EPPO CODES to describe uses of Plant Protection Products

Valerio LUCCHESI
Scientific Officer
EPPO Secretariat
lucchesi@eppo.int
The EPPO Working Party on PPP outlined the need for developing non-taxonomic codes to describe PPP uses

The main reasons for the development are:

- The need for harmonized definitions of declared uses of products to facilitate comparison among countries (mutual recognition and zonal assessment called for in EU Regulation 1107/2009).

- Facilitate the work related to extrapolation of data (e.g. for efficacy evaluation of minor uses)

- Facilitate communication and data exchange (e.g. in databases)
Communication and data sharing between different actors at different levels where the EPPO Codes can be used:

1. Applicants and evaluators within the country;

2. Evaluators of the Zonal Rapporteur Member States and Concerned Member States for mutual recognition at EU level;

3. Country evaluators and the EU;

4. Efficacy evaluators and residue, ecotoxicology and human toxicology evaluators;

5. Regulatory authorities and advisors/farmers within the country.
Based on regulatory authorities and industry perspectives on EPPO codes the Panel agreed on the following principles:

- EPPO maintains the principle that codes are not deleted or modified nor is the meaning of a code changed retrospectively;

- EPPO code users should be consulted on significant changes to codes. This does not include routine additions of taxonomic codes.

- All the EPPO Codes (taxonomic and non-taxonomic) remain in one single database (EPPO GD);
Future activities on the development of the codes for PPP uses:

- A *harmonised system* to consistently characterize PPP uses and a code hierarchy are needed for the EPPO region.

- Groupings and codes should be as simple as possible addressing practical needs, being *meaningful* in the context of *treatment with PPP* and having been found useful for *registration purposes*;

- In certain cases, lists of species are needed to clarify and harmonise the content of (Crop) groups. In other cases (Pests, Weed? Etc.) a description will be sufficient;

- Need to start with first proposals (*crop groups and pest groups are a priority*);
Where to start from to develop groups and codes?

1) EPPO Standard PP 1/248

- While developing the code system the Panel will consider the elements proposed by the EPPO Standard PP 1/248 *Harmonized classification and coding of the uses of plant protection products*

Elements recommended for characterizing a use:
- Crops or other treated objects
- Crop destination
- Treatment
- Location of use
- Target

- The principle that a PPP use can be described by a combination of codes
Where to start from to develop groups and codes?

2)

Non-taxonomic elements in EPPO Global Database

- Elements developed by Bayer
- Codes created by EPPO to respond to specific users’ requests for the use in the EPPO Plant Quarantine Data Retrieval System (PQR)

The non-taxonomic items already existing in the EPPO GD will be maintained and enlarged as much as possible

Need for improvement?
Crop Groups
The Panel developed first proposals based on national methodologies for:

- Arable crops (including Cereals)
- Vegetables
- Fruit
- Herbs, spices and medicinal plants
- Ornamental crops
- Etc.

Pest Groups and Weed Groups

Other non-taxonomic groups
(i.e. crop destination, crop location, treatment, non-crop objects)
The EPPO Secretariat cannot rely on any ‘external scientific authority’ as it does for taxonomic codes: The EPPO Panel on Harmonization of data on PPP had been proposed as a suitable body.

The elements characterizing PPP uses will be developed by the ad hoc Panel in consultation with users;

The requests for additions to non-taxonomic codes will have to await consideration by the Panel; A fast track mechanism to adopt codes which are urgently needed might be used between meetings; A format for change requests to be submitted by users could be developed for groups and hierarchy.
Thank you for your attention

https://gd.eppo.int