Current state of specialty crop programs in Latin America – Initiatives and Challenges

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LAC minor use at a glance

- No established minor use programs as such
- Some initiatives on regulation to aid label expansion – temporary
- Some initiatives of crop grouping – not all under international standards
- Implementation of GAP and IPM for MRL/Global-GAP compliance
  - Risk of trade barrier
- Mostly MRL standards from importing country / Codex
- Brazil – lead in residue data generation
Focus on

Guatemala
Costa Rica
Colombia
Brazil
Chile
Argentina
Costa Rica

- 2006 survey revealed pesticide residues in produce
  - Further studies identified specific violations
- GAP implementation reduced non compliances by 15 % after 6 month of training and follow up
  - Continue strengthening GAP to improve level of compliance of MRLs
- 2007 residue evaluation program expanded to cover additional regions and crops
Costa Rica

- On going initiatives include
  - Update of regulations
    - Strengthen and update MRL enforcement
    - Evaluate implementation of GAPs - referred to pesticide use
    - Implement sampling and analytical methods to determine pesticide residues
  - Promotion of a national training program focused on GAPs
  - Creation of a Minor Use IR4-like program
  - Communication strategy
Guatemala

- Important production for export markets
  - Vegetables – peas, green beans
  - Fruit – Strawberries, Mango, Avocado
  - Ornamentals
- Need EPA MRLs to be established for various crops – import tolerance
- Interested in MRL harmonization
- PIPAA – Agricultural and Environmental Integrated Protection Program – Food Safety Inspection
Central America

- Important share of Central American labels on fruits and vegetables, plus banana, sugarcane, corn
- No local residue studies
- Based on Codex and EPA MRLs
- Important focus on GAP implementation – referred mainly to pesticide use – for MRL compliance (local and export markets)
Brazil

- Local residue data under GLP - lab analysis
  - From December 2006 GLP for field trials
- Document under Public Consultation since September 2006:
- Criteria and method for establishment of MRLs for crops with insufficient phytosanitary support
  - Includes 13 crop groups, each with one representative crop – no international extrapolation
  - Temporary MRL extrapolation from representative crop
  - Local residue studies to be presented within 24 months according to specific studies under GLP for field work
Brazil

- Crop Grouping proposed (not published yet) – Examples:
  - Group 3 – Small fruit, Berries and various fruits with edible peel – grapes (strawberry, fig, guava)
  - Group 4 – Various Fruits with non-edible peel – banana (pineapple, cherimoia, coconut)
  - Group 5 – Various Fruits with non-edible peel – mango (papaya)
  - Group 11 – Fruits with edible peel – cucumber (squash)
Argentina

• Temporary label expansion for submissions until June 2005
  – Use registered in countries of high sanitary enforcement (USA, EU, Japan) – extrapolate MRL and PHI
  – Codex MRL
  – Submit efficacy and residue studies within next 4 years (June 2008)

• Local residue studies
  – Initial steps in GLP use for field trials
  – Global lab analysis under GLP for samples cultivated and harvested in Argentina
Argentina

- Some companies are developing studies to support temporary label extensions – not all

- Growers and exporters on the look out for results by June 2008
  - Finance residue studies?
  - Suggest more flexible legislation requirements – efficacy and residue trials – for minor crops. Currently 2 years and 3 regions
  - Very interested in IR4 program
  - Government pressured by fruit and vegetable growers in regions around big cities – local MRL compliance
Colombia

- FTA negotiation – Trade Capacity Building projects in SPS areas – international cooperation – includes Minor Use issue
  - IR4 support
  - Creation of two work groups to develop action plans
    - Pesticide Registration
    - MRLs
      - Private stakeholders – industry, growers
      - Government agencies involved in registration
Colombia

- Regulations released during the last three years include
  - Temporary label expansion for exotic fruits and fresh herbs
    - Initiative of crop grouping following international standards
    - Efficacy trial for initial registration within the group
  - Extension of timeline for development and submission of efficacy trials
  - Establishment of Pesticide MRLs for food and fodder
    - Official harmonization of Codex values – annual update
Colombia

- Regulations released during the last three years
  - Establish a definition of Minor Crops for registration purposes
    - Planted area less than 5,000 hectares
    - Low offer of registered crop protection tools
    - Part of Colombia’s fast growing export crops
  - Advance in data sharing initiatives
    - New use has to be registered and have MRL and PHI established in another country
    - Submit use pattern, dosage and re-entry period for new use
Colombia

- Implementation of GAPs – important part of the solution together with IPM
  - Public and private (Crop Life) training/implementation programs on GAP and safer use of pesticides
- National Policy Documents – under preparation
  - Consolidate current initiatives providing national guidelines and funding
  - Strengthening SPS lab system – GLP
Chile

- Main exports are major crops
- Need for label expansion in vegetables
- Voluntary decline curves to determine local PHI to comply with MRL established by importing country
- Data generation – research, Universities
In other LAC countries

- Growers of export goods apply private standards, MRLs of importing country/region
- Current problems with non-compliance of MRLs, Japan, EU
- No minor crop label expansions
- Large exporters try to minimize residues, some analyze prior departure at ports
Minor uses in LAC

- Clear need for minor use programs
  - Funding
  - Networking
Minor Use Strategy

Harmonization and data sharing

Crop Grouping

GAP / IPM Implementation

MRL Establishment / extrapolation
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Thank you