

MARKET REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PESTICIDE RESIDUES AND GREEN COFFEE BEANS

Since coffee introduction into Jamaica in 1728 the industry has faced several challenges. Now the industry faces the challenge of meeting the Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) set by importer countries.

Chemicals are used in coffee cultivation to combat weeds, insect pests and diseases. Some may be toxic; some may have long residual time, and some may biomagnify as they move up the food chain.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines risk criteria of pesticides and established multilateral agreements that serve as guides for their safe use. Importer countries then set (MRLs) for imported products according to their national standards.

Japan receives approximately 85% of our coffee exports therefore, the requirements of that market in regards to MRLs is of significant concern to Jamaica.

The Japanese Approach

Japan has established MRLs for domestic and imported agricultural commodities. For coffee, MRLs for approximately 140 listed pesticides have been defined. Their legislations now mandate stricter monitoring of imported products by the testing of **all food products** entering a Japanese port.

Some of the chemicals for which the Japanese have set MRLs include:-

	MRL
1) Thiocarbonyl (only against the Coffee Berry Borer (CBB))	0.1
2) Decis (pests other than the CBB)	2
3) Round-up (a systemic for weeds)	1
4) Anvil- (a systemic fungus)	0.05
5) Gramoxone- (a contact for weeds)	0.05

The Coffee Industry Board Response

The Coffee Industry Board (CIB) has implemented an integrated management approach to reducing the population and ultimately the effect of the CBB. It has also formulated Codes of Practice (COP) which seeks to address the major environmental problems generated by the industry establishing minimum acceptable operating standards.

The CIB is certified by the International Standards Organization (ISO: 9000). This results in greater operating efficiency in record keeping and turn around time, which will improve the Board's monitoring and regulating capabilities.

Staff has received training in Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles, and in the application of the Japanese Food Safety Law. Our goal is to establish a pesticide residue laboratory to allow us to test our coffee beans before consumption.

The CIB will soon be having training seminars with the relevant stakeholders to reinforce the COP in the industry, provide greater awareness to farmers, processors, exporters and workers about their joint responsibility in maintaining Jamaica's premium position in the international coffee market in terms of quality and the observance of the MRLs of the importing country.

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Coffee Industry Board

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