



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



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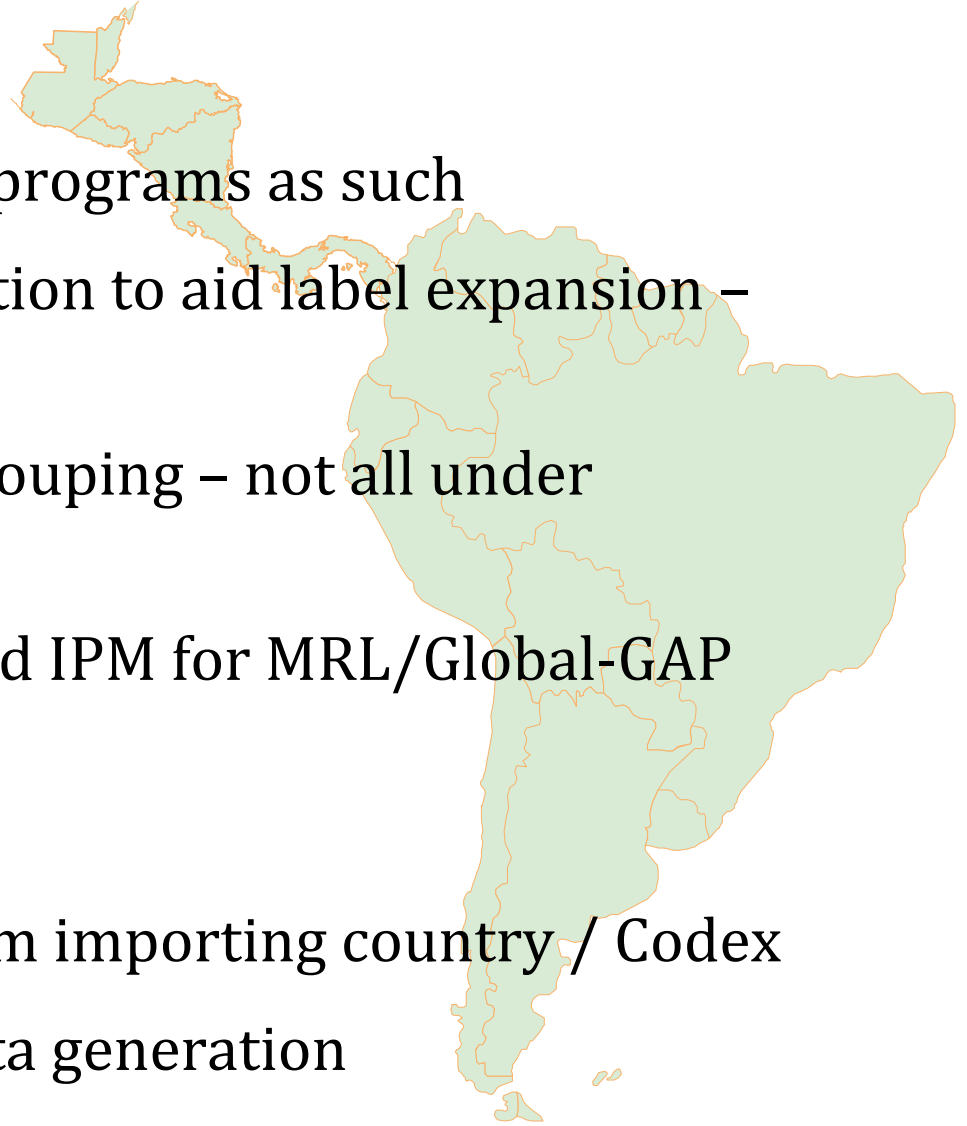
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LAC minor use at a glance

- 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





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Focus on





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



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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 (pinneapple, 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



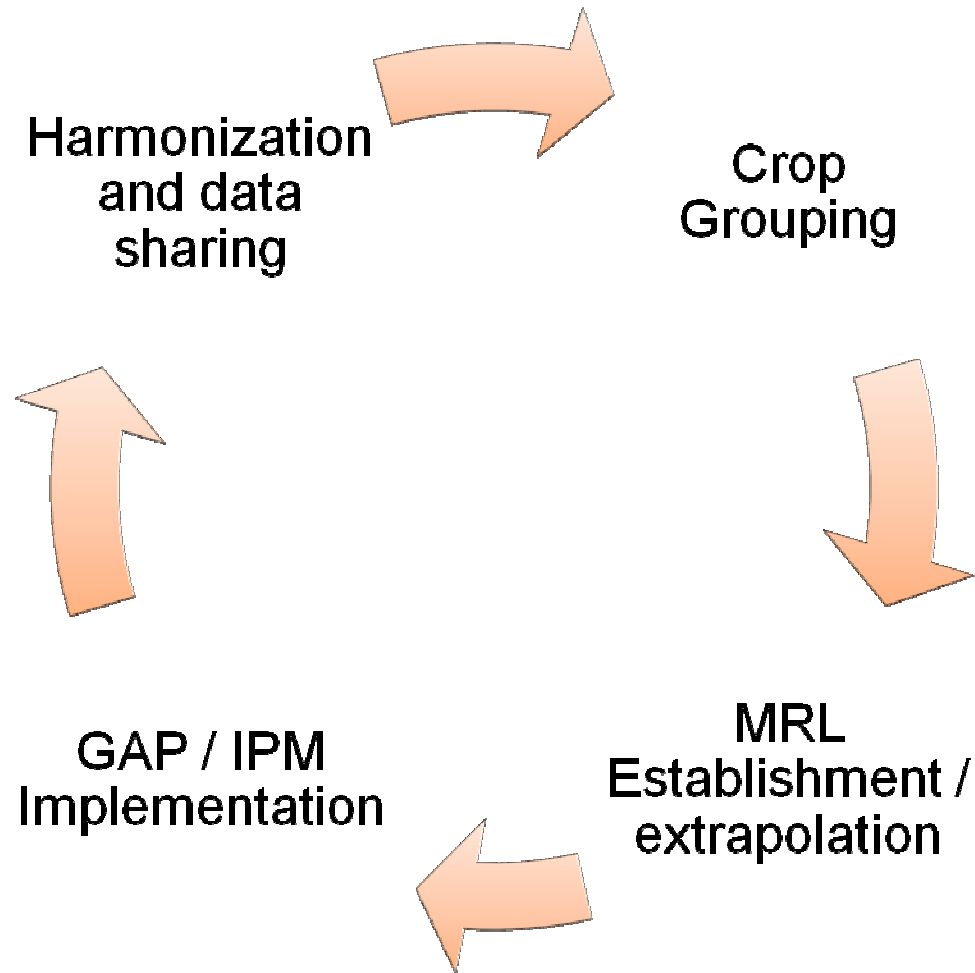
Minor uses in LAC

- Clear need for minor use programs
 - Funding
 - Networking





Minor Use Strategy





Contributors

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Thank you