

GLOBAL PESTICIDE SUMMIT (GPS)

Concept Note

Brasília, Brazil — September 2026

1. Background

Pesticide regulation is a central component of global efforts to ensure food security, protect human health, and preserve environmental integrity. Over the past decades, countries have developed increasingly sophisticated regulatory systems, supported by advances in toxicology, exposure assessment, and environmental science. However, these developments have largely taken place within national or regional contexts, resulting in a fragmented international landscape.

This fragmentation persists despite the existence of a well-established body of international guidance. Foundational instruments such as the FAO/WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, OECD guidance on pesticide risk indicators, and related frameworks developed under the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) have provided countries with a common set of principles and technical approaches.

These documents collectively emphasize core elements of sound pesticide governance, including:

- ✓ protection of human health and the environment,
- ✓ transparency and accountability in regulatory decision-making,
- ✓ the importance of risk communication and stakeholder engagement,
- ✓ and the need for coordinated international action on chemical safety .

In parallel, OECD work on pesticide risk indicators has highlighted the importance of developing scientifically robust tools to assess the sustainability of pesticide use, combining modelling approaches and monitoring data to better understand real-world impacts. Similarly, FAO guidance on compliance and enforcement underscores that regulatory effectiveness depends not only on system design but also on implementation, institutional capacity, and continuous evaluation.

Despite this strong normative and technical foundation, current regulatory systems remain heterogeneous. Differences in regulatory approaches—whether hazard-based or risk-based—reflect national priorities and contexts. At the same time, emerging analytical evidence suggests that these differences do not necessarily lead to systematically distinct aggregate hazard outcomes across jurisdictions.

This combination of shared principles, divergent systems, and partially convergent outcomes points to an opportunity to strengthen international alignment, not by harmonising

regulations in a prescriptive manner, but by improving comparability, interoperability, and the use of common scientific frameworks.

2. Rationale

The current global system for pesticide regulation faces several structural challenges. Regulatory divergence increases administrative complexity and may lead to duplication of assessments, inconsistencies in data requirements, and barriers to the efficient exchange of information. At the same time, scientific methodologies continue to evolve, particularly with respect to integrating hazard, exposure, and impact in more comprehensive assessment frameworks.

International guidance already recognises that no single indicator or methodology can fully capture the complexity of pesticide risks, and that multiple complementary approaches—combining modelling, monitoring, and expert judgement—are necessary to inform policy decisions. However, these approaches are not yet consistently applied or aligned across jurisdictions.

In addition, effective pesticide governance requires more than technical tools. It depends on robust compliance and enforcement systems, clear and practicable regulatory requirements, and institutional mechanisms that promote accountability and continuous improvement. As highlighted in FAO guidance, even well-designed regulatory systems cannot achieve their objectives without effective implementation and stakeholder engagement.

These considerations point to the need for renewed international dialogue focused on:

- ✓ improving comparability of regulatory outcomes,
- ✓ enhancing interoperability of data and assessment systems,
- ✓ strengthening implementation and enforcement capacities,
- ✓ and aligning regulatory practices with advances in science.

3. Objective

The Global Pesticide Summit aims to support the development of a more coherent, efficient, and science-based international approach to pesticide regulation.

The Summit will provide a platform for regulators, scientists, and international organisations to exchange experience, identify areas of convergence, and explore practical pathways to strengthen alignment across regulatory systems, while fully respecting national sovereignty.

4. Scope and Approach

The Summit will address key cross-cutting issues, building on existing international guidance while focusing on practical implementation challenges and opportunities.

Discussions will cover:

- ✓ the comparability of regulatory outcomes across different frameworks;
- ✓ the integration of hazard-based and exposure-based approaches;
- ✓ the development and use of pesticide risk indicators;
- ✓ data standardisation and digitalisation of regulatory processes;
- ✓ and the role of compliance, enforcement, and institutional capacity in ensuring effective outcomes.

The event will combine a high-level plenary with a set of thematic workstreams designed to produce targeted outputs. These workstreams will operate with clearly defined mandates and timelines, drawing on existing international frameworks while identifying areas where further development or alignment may be beneficial.

This approach reflects established practices in international cooperation, where structured, time-bound technical collaboration has proven effective in advancing complex regulatory issues.

5. Expected Outputs

The Summit is expected to generate outputs that contribute to ongoing international efforts, including:

- ✓ a synthesis of key findings and areas of convergence;
- ✓ a roadmap outlining possible pathways for enhanced alignment and cooperation;
- ✓ and technical contributions from thematic workstreams addressing specific methodological or operational challenges.

These outputs are intended to complement existing international instruments and support their continued implementation and evolution.

6. Organisation

The Global Pesticide Summit will be hosted in Brasília, Brazil, in September 2026.

The organisation of the Summit will involve collaboration between national authorities, international organisations, and relevant stakeholders. A steering structure will guide the preparation process, supported by a technical secretariat responsible for coordination and background work.

7. Concluding Remarks

The proposed Summit builds on a strong foundation of international principles and guidance developed over several decades. Rather than creating new frameworks, it seeks to strengthen coherence and alignment across existing ones, with a focus on practical implementation, scientific robustness, and measurable outcomes.



By bringing together key actors in a structured and forward-looking dialogue, the Global Pesticide Summit aims to contribute to a more integrated and effective global system for pesticide regulation.