

WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE
COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY
FOR PESTICIDE RESIDUES USING
SINGLE RESIDUE METHODS

Time: January-December 2010

LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the Reference Laboratory are described in Article 32 of the EC Regulation No 882/2004.

Contents:

- A. General tasks**
- B. Development and validation of analytical methods**
- C. Quality assurance and quality control including the organisation and implementation of proficiency tests**
- D. Technical and scientific support to NRLs/ EU official labs and third country labs**

A. General Tasks

A.1 CRL meetings for coordination, planning and evaluation of activities

Tasks: Missions will be carried out to participate at inter-CRL-meetings; aiming at planning, coordinating, evaluating or conducting CRL activities such as work programs, proficiency tests (PTs), method validations, internet portal upgrading and other software related issues etc.. Date and place of these meetings will be decided later. Meetings in presence of the CRL and PT-advisory group will be organized by the CRL for fruits and vegetables.

Period: *To be decided later following consultations with the other CRLs and the Commission.*

A.2 Technical and scientific support to the Commission

Tasks: The CRL-SRM will continue supporting the Commission's efforts in drafting a risk-based and meaningful plan for the EU-coordinated control program. The CRL-SRM will furthermore continue providing scientific assessments, opinions and advices to the Commission as requested. The activities will include the involvement in the EFSA residue evaluation process on behalf of the Commission by giving opinions and advices as regards residue definitions and routine validated methods with focus on their practical applicability in routine pesticide residue analysis labs. Missions to meetings in Brussels, Parma or elsewhere will be carried out as requested by the Commission.

Period: *As requested by the Commission.*

A.3 Compilation of annual financial and technical reports

Tasks: see title

Period: *March 2010*

A.4 Preparation of work program and provisional budget for following year

Tasks: see title

Period: *August 2010*

A.5 Co-operation with international organizations as agreed with the Commission

Tasks: One mission for one person to participate at the Codex Committee meeting on Pesticide Residues in Xian, China. Other collaboration activities or missions will be carried out as agreed with the Commission as far as the CRL-Budget is affected.

Period: to be announced

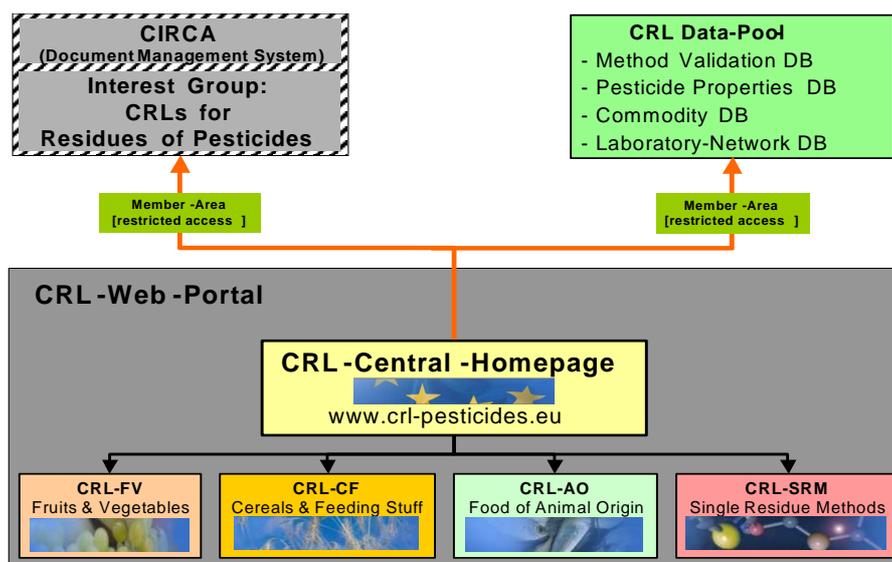
A.6 CRL-Web-Service (Horizontal Task)

Background: The creation of a laboratory Network and the coordination of the information flow within it is one of the main duties of the CRLs. With this in mind, and following consultations with the other CRLs and the Commission, the CRL-SRM has developed an internet-based platform (**CRL-Web-Service**) to facilitate the collection and timely dissemination of information, increase transparency and strengthen the Network between CRLs, NRLs and official laboratories. The needs and expectations of the various official laboratories were collected by conducting a survey with the aim to use those insights in the construction of the CRL-Web-Service.

The **CRL-Web-Service** mainly consists of the following:

- 1) a password protected **Document Management and Communication Module** based on the **CIRCA** system, which is directed only to the network members;
- 2) a **CRL-Web-Portal** containing, among others, basic introductory information about the CRLs, news and announcements, as well as valuable links including those to the **individual CRL-websites** that are managed by each CRL separately; and
- 3) a gradually expandable "**CRL Data-Pool**" containing various databases with information of practical use for the pesticide residue analysts of the network labs.

The Principle Structure of the CRL-Web-Service is shown in the figure below:



Tasks: see sub-topics below

Period: see sub-topics below

A.6.1 CRL-Web-Portal, upgrading and maintenance

Background: The Internet Portal of the four pesticide CRLs (www.crl-pesticides.eu) has been in operation since 2007. It aims to facilitate dissipation of information from CRL to NRLs and official laboratories in an efficient, timely and transparent way. Several improvements and extensions have been introduced so far.

Task: In 2010 the portal and the individual web-sites of the CRLs will be further expanded and gradually filled with valuable information by the CRLs. Still missing features will be gradually programmed according to the needs of the CRLs and the Network. The strategy to be followed will be discussed with the other CRLs and in close consultation with the COM.

Period: as required

A.6.2 CRL Data-Pool

Background: A “CRL Data-Pool” entailing numerous databases with information of practical interest to the network-laboratories has been installed and expanded within the frame of the previous work programs (www.crl-pesticides-datapool.eu). This data-pool is gradually being expanded as regards the number and extent of the databases as well as the volume of data stored.

Table 1: The table below gives an overview of the databases (status August 2009):

Database/Tool	Drafting of a plan	Programming of base structure	Structural improvements	Database available on-line	Collection of data
A.6.2.1 Method Validation DB	Done	Done	Ongoing	available	Ongoing
A.6.2.2 Methods DB	Done	Done	2010-	H2/2010	Ongoing
A.6.2.3 Pesticides DB	Done	Done	Ongoing	available	Ongoing
A.6.6.3.1 Stability of Standards DB	In progress	2010	2011-	2012	Ongoing
A. 6.6.3.2 Check your Scope Tool	Done	In progress	2010-	H2/2010	-
A. 6.6.3.3 Pesticide Authorizations DB	2010	2010	2011-	H2/2010	Ongoing
A.6.2.4 Commodities DB	Done	Done	2010-	H1/2010	Ongoing
A.6.2.5 Lab-Network DB	Done	Done	2010-	H1/2010	Ongoing
A.6.2.6 EUPT-Archive DB	In progress	Planned for 2009	2010-	H2/2010	Ongoing
Other related activities					
D.5 CRL-Survey Tool	In progress	Planned for 2009	2010	H1/2010	2010

Tasks: see sub-topics below

Period: see sub-topics below and Table 1

A.6.2.1 Method Validation DB, upgrading and maintenance

Background: With method validation being compulsory for accreditation purposes, numerous validation experiments are being performed by various laboratories to evaluate analytical procedures as to whether they can meet the specified criteria. The “**CRL-Method Validation Database**” has been developed to allow a systematic collection of this great amount of data produced in intra- and inter-laboratory validation experiments. Online search tools allowing customized filtering and sorting of the data give laboratories the possibility to better assess the suitability of analytical methods for the analysis of various pesticide-commodity combinations. The potential of this website has been already recognized by Codex that has prompted the member countries to contribute their results to the database.

Task: In 2010 the database and its data retrieval tools will be further upgraded to accommodate specific user needs. Furthermore, data collection from laboratories will be continued to expand the volume of the database and to improve its usefulness. The possibility of using the existing database for the calculation of measurement uncertainties via the top-down approach will be elucidated following consultations with experts.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.2 Methods DB, upgrading and maintenance

Background: With the creation of the method validation database (6.2.1) the laboratories were provided with the ability to store the results of their method validation experiments in a common pool. Important for the labs is furthermore the availability of data concerning the methodology of single and multiresidue procedures. Such data will be stored in the “**Methods Database**” providing reference to the source of information as well as links to online documents (e.g. the list of methods collected by the FAO/IAEA). Inter-linkage with the method validation database is foreseen where applicable. In 2009 the base structure of this database was designed and programmed.

Task: In 2010 the database will be further upgraded to accommodate specific user needs. Furthermore, data will be collected concerning the methodology of single and multiresidue procedures and included into the database to expand the volume of data. The use of this database for the archiving of post-registration methods submitted by the pesticide applicants in their dossiers is another option to check if necessary and requested by EFSA, as this would make them available to the various labs within the network.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.3 Pesticide DB, upgrading and maintenance

Background: Pesticide residue analysts have to deal with a vast number of different pesticides and metabolites. With each pesticide behaving differently it is difficult for the analysts to maintain an overview of the situation. A differentiated and detailed knowledge of the properties of the different pesticides is necessary for understanding and predicting their behavior during analysis and thus essential when it comes to making the right decisions in method development, method validation and everyday analysis situations. Several sources of information about the properties of pesticides already exist in literature as well as the internet, however their practical usefulness for the analysts is limited. A main problem is that existing

information is dispersed among countless sources. This not only makes it extremely difficult to retrieve, but it also does not support the formation of a global overview, which is essential for strategic planning.

The “**Pesticides Database**” aims at providing pesticide residue analysts with valuable pesticide-related information within a single platform in order to help them save time and assist them in the design of more efficient analytical strategies.

In addition to the information collected from various sources the database is intended to also contain useful experimental information generated by applying appropriate tests to systematically study the behavior of pesticides during the various critical stages of analysis such as sample comminution, extraction/partitioning, cleanup, storage of extracts and standards, chromatography and detection.

The laboratory tests should be such to enable the identification of potential sources responsible for losses of the individual pesticides such as unfavorable partitioning and adsorption phenomena, as well as the exposure to certain conditions (e.g. extreme pH-values, temperature, light, air, enzymes etc). Information necessary for the chromatographic analysis and detection of pesticides such as mass spectra, chromatographic behavior information, and detection sensitivities achieved with various commonly used instruments will also be generated and collected. Pesticide recovery tests using common multiresidue procedures are also part of this scheme, with this data being collected from various laboratories and stored in the method validation database.

The data collected should ultimately allow to predict the behavior of pesticides during analysis and to classify pesticides into categories (profiling), thus allowing the selection of representative pesticides based on scientifically sound evaluations. The selection of representative pesticides is important when it comes to simplifying validation procedures. The data generated should furthermore help to classify the pesticides in multi- and single-residue compounds and to pinpoint the potential critical points in the analysis, thus facilitating targeted method development.

Task: In 2010 the focus will be in further upgrading the existing “Pesticide Properties Database” and in the collection of further relevant data both from various sources as well as from experiments performed by the CRL-SRM. The priority should lay on new pesticides as well as on pesticides with high analytical relevance (e.g. because of frequent usage in agriculture, high toxicity or inclusion in coordinated community control programs).

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.3.1 Pesticide Stability DB, programming of base structure

A significant source of errors in pesticide residue analysis is the degradation of standards in stock solutions, working solutions (e.g. in pesticide mixtures), as well as in sample extracts. Quality Control protocols always require from laboratories to take the necessary measures in order to make sure that this source of errors remains insignificant. Numerous tests have to be performed every year to ensure that the standards employed in analysis are within the acceptable concentration range as required by the AQC-protocol. However, due to the high costs and lots of labor involved here, many laboratories are unable to conduct these controls at the degree required. A common database, where information about the stability of pesticides can be stored, is thus of high value and would help to exploit the existing synergy potentials in this area.

Task: In 2010 the database will be programmed in its base structure and fed with information gathered from experimentally generated information.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.3.2 “Check Your Scope” - Tool for optimization of targeted pesticide scope of laboratories, upgrading and maintenance

Background: Regulation 396/2005 states that Member States shall establish multi-annual national control programmes for pesticide residues based on risk and they shall update them every year. Risk-based analytical strategies are not only requested by regulation but are also indicated by common sense as they contribute to a more efficient control. Within the aim of adjusting the scope of the coordinated control plan for pesticides, the CRL-SRM has developed a ranking list based on a points system, which takes into account various aspects contributing to the relevance of a pesticide. These factors include toxicology, residue findings in food samples as well as the pesticide use and misuse potential in agriculture.

An online “Check your Scope” tool is currently being programmed in its base structure. The idea is that laboratories can indicate their current scope of pesticides and metabolites and receive a list highlighting the compounds of high relevance that are not covered. By comparing their analytical scope with this ranking list laboratories should be able to expand and adjust it in a target-oriented and meaningful fashion. Data concerning the amenability of the pesticides and metabolites to certain analytical techniques, as stored in the pesticides-DB, can be displayed to further improve the quality of information given to the laboratories and to support their decision and reasoning when it comes to purchasing new equipment. In a next stage it is intended to generate customized ranking lists using criteria selected by the users (e.g. commodity type and origin) with the help of appropriate filters.

Task: In 2010 the “Check Your Scope”-tool will be further upgraded to accommodate specific user needs. Interconnections with other databases such as the Commodity DB and the Lab Network DB will be established.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.3.3 Pesticide Authorizations Database; concept-design and programming of base structure

Background: Targeted risk-based approaches are essential for an efficient pesticide residue control. Within the aim of improving the scope of the coordinated control plan for pesticides the CRL-SRM has developed a ranking list based on a points system which takes into account various aspects indicating the relevance of pesticides such as toxicology, residue findings in food samples as well as the pesticide use and misuse potential in agriculture.

As data on the real usage of individual pesticides in the various cultures are very difficult if not impossible to obtain, information concerning the registration/authorization of pesticides for use in specific cultures in certain countries can serve as an alternative. Of interest are not only authorization data from EU-MS but also data from other countries exporting goods to EU countries.

The collected data can serve various purposes including: 1) for the calculations of the pesticide-ranking list of the CRLs (pesticide authorizations is one of the factors considered); 2) to identify pesticide misuse cases (by comparing the residue findings with the data in the authorization DB); 3) to localize pesticides with misuse potential in the EU (mainly pesticides that are not authorized in the EU but used in other countries with similar climatic conditions and cultures); 4) to localize pesticide/commodity combinations of high risk (e.g. pesticides of high toxicity that are authorized in third countries to treat certain crops that are imported in the EU).

Task: In 2010 the database will be designed and programmed in its base structure in collaboration with the CRL-FV. Contacts with relevant institutions within the EU (including DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Eurostat and FVO) and outside the EU will be established to retrieve appropriate and reliable data sources with the aim to keep the database updated but the effort of data collection small.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.4 Commodity DB, upgrading and maintenance

Background: Pesticide residue analysts have to deal with a vast number of different commodities. With each commodity having a different influence on analysis it is difficult for the analysts to maintain an overview of the situation. A differentiated and detailed knowledge of the properties of the different commodities is paramount for the understanding of their behavior during analysis and can help the analyst to make the right decisions in method development, method validation and routine analysis. Several sources of information about the properties and the composition of commodities already exist in literature as well as the internet, however their practical use for pesticide residue analysts is limited. A main problem is that the information provided is dispersed among countless sources. This not only makes the information extremely difficult to systematically retrieve, but it also does not support the formation of a global overview, which is very valuable in strategic decision-making.

In 2008 a **Commodity Database** was constructed in its base structure and in 2009 it was further improved and fed with data. The DB allows the systematic collection of commodity-related information that is useful for pesticide residue analysts. In addition to the information collected from various sources the intention is that the database should also contain useful experimentally generated information to elucidate the behavior of the various commodities and their components during the various stages of pesticide residue analysis and their influence on analysis. These experiments may entail the measurement of the matrix load in the extracts before and after cleanup, the influence of matrix on pesticide degradation, the responsiveness of matrix components to various common cleanup approaches, and the study of interferences in measurement including matrix effects.

The data collected should ultimately allow to predict the potential influence of commodities on the analysis of pesticides and furthermore give the possibility to classify the commodities into categories (profiling), thus allowing the selection of representative commodities based on a scientifically sound evaluations. The selection of representative commodities is important when it comes to rationalize validation procedures.

Having all (the collected and generated) information in a single platform will help residue analysts to obtain a more global overview of the various commodity types and help them in solving analytical problems.

In combination with the Pesticide DB, this database will form a highly valuable tool for pesticide residue analysts providing them with a convenient and efficient access to information needed for proper decision-making.

Task: In 2010 the database will be improved and fed with information gathered from various sources as well as with experimentally generated data. Inter-linkage with other DBs such as the method validation DB and the lab-Network-DB is also planned

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.5 Lab-Network-DB, upgrading and maintenance

Background: A “**Lab-Network-Database**”, with information about all laboratories within the CRL-NRL-Official Lab Network was constructed. The database entails lab-specific information such as addresses, lab-functions, fields of work, contact persons, instrumentation available, interest for collaborations etc.. With the help of this database and online tools laboratories as well as individual members will be able to submit and update their profiles online. This will help the CRLs to delegate the cumbersome task of profile updating to the NRLs and official laboratories. The database should further allow customized offline and online searches to quickly select/filter specific laboratories having common functions or profiles (e.g. NRLs or official laboratories dealing with the same commodities or pesticides etc.). A further aim of this database is to facilitate the communication between the lab-members and strengthen the laboratory network. Tools for the visualization of the network in maps are also planned in this context.

Task: In 2010 the database will be significantly upgraded to accommodate specific user needs, fed with laboratory data and interlinked, where appropriate, with other databases within the CRL-Datapool, such as the PT-Archive-DB and the Pesticides-DB.

Period: see Table 1

A.6.2.6 EUPT-Archive Database, upgrading and maintenance

Background: Among the duties of the CRLs is to improve the performance of the official laboratories within the network. Among the tools used to evaluate the performance of the laboratories is the conduction of proficiency tests (EUPTs). Currently 3-5 EUPTs are performed annually by the CRLs with lot's of data being generated every year. The evaluation of the laboratory performance over the years is difficult not only because of the great amount of data incurred but also because of the obligatory lab-coding in the reports requiring the availability of a lab-code/lab-name key.

A base structure of the database is being programmed in 2009. The database should allow the systematic archiving of the EUPT-data of all CRLs in order to improve the overview and enable the evaluation of the overall performance of official laboratories and countries throughout the EUPTs and the years. The database should further allow the storage of further PT-related information such as a) the explanations given by official laboratories for their non-participation in EUPTs, b) the explanations for the non-analysis of certain pesticides within the EUPT-scope and c) the information given by the labs as regards the traceability investigations and the corrective measures taken in case of bad performance.

In a second step appropriate filters and sorting options will be installed to allow customized EUPT-, laboratory- or pesticide-specific searches on-line. Using appropriate filters the CRLs and the COM will be able to easily obtain answers and conclusions for example as regards the variability of results over the years for one or more compounds or for one or more labs. The access of the laboratories to their own EUPT-data via their own profile site will help them get an overview of their long-term performance and to demonstrate their performance and the associated corrective measures during audits and FVO-inspections in a well documented manner.

The EUPT-Archive DB is a collaboration project between CRL-SRM and the CRL-FV and will be realized in close cooperation with the other two pesticide related CRLs and the Commission.

Task: In 2010 the database will be further upgraded in collaboration with the CRL-FV to improve data retrieval, data-display options and calculations of performance figures (e.g. z-scores, SWZ-scores) and Qn values. The DB will be interlinked with the lab-network DB and fed with further EUPT-data.

Period: see *Table 1*

B. Development and Validation of Analytical Methods

B.1 Method for simultaneous analysis of polar pesticides

Background: Multiresidue methods aim to cover pesticides of a broad polarity range. However, there are some limitations especially towards the polar end of the spectrum, because polar matrix components, such as sugars and proteins, tend to negatively affect chromatography and detection. Current multiresidue procedures are thus designed to remove those interfering components during partitioning and cleanup. This however, also inevitably results in a loss of some very polar but still important pesticides. Not being amenable to multiresidue procedures, such pesticides have thus traditionally been a weak point in routine pesticide residue surveillance.

The CRL-SRM has already developed a method for the simultaneous analysis of the several highly polar pesticides including ethephon, glyphosate, glufosinate, maleic hydrazide and fosetyl aluminium and some metabolites thereof. The method involves a common extraction followed by LC-MS/MS analysis in groups. This method will be validated in an interlaboratory test within 2009.

Task: Further method development will be performed to expand the scope of the method by some additional highly polar pesticides and metabolites considering compounds included in the EU coordinated control program where reasonable and applicable.

Period: *Method development: throughout the year, Interlaboratory Method Validation data on-line H2/2010*

B.2 Study of pesticides requiring modified multi-residue methods

Background: Several pesticides and legally relevant metabolites are known to pose problems in analysis and are thus considered as “difficult” or non-amenable to multiresidue methods. In many cases analysis is possible following certain modifications of classical multiresidue methods. Such modifications may entail pH-adjustment, temperature control, special measurement conditions, cleavage reactions to release conjugates etc..

Task: The experiments and studies to identify, characterize and group these types of pesticides will be continued. Modifications of the multiresidue methods will be introduced and communicated to the laboratories within the network. Priority will be given to pesticides and metabolites of high relevance in agriculture or that are included in coordinated control plans of the EU.

Period: *throughout the year; Methods available online partly in H1/2010 and partly in H2/2010*

B.3 Examination of existing analytical procedures for dithiocarbamates in order to evaluate their practical usefulness for routine pesticide residue testing in accordance with regulatory requirements

Background

Dithiocarbamates (DTCs) are among the pesticides most widely used in agriculture. The extreme instability of the polymeric dithiocarbamates makes their direct analysis virtually impossible. MRLs are thus traditionally referring to the common carbon disulfide moiety. This analysis involves a cleavage step followed by the analysis of the released CS₂. This has been traditionally performed using a photometer, following a derivatization of the CS₂. More and more used is the gas chromatographic determination of the CS₂ following its partitioning into a non-polar solvent. The common moiety approach does, however, not allow a differentiation between the individual DTCs, which may be important due to differences in the toxicology. For this reason alternative analytical procedures have been developed allowing the differentiated determination of the most important groups of the DTCs, i.e. the propylene-bis-dithiocarbamates (propineb) and the ethylene-bis-dithiocarbamates (maneb, mancozeb, nabam) as well as N,N-dimethyl-dithio-carbamates (ziram, ferbam) as their corresponding monomers or common moieties. A recent EU-Regulation (*Commission Directive 2007/57*) requires the application of methods for the differentiated analysis of propineb (as propylenediamine), ziram and thiram on a case by case basis when specific quantification is required. The applicability of the current residue definitions and the existing analytical approaches in routine pesticide laboratories will be checked with the help of experts. A further aspect of interest in this respect is the comparison between the GC- and photometric methods for dithiocarbamates determined as CS₂ to find possible reasons for the bias in the mean results observed in the EUPT-SRM3. The influence of the DTC-type as well as the cleavage conditions and the matrix are to be studied.

Tasks: The project, that has started in 2009, will be continued with the further examination of most prominent existing approaches for the analysis of dithiocarbamates and the assessment of their practical usefulness in the light of the existing regulations and considering technical and practical feasibility aspects. Consultations with the team of experts will continue.

Period: throughout the year, *Resumé:* H2/2010

B.4 Illegal or non-authorized pesticides (pesticide misuse)

Background: Next to the control of the MRLs and ARfD exceedings and the analysis of samples within the frame of coordinated monitoring programs pesticide residue laboratories are also interested in the detection of pesticide misuse cases. This project is jointly organized by the CRL-SRM and the CRL for Fruit and Vegetables with the task of collecting and disseminating information about illegally used pesticides and of developing of methods for the analysis of illegal or non-authorized pesticides where necessary.

Tasks: 1) Method development and validation: Experiments will be performed to determine whether the pesticides are amenable to multiresidue methods, modified multiresidue methods or single residue methods. In the latter two cases suitable methods will be developed and validated. The generated data will be collected and stored in the method validation database.
2) Collection of information regarding misuse-cases: At least 800 samples will be analyzed and

pesticide-misuse-cases will be localized by comparison of available residue data with data about the authorized uses of pesticides in Europe as well as in specific countries as far as available. Information regarding misuse-cases will be collected and distributed to the labs within the network, where indicated.

Period: throughout the year, On-line information in CRL-portal:H2/2010

C. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

C.1 Performance of an Interlaboratory Proficiency test for “single residue analytes” in 2010 together with the CRL for Fruit and Vegetables (EUPT-SRM05)

Background: All CRLs have to annually organize proficiency tests directed to official laboratories and NRLs. The CRL-SRM is organizing its EUPTs alternating in collaboration with the CRLs for FV and CF.

Task: A proficiency test covering multi residue methods (MRM) and single residue methods (SRM) will be performed in collaboration with the CRL for Fruit and Vegetables.

Participants will be able to receive documents and instructions through the specific section of the CRL website.

Each participant will receive a detailed electronic report, which will allow the laboratories to interpret their results and also to identify possible sources of procedural errors.

A final report summarizing the scope, results, data treatment and additional information of the methods used will be printed and made available to every participant laboratory.

Period: H1 of 2010

Deliverables: EUPT-report in H2 of 2010

D. Technical and Scientific Support to NRLs/EU official labs and Third Country Labs

D.1 Dissemination of Information and Networking

The dissemination of information to NRLs, Official labs and third country labs is achieved via personal communication and presentations in conferences and workshops (see D.2 and D.3) as well as with the help of the CRL-Web-Portal (6.1) and the CRL-Datapool (6.2).

The networking activities include personal contacts including e-mail and telephone call exchange, the conduction of workshops as well as the creation of a Network-DB (see 6.2.5).

D.2 Joint Training-Workshop for NRLs in Spain in cooperation with CRL-FV

A training-workshop will be performed in collaboration with the CRL for Fruit and Vegetables and corresponding NRLs from selected countries will be invited to participate. The country selection will be made in close collaboration with the Commission considering the performance of laboratories in PTs in terms of accuracy, participation frequency and analytical scope in EUPTs.

The training-workshop will cover technical aspects including hands-on training as well as lectures and discussions on analytical and QC aspects. Special needs and problems of the laboratories selected to participate will be considered in the design of the training program.

Period: *To be decided*

Deliverables: *Training-Report as well as a financial report to be delivered within two months of the training*

D.3 Visit and consulting seminars at NRL(s) of one selected country

A visits of NRL(s) of one country will be conducted by one representative of the CRL-SRM and one of the CRL-FV. The country will be selected in agreement with the Commission taking into account the EUPTs performance and participation over last four years. Before the seminar a detailed study of the EUPT results obtained during the last four years will be carried out. Information on the scope and the analytical equipment and the equipment of the visited NRL(s) and the other official labs within the visited country will be collected and evaluated in advance to the visit with using a questionnaire, in order to identify weak points and better prepare for the meeting.

During the visit the possible reasons for the bad performance will be discussed and advices will be given to the laboratory on how to improve its performance and expand the analytical scope. The objective of these seminars will be to evaluate "in situ" the technical capabilities of the selected NRL(s) and the other OFLs in the country as well as to suggest ways on how to promote future improvement. The CRL-SRM will send 1 representative to this visit.

Period: *To be decided*

Deliverables: *Mission-Report*

D.4 Analysis of official samples, counter analysis

The CRL will ask the commission for approval of additional eligible budget, if required.

D.5 Second Comprehensive CRL-Survey

Background: At the end of 2006/beginning of 2007 a first comprehensive survey of the NRLs and Official laboratories was conducted. The main aims were to assess the Status-Quo of the labs within the network (abilities and disabilities); to assess the needs and requirements of the labs; to gain the ability to plan and justify the CRL-activities based on sound data; and to give the possibility to the labs to compare themselves with other labs (see where they stand get ideas what to do). Furthermore the survey had the aim to initiate a thinking process among the analysts within the network and to increase the awareness about certain aspects. With this follow-up Survey the CRLs will provide the necessary information to assess the development of the laboratories within the network. The draft version of the Survey questionnaire and the online survey tool was scheduled in 2009, whereas the survey itself will be performed in the first half of 2010.

Task: In 2010 the design on the Survey questionnaire will be finalized following consultations with the other CRLs and the Commission and the survey will be launched among all official pesticide labs within the EU and if agreed by the Commission separately within official labs of important 3rd countries. The Survey-Report containing summed evaluation of the answers given by the EU labs, observed trends compared to the previous Survey and conclusions will be drafted and distributed among the official labs of the Network. The commission and the other 3 CRLs will be further provided access to the detailed answers of each individual lab.

Period: H1 of 2010

Deliverables: Survey-Report to be delivered within four months of the submission deadline