



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre Plaguicidas
Le groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

PROJECT SHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE: Risk Reduction

PROJECT TITLE: Increasing Adoption of Biopesticides

PROJECT ID: RR08-04-1105

PROJECT TEAM: United States: Janet Andersen
Canada: Suzanne Chalifour

PROJECTS DATES: Initiated fall 2004; updated June 2006

GOAL: Identify existing trade irritants and unilateral registration of biopesticides in one NAFTA country so that joint review, work share and regulatory processes (e.g., User Requested Minor Use Registration) can be used as opportunities to register biopesticides and other reduced risk pest management tools. Joint reviews and work sharing will be used to bring new biopesticides products to the market in both Canada and the United States simultaneously.

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Inter-regional Research Project Number 4 (IR-4) provided funds for a competitive grant program for large-scale field demonstration of the effectiveness of registered biopesticides. Further grants are anticipated in 2005. As part of the joint Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) / Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Pesticide Risk Reduction Program, the AAFC is also embarking on demonstration projects and, in cooperation with the PMRA, is facilitating the registration and adoption of biopesticides.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

New biopesticides, registered biopesticides for which new uses are proposed and biopesticides not registered in all three countries can lead to trade barriers for certain commodities and pesticide use practices. As a joint project under the Risk Reduction and Regulatory Capacity Building subcommittees, specific trade irritants were identified by stakeholders in the pulse and tomato commodity sectors, this approach will be used as a model for other commodities. The EPA and the PMRA should also consider that Section 18s/emergency registrations can be a source of potential trade irritants if there is not a coordinated effort to encourage registrants to propose registration at the same time throughout North America. Under this project, commodity specific user groups with identified risk reduction needs, the biopesticide industry and individual companies may be contacted for their interest in proposing joint reviews and registration of products to address specific pest management needs.

RATIONALE:

Biopesticides play a role in reducing the reliance on traditional chemical pesticides. Where trade irritants due to differences in pesticide registration have been identified, the NAFTA Technical Working Group should work to provide coordinated access to low-risk options for growers. Biopesticide registrants and user groups may not be aware of opportunities for biopesticides to resolve existing trade irritants. This project would help identify those situations and work to bring biopesticides to the market.

WORK PLAN

SUBCOMMITTEE: Risk Reduction

PROJECT TITLE: Increasing Adoption of Biopesticides

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME
Identify biopesticides that might relieve existing trade irritants for pulse crops	Evaluate the list of identified trade irritants for pulse crops and determine potential for biopesticides registered or pending that might resolve some of the existing discrepancies. No Biopesticides in the pulse three-tier list.	May 2005
Identify biopesticides that might relieve trade irritants for tomatoes	Evaluate the list of identified trade irritants for tomatoes and determine potential for biopesticides registered or pending that might resolve some of the existing discrepancies. Although reduced risk pesticides, there were no biopesticides on the tomato first tier list, and at least eight biopesticides are suggested for the second tier	May 2005
Identify projects in other commodity areas	Each country will set priorities for potential new biopesticides. Countries will share lists, and subcommittee will select initial projects. Biopesticide companies and user groups will be contacted for their interest.	May 2005 and ongoing
Complete registration decisions for new products	Joint reviews for new active ingredients and work sharing (e.g., User Requested Minor Use Registration) for products approved in one country but not others.	Joint reviews agreed to for Northwest Agricultural Products/ Bloomtime Biological™ FD Biopesticide and Nufarm Agricultural Inc/Blightban C9-1 to control fireblight in pome fruit.
Demonstration projects to encourage adoption	Encourage agricultural groups, etc. to do field demonstrations with new biopesticide products that could resolve trade irritants	To be determined