

# HOW A GLOBAL SPICE NETWORK RELIES ON GLOBALMRL.COM

A major international spice company subscribes to the Global MRL database and has referred it as a resource to its own suppliers. Why?

Since the company sources agricultural raw materials from around the world, they face the risk of trade disruption stemming from differing regulations. Accessing global standards and ensuring that their suppliers are equally informed helps mitigate risks in one area that could cause trade disruptions: pesticide Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs).

**CHALLENGE** The complexity of MRL policies continues to increase. Food safety has become a priority for national governments, resulting in many governments setting national MRL standards for agricultural products produced, imported, and sold within their market. Governments are also increasing testing to ensure compliance.

MRL standards are often not harmonized between markets. Additionally, the frequency with which MRLs change in many markets and the difficulty in interpreting each market's regulations due to the differences in crop and chemical terminology, pose serious challenges.

Global sourcing is key to remaining competitive in the spice trade. It is a highly fragmented industry with many of the products grown by small family farms and then consolidated and distributed by larger grower groups and exporters. Due to this connectivity, a single farm's application of certain crop protection products can have rippling effects throughout the entire supply chain. A small farmer can apply a chemical to address a pest or disease and be in compliance within their domestic market but not in countries to which they export. Being able to make informed decisions needs to be based on an understanding of international MRL regulations.

**SOLUTION** GlobalMRL.com has proven to be the solution that this spice company needed. Prior to discovering it, the company attempted to collect MRL data from a scattered selection of local sources, and then had to interpret those incomplete or confusing MRL standards. In GlobalMRL.com they found a global perspective of MRL data based upon sound understanding of international regulatory policy. After an evaluation period, the company subscribed to GlobalMRL.com based on a recognition that:

- » **Bryant Christie Inc., the provider of GlobalMRL.com, is well connected to MRL regulatory institutions and to the suppliers that apply for MRL standards.**
- » **GlobalMRL.com uses consistent commodity and compound terminology throughout while offering clear documentation showing how MRLs are derived from local standards. This facilitates cross-market comparison and provides assurance of accuracy.**
- » **MRL changes are updated in a timely manner with clear notification of changes.**
- » **The set of markets and commodities available is extensive and continues to expand as new lists are established.**
- » **Results are easy to interpret and use in internal documents and communications.**

**RESULTS** Since subscribing at the beginning of 2015, the spice company has relied on GlobalMRL.com as its source for MRL data and has encouraged its suppliers to do the same. By doing so, the company has increased transparency throughout its network and strengthened supplier relationships. The company and its suppliers can now make more informed decisions related to their supply chain.



## BENEFITS

- » **Identify regulatory risks**
- » **Make informed decisions**
- » **Access expansive set of markets**
- » **Reduce ambiguity**
- » **Compare MRLs across markets simply**
- » **Ensure accurate comparisons due to consistent crop & chemical terminology**



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DATABASE™**

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