



ASIA-PACIFIC
LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM

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Working Group Report 2016

Quality Measurement of Agricultural Products

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SECTION 1 – Annual Report

1.1. Training courses on grain / rice moisture measurement

This WG has conducted a total of 11 training courses and workshops since 2001. In the recent 4 years, training courses on traceability in rice moisture measurement have been conducted in Indonesia (May, 2012), Thailand (November 2013) and Cambodia (November 2015) with great support and cooperation by the host economies. This training program has been also supported with the MEDEA (Metrology: Enabling Developing Economies within Asia) project since 2015.

Among them, the latest course for rice moisture measurement was generously hosted by NMC (National Metrology Center) in Phnom Penh on 16-20 November, 2015. Total 20 trainees plus 10 local observers attended this training course from the 8 economies; Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. NMIJ (National Metrology Institute of Japan) and Kett Electric Laboratory Co. Ltd. provided five trainers (see the separate report).

1.2. Support for other training courses

The chairperson supported the *MEDEA Training Course on Mass Standards* held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 30 August - 1 September, 2016 as an organizer. Total 21 trainees plus 8 local observers attended this training course from the 13 economies; Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. MBIE (Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment) in New Zealand and NMIJ provided five trainers and coordinators (see the separate report for the WG on Training Coordination).

1.3. APLMF guide document on rice moisture measurement

The WG has provided the first draft of a new *APLMF Guide Document on Rice Moisture Measurement* at the 22nd Forum Meeting. The second draft (2DR) with minor revisions has been submitted to the present WG meeting (see the separate draft). This document aims to provide practical procedures to establish a regional traceability system and calibrate/test grain moisture meters, which are not covered by the OIML recommendations or ISO documents. Materials used in the previous training courses on rice moisture measurement are used as the basis of this guide document.

Considering current situation that no comments have been submitted to the 1st draft (1DR) for one year and on the other hand, many member economies need an official guide, the WG proposes the following procedure.

- (1) Seek comments from the member economies to 2DR for additional three months until 28 February, 2017,
- (2) The 2DR will be considered to be approved if there are no comments requiring substantial amendments, and then,
- (3) The official guide document would be uploaded on the APLMF website.

1.4. Contributed to OIML TC 17/SC 1 and TC 17/ SC 8

The WG has been continuously monitoring the activities of OIML TC 17/SC 1 (*humidity*) and TC 17/SC 8 (*instruments for quality analysis of agricultural products*) in regard to the two OIML documents shown below.

(1) TC 17/SC 1 R 59 *Moisture Meters for Cereal Grains and Oilseeds (1984)*:

A long discussion in SC 1 for revising the present recommendation has been continued with efforts by the joint secretariat of USA and PR China. The WG submitted many comments in this procedure. FDR (Final Draft Recommendation) of R 59 was submitted to 51st CIML meeting in October, 2016 and it was approved. It is expected that the new recommendation will be published shortly.

(2) TC 17/SC 8 on *Protein Measuring Instruments for Cereal Grains and Oilseeds (New)*:

A long discussion in SC 8 to draft a new recommendation has been finished with efforts by the secretariat in Australia. The WG also submitted many comments in this procedure. FDR (Final Draft Recommendation) of this recommendation was submitted to 51st CIML meeting and it was approved. It is expected that this recommendation will be published soon too.

In Japan, the WG chair attended a domestic mirror committee of OIML TC 17 and exchanged information between the manufacturers of moisture meters and protein measuring instruments.

1.5. Cooperation with BIPM and APMP on moisture measurement

The WG exchanged information regarding the grain moisture measurement with the experts in metrology in NMIJ and APMP (Asia-Pacific Metrology Programme). On 9-10 November, 2016, the chairperson provided a presentation on grain moisture measurements at the APEC Regional Workshop on Measurement and Standards for Grain Food Safety and Free Trade in Da Nang, Viet Nam which was held before the APMP General Assembly and related meetings. The primary target of this workshop was provision of CRMs (certified reference materials) for food safety which is taken initiatives by the scientists in chemical metrology.

Regardless such a different background, many participants gave attention to this presentation on grain moisture measurement. The chairperson realized that grain moisture is one of the common topics of concern both in scientific metrology and legal metrology. The presentation slides presented at this APEC workshop are provided in the WG meeting as an informative document.

SECTION 2 – 2017 Work Plan

2.1. Planning the next training course on grain moisture measurement

Many participants in the training courses on rice moisture measurement requested to continue a training program in this field. The WG therefore will continue to call for host economies in the future in the scheme under the MEDEA project. There is an important policy however for selecting the host economy that one economy cannot host two training course consecutively. The WG intends that all member economies would have an equal chance to host a training course.

Another policy recommended in the MEDEA project is recruitment of competent trainees as the trainers in the future. Considering the matured contents of our program developed in a long time, it is encouraged to transfer training activities to a regional or national level, even partly. The WG thus encourages trainees in the past to participate in the next training course as assistant trainer(s).

2.2. Drafting of the APLMF guide document on grain moisture measurement

The WG will continue to seek comments on the *APLMF Guide Document on Rice Moisture Measurement*. The WG hopes the official version would be uploaded on the APLMF website following the procedure in 1.3 for the benefit of the member economies and any other economies that have a concern in grain moisture measurement.

2.3. Contributing to the OIML TC 17/SC 1 and TC 17/SC 8

The WG will continue to contribute to OIML TC 17/SC 1 and TC 17/SC 8 even after the new R 59 and another new Recommendation on protein measurement are published. The WG aims to contribute to harmonize between the activities of OIML and APLMF in agricultural measurements.

2.5. Monitoring activities of BIPM and APMP on grain moisture measurement

The WG continues to monitor activities in scientific metrology including BIPM and APMP, regarding the traceability and uncertainty in grain moisture measurements. These organizations recognize the importance of grain moisture measurement as an important application of scientific metrology.

2.6. Supporting MEDEA training courses

The chairperson will support planning of APLMF/MEDEA training courses not only those for agricultural measurement as a CC (Coordination Committee) member.