SOP: 5.1 Rev. 1

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APPROVED BY: see cover page

TITLE: **Sample Collection**

PURPOSE: Provide guidelines to ensure that samples from supervised field trials are collected labeled and transported to maintain its integrity in accordance with Good Laboratory Practices and the protocol.

SCOPE: This procedure applies to all test substance applications from supervised field trials of the Minor Uses Foundation Pesticide Magnitude of Residue Studies.

PROCEDURES:

1. Choose an appropriate sampling method (representative, random, systematic, stratified random, etc.) and consider the factors that affect the distribution in the plot.
2. Select samples that represent the commercial practices of the harvest. Both untreated and treated samples must be comparable (same maturity stage, type, etc.).
3. Collect samples from the field, as indicated in the protocol (no sub-samples). Quartering or downsizing to reduce sample size or weight, if allowed by the protocol, should not be performed in the field but in a laboratory or clean room close to the storage freezers. Identify and label each sample with the trial number, treatment number, sample ID, and date.
4. Avoid contamination of the field samples during the sampling, labelling, storage, transport, and shipping processes (e.g., keep treated and untreated samples in separate containers at all times).
5. Do not collect samples from the edges or plot ends, or from the first and last plant in a plot row. Avoid sampling from one meter at the edges of the plots and the ends of the rows.
6. Disposable gloves will be used for all harvesting/sampling processes. Sampling tools should be cleaned before use and between samplings.

7. Avoid deterioration of surface pesticide residues during sample handling or packaging (e.g., do not brush or wash samples unless allowed in the protocol).
8. Samples should be representative of a mature, healthy crop; do not collect sick or diseased fruit or plant parts. If soil adheres to the sample, and if protocol allows a soft brush may be used to remove the soil.
9. Do not handle or store sampling equipment with the test substance or other agrochemicals.
10. The untreated plot must be sampled before the treated plot(s) to avoid contamination. If there is more than one treated plot, the sampling of the treated plots will progress in order from the lowest to the highest rate. After sample collection, the samples will be weighed on a scale to ensure the minimum protocol sample weight requirement has been met.
11. Select samples from the plant according to protocol requirements. Do not select samples that cannot be sold or are considered unmarketable. Avoid unnecessary exposure to light and heat.
12. If the final sample is whole, unaltered fruit, samples can be harvested and placed directly in MUF plastic-lined cloth bags that are properly labeled, as per the protocol. If the whole fruit will be altered to create the final sample (e.g., cut to reduce weight, separated into peel and flesh, etc.), then place fruit samples in clean plastic bags or other suitable container, label with test substance name, trial number, treatment number, and sample ID, and transport to the lab or clean room where they can be altered/prepared and frozen. The bags or containers should be made of a material that will not interfere with the analysis (check with the lab or Study Director).
13. Transport samples from the field to where they will be prepared or frozen in clean bags or other suitable containers, properly labeled and in a cooler with blue ice and a temperature recording device. Use separate coolers for treated and untreated samples. Record transport temperature and all procedures in the field data notebook.
14. For detailed sample procedures, see Appendix V, Manual FAO 225[1]. "Presentation and evaluation of pesticide residue data for the estimation of the maximum limits of pesticide residues in food and feed."

Approved by:

[1] Manual on the Submission and Evaluation of Pesticide Residues Data _ Third Edition (2016).



October 5, 2026

Anna Gore, Executive Director
Minor Use Foundation

Date