance (if available), international dimension and exercises

- Consumption data:
 - Comprehensive database
- Concentration data:
 - Monitoring and field trial data

- SSD format
- Processing data
- Variability factors
- Uncertainty and sensitivity analyses
- Compatibility with EFSA
- Exercises based on worked example

15:00 – 15:30 Way forward with ACROPOLIS

- Data transmission and transparency
- Access conditions
- Possibilities to join ACROPOLIS as associated partner
- Compatibility and requirements from EFSA perspective
- Cumulative dietary exposure to pesticide residues

15:30 – 16:00 Feedback and discussion on the way forward.

3 Feedback Food authorities

On October 15th the second ACROPOLIS stakeholder conference was organised in Brussels. During this conference Jorgen Schlundt Director of DTU Denmark presented the perspectives of the food authorities on the ACROPOLIS achievements. This presentation first reminded the organization of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication including national and international food safety institutes and responsibilities. Specificities of chemical and microbiological risk assessment were highlighted. Where the microbiological risk assessment had a more refined modeling approach compared to chemical risk assessment ten years ago, the ACROPOLIS project now shows that chemical risk assessment has potentially improved.

Jurgen Schlundt emphasized that human risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals poses several challenges including the complexity of the terminology and problem formulation. Furthermore, the diversity of chemical entities and the toxicological profiles and exposure pattern share complicated issues to be included into today's risk assessment. The probabilistic modeling approach set by ACROPOLIS can be seen as a good example not only for pesticides but also for all types of chemical risk assessment. Particular focus was drawn on the need and relevance of an international perspective on this issue of cumulative exposure assessment. Therefore, we should look at other national experience outside Europe and we also should see the project in perspective of WTO standards (SPS agreement) or CODEX developments. Today, a big step forwards is set with the ACROPOLIS IT tool presented, but the tool and issues should also remain open for continuous improvement. The current tool is certainly not the final stage of developments.

Jurgen Schlundt made a plea not to forget the importance of risk communication. Often risk managers and scientist believe that probabilistic exposure assessment is too complicated for consumers, but this might be a misunderstanding. Consumers will be able to understand results of probabilistic modeling, but it is necessary to include consumers and their perception of risk into the risk management discussions and decisions.

The session was finalized with a lively debate. The audience and the speakers discussed issues about how to improve the use of the ACROPOLIS model for risk management practice and how to improve some practicalities in current use of the ACROPOLIS IT tool. Suggestions were given on extrapolating the ACROPOLIS model experience to other international organizations including FAO/WHO and how to get other international organization connected to a harmonized approach (e.g. via collaborating WHO centers and/or US EPA involvement).

Appendix 1

Participants ACROPOLIS Training January 2012

Name	Company
Truchot, Eric	ANSES
Muller, Erica	NVWA
Hauwe, van Nele	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment – Service Pesticides and Fertilisers
Hooghe, Wim	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment – Service Pesticides and Fertilisers
Vervaeet, Chantal	Ministry of Public Health
Assie, Lazare	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment – Service Pesticides and Fertilisers
Casado de Santiago, César	Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency – Aesan
Irzl, Anna	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety
Denis, Jérémy	Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment – Service Pesticides and Fertilisers
Ericsson, Bengt-Göran	National Food Agency
Pajumägi, Merli	Estonian Agricultural Board
Harris, Caroline	Exponent International Ltd.
Sepper, Kaja	Veterinary and Food Board
Baiza, Ilze	State Plant Protection Service of Latvia
Poncarova, Zdenka	The National Institute of Public Health Prague
Gudrun Hilbert	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Bodil Hamborg Jensen	Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Ton, Arie	CTGB
Laporte, Frank	Bayer CropScience
Salazar, Domingo	Syngenta
Roederer, Jeanne	Makhteshim Agan Group
Lohmann, Heike	Makhteshim Agan Group
Bross, Monika	BASF SE-Agricultural Center
Vromman, Valérie	Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
Claeys, Wendie	Belgian Food Safety Agency (FAVV-AFSCA)
Ioannou-Kakouri, Eleni	State General Laboratory of Cyprus
Kika, Koula	State General Laboratory of Cyprus
Panek, Mary	BASF Corp
Metha, J.	Dow AgroSciences
Pérez González, Marta	Spanish Agency for food safety and nutrition
Maier-Stein, Birgit	Deutscher Verband Tiernahrung (DVT)
Kaandorp, Ben	NVWA
Dam Jensen, Erik	Hedegaard Agro
Thums, Regine	DuPont de Nemours (Deutschland) GmbH
Zentai, Andrea	Hungarian Food Safety Office
Goralczyk, Katarzyna	National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene
Světlíková, Angela	VUP, Food Research Institute
Haraldsen, Terje	Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food Safety
Gunnlaugsdottir, Helga	Matis

Name	Company
Florovičová, Margita	Public Health Authority of The Slovak republic
Bechaux, Camille	ANSES
Miloš, Sanja	Croatian Food Agency
Rety, Josselin	ANSES
Acheampong, Rufina	Food Standards Agency (UK)
Elliot, Jon	UK Food Standards Agency (FSA)
Murray, Brendan	Pesticides Registration & Control Division, Dept. Agriculture, Food & Marine
Pierlot, Suzanne	ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety)
Sieke, Christian	Federal Institute of Risk Assessment
Schee, van der Henk	NVWA
Osterbo, Oddmund	The Norwegian Association of Fruit and Vegetable Wholesales
Planckaert, Mieke	VBT/KDT/LAVA
Rodriguez, Ricardo Lopez	Spanish Agency for Food Safety & Nutrition (AESAN)
Gonzalez, Marta Pérez	Spanish Agency for Food Safety & Nutrition (AESAN)
Clifford, Robin	Food Standards Agency