



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 Subcommittee

PROJECT TITLE: Pesticide Safety for Agricultural Workers

PROJECT TEAM:

Dr. Luis Alberto Mercado, Secretaría de Salud (SSA)
Ing. Gustavo González, Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA)
Ing. José Antonio Cabalceta Vara, Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social (STPS)
Ing. Jesús López Olvera, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT)
Ing. Eduardo Rangel Machaín, Comité Estatal de Sanidad Vegetal de Guanajuato (CESAVEG)
Ing. Antonio Rojas Hernández, Texas Department of Agriculture
Ms. Jennifer L. Weber, University of California at Davis
Mr. Kevin Keaney, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Other participants to be consulted as appropriate

INITIATION: June 2000

UPDATED: November 2003

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE:

Recent data shows that 57% of the migrant farm workers in the U.S. come from Mexico.¹ Migration of farm workers from Mexico to the U.S. and seasonal workers who may live in both countries at different times of the year account for a large percentage of the agricultural labor force in both countries. Recognizing this trend and that those who work with or around pesticides— farm owners/operators, pesticide handlers/applicators, farm workers and their families— represent the population at most higher

1 U.S. Department of Labor, 1994. Migrant Farm workers: Pursuing Security in an Unstable Labor Market, (National Agricultural Survey).

risk from exposure, Mexico and the U.S. aim to coordinate their regulatory and educational pesticide programs to contribute to the overall well-being of this population.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A joint effort between Mexico and the U.S. to coordinate activities on risk reduction in pesticide use among those who work with or around them (farm owners/operators, pesticide handlers/applicators, farm workers and their families) should increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of programs targeting this population. Collaborative work will build a partnership and create a mechanism for collaboration and compliance assurance on these issues. It should also contribute to increasing pesticide safety training programs, awareness of pesticide risks, and decreasing incidence of pesticide poisonings.

GOALS:

This project aims to:

coordinate and integrate programs and activities targeting this population at all levels of government and with non-governmental organizations

- reduce human exposure to pesticides and decrease the incidence of pesticide poisonings
- promote risk reduction measures in the proper use and management of pesticides
- strengthen coverage of pesticide safety education programs and risk awareness efforts
- ensure the continuity of national and state programs and binational cooperation

OBJECTIVES: (Objetivos/Estrategias)

This project recognizes the need to develop a comprehensive program that aims to protect those who work with or around pesticides. The specific objectives describe the five (5) interdependent areas of work: (Este proyecto reconoce la necesidad de desarrollar un programa comprensivo con la finalidad de proteger a aquellos quienes trabajan con o alrededor de plaguicidas. A continuacion se describen las cinco (5) areas de trabajo interdependientes:)

1. Systematically collect, analyze, evaluate and update data to guide, track progress and provide a rationale for the project; (Colectar, analizar, evaluar y actualizar periódicamente la data que permita mantener el curso y medir el progreso del proyecto, asi como su justificacion.)
2. Develop a national pesticide safety training program, including training of health care providers; (Desarrollar un programa de capacitacion nacional sobre el manejo seguro de plaguicidas, incluyendo la capacitacion de los proveedores de salud publica)
3. Strengthen the compliance assistance and enforcement of the Worker Protection Standards; (Fortalecer la asistencia en el cumplimiento y la aplicacion de las normas de proteccion al trabajador agricola)

4. Develop a national awareness campaign for end-users of pesticides; (Desarrollar una campana de concientizacion para el usuario final de plaguicidas)
5. Strengthen the recognition, reporting and medical treatment of pesticide poisonings. (Fortalecer el reconocimiento, informe de casos y el tratamiento medico de envenenamientos/intoxicaciones por plaguicidas)

RELEVANT REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

While the TWG is establishing stronger ties with other relevant intergovernmental programs at the regional level, currently none of these programs are focusing efforts specifically on worker protection issues. Since this project builds heavily on the expertise and experiences gained through EPA's development and implementation of the U.S. Worker Protection Standard, the pesticide applicator certification and training regulation, and the pesticide and national health care providers strategy, the TWG provides an effective mechanism for coordinating activities between Mexico and the U.S. However, it is important to coordinate with other appropriate programs including:

- The U.S./Mexico Pesticide Information Exchange Program (USMPIE) (see annex for description)
- The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) (see annex for description)

Each of these programs listed above may be able to offer "value-added" and may be approached for monetary contributions to assist in the implementation of this project. See ANNEX 2 for more detailed information.

ANNEX 1 WORKPLAN

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
Objective 1: Systematically collect, analyze, evaluate and update data to guide, track progress and provide a rationale for the project.				
<u>INVENTORY OF TRAINING PROGRAMS</u> Inventory of training programs at the state and federal levels in México and distribution of draft to the work group	15 / 07 / 01	Distribution to group	Luis Alberto Mercado	Done
Evaluation and analysis by work group of the Inventory of Training Programs	15 / 08 / 01	Comments to group	Work group	Done
Include comments and create the final document: "Inventory of Training Programs on Safe Use of Pesticides in Mexico"	30 / 08 / 01	Finalized inventory	Luis Alberto Mercado	Done
Give update of activities to the TWG Executive Board	TWG meeting November, 2001	Report to Executive Board	Luis Alberto Mercado	Done
Annual update of inventory	06 / 04	Finished inventory	Luis Alberto Mercado/All	In process
<u>IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET POPULATION</u> Consult INEGI about possibility of including questions about the worker/applicator population in studies performed at the federal level	07 / 01	Is not possible	Ing. José Antonio Cabalceta	Done
Identify areas in which information is required, government agencies or organizations that have access to relevant information	10 / 01	Identification of information needs, available info. So sources, and relationships with participating or interested institutions	Work Group	Done

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
Objective 2: Implement “Train-the-Trainer” strategies on safe use of pesticides on the field, and training of health care providers on managing pesticide intoxications.				
<u>TRAIN THE TRAINERS</u>				
Develop operational directives of the national trainer system	August - September 2001	Guide to Trainers with information about the Train-the-Trainer strategy of the National Program against the Risks Caused by Pesticide Use, such as requirements for the trainer, test given, content of training, training report requirements, re-training needs after a certain time, credentials, and evaluation method or indicators for effectiveness of training	Work Group	
Pilot Train-the-Trainer course to evaluate program content and training materials	25-27/02/02 Puente de Ixtla, Morelos	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done
Pilot Train-the-Trainer course to evaluate program content and training materials	4-6/03/02 Culiacán, Sinaloa	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done
Train-the-Trainer course	24-26/07/02 Tepic, Nayarit	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done
Train-the-Trainer course	29-31/07/02 Cholula, Puebla	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done
Train-the-Trainer course	September 30 to October 2 nd , 2002 Obregón, Son.	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done
Train-the-Trainer course	28-30/10/02 Saltillo, Coah.	Training; directory of trainers	Work Group	Done

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
<u>TRAINING OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL</u>				
1 st National Course on Management of Pesticide Intoxications	27-28 / 09 / 02 Guanajuato, Gto.	Course; directory of trained medical personnel	Luis Alberto Mercado (Organized by COESPLAFEST Guanajuato)	Done
2 nd National Course on Management of Pesticide Intoxications	11 / 02 Guanajuato, Gto.	Course; directory of trained medical personnel	Luis Alberto Mercado (Organized by COESPLAFEST Guanajuato)	Done
<u>DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING MATERIALS</u>				
Preliminary compilation and analysis of a representative selection of training materials in the U.S. and Mexico	August-September 2001	Have materials and generally evaluate their usefulness for the purpose of the National Program	U.S.- Grace Robiou México- Luis Alberto Mercado	Done
Meeting to revise compiled materials, develop prototype materials and Guide to Trainers with directives, and Folder for Trainers	12 / 01	Draft of prototype materials, Guide and Folder for Trainers	Work Group	Done
Copy prototype materials	01 / 02	Materials ready for pilot trainings	Work Group	Done
Folder for Trainers and presentation on the topic	September 2002	Developed material	Work Group	Done
Develop flip chart to help trainers	September 2002	Developed material	Work Group	Done
Develop series of booklets "What You Should Know about Pesticides"	07 / 02	Developed material	Eduardo Rangel	Done Two booklets were developed and are available for anyone interested

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
Develop coloring book; "Basic guidelines for the safe use of pesticides"	07 / 02	Developed material	Eduardo Rangel	Done
Guide for agricultural workers	09 / 02	Developed material	Work Group	Done
Poster: "Steps to diminish heat effects on agricultural workers"	07 / 02	Developed material	Enrique Gutiérrez	Done
<u>NATIONAL PLAN</u> Develop a national plan that includes training activities	After series of training sessions	National Plan	Work Group	Pending
Objective 3: Strengthen the compliance assistance and enforcement of the worker protection regulations				
Send educational materials from EPA as examples ("How to Comply", etc.)	08 / 01	Material is at STPS	Grace Robiou	Done
Publicity posters about Norma 003 to be distributed by the Comités estatales de Sanidad Vegetal, COESPLAFEST, Fundaciones Produce, and other organizations	08 / 02	Materials at the different committees via Comité Estatal de Sanidad Vegetal	Enrique Gutiérrez and Eduardo Rangel	Done
Re-tackle: Identify goals for the next 5 years based on compliance with the law while recognizing difficulties (such as limitations of the transport system, distance between inspectors and farms)	January/February 2004	Re-tackle this issue in detail	Enrique Gutiérrez / Work Group	Pending
Objective 4: Develop a national awareness campaign for end-users of pesticides.				
Consult with the Dirección General de Equidad y Género in STPS about communication initiatives possibilities alongside their radio campaign	August	Report to group	STPS	Pending

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
Send communication materials developed by EPA (for example, Hispanic Radio Network, Radio Pesticida, Curriculum for grades 4-5-6, Bingo, PSAs, materials on communication, NPTN stickers, etc.)	August-September 2001	Present materials at the group meeting in September	Grace Robiou	Done
Explore collaboration with Education Department in Mexico	December 2003	Report to group	Luis Alberto Mercado	In process
Retackle: more publicity efforts, explore alternatives for promoting safe use of pesticides through existing communication channels and/or new collaborations with national and international organizations	January/February 2004	Cooperation with Crop Life Latin America and expansion of pilot program into Honduras/Central America	Work Group	In process
Presentation of the National Program and experiences of the state of Guanajuato through the program at the XXVII National Symposium of Agricultural Parasite Studies	27/09/02	Presentation of issues and report back to Work Group	Gustavo González Eduardo Rangel	Done
Retackle: Identify the patterns of misuse of pesticides by end- user and determine which of these practices could be remedied through public educational efforts	January/February 2004	Retackle this issue in detail	All	In process

Objective 5: Strengthen the reporting and medical treatment of pesticide poisonings.

Obtain reports from Centers for Toxicological Information and SINTOX	07 / 01	Report to group	Luis Alberto Mercado	Done
Write proposal to systemize case reporting and establish goals for health indicators	Presentation to group and to TWG in November 2001	Presentation to group and to TWG in November 2001	Luis Alberto Mercado	Done

Activity	Date	Progress Indicator	Lead	Status
Directory of doctors trained in intoxication management and poll for interest in the state medical colleges	October / 03	Directory and poll results (product of the training of doctors)	Luis Alberto Mercado	In process
Improve the reporting of intoxication cases (through the permanent training of health care providers)	Continuing	First, higher case reporting	Luis Alberto Mercado / Work Group	In process
Translate to Spanish the manual "Recognition and Management of Pesticide Intoxications"- chronic cases version	2002	Document available in Spanish	Grace Robiou	Done
Evaluate the ways in which this project could help implement cholinesterase testing requirements in Norm 003; antidote bank; distribution of first aid kits to places in most need; community document to report cases, etc.	January/February 2004	Retackle	STPS / Work Group	Pending

ANNEX 2

U.S./Mexico Pesticide Information Exchange Program

The U.S./Mexico Pesticide Information Exchange Program (USMPIE) is a bilateral activity to share information on regulatory and compliance approaches in the U.S. and Mexico. The initial intent of the USMPIE was to exchange information among officials who manage state pesticide programs. The scope of the program reflected the nature of the work undertaken by state and local officials, and the focus of the program has been on information exchange and training. For instance, there was an emphasis on compliance and inspection programs and control methods for the sale and distribution of pesticides. This type of targeted exchange will continue, but the priorities for its work have expanded since its inception. For 2000, Mexican regulatory authorities placed the highest USMPIE priority on training on pesticide risk assessment and management procedures and practices, compatible with the goals of the NAFTA TWG. EPA hosted a weeklong training session in Washington in March 2000, with Mexican travel costs funded by USMPIE. Training on risk assessment included methodologies for assessing dietary risks to children as mandated by the U.S. Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA).

Two recent USMPIE activities have contributed to the goals of the worker protection project:

1. March 2000, preliminary exchange with Mexican officials about EPA's worker protection regulations and programs at the "U.S-Mexico Pesticide Regulatory Workshop" in Washington DC.
2. August 21-25, 2001 and October 8-14, 2001, USMPIE Inspector Exchange: Mexican inspectors visiting the U.S., then vice versa.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

As part of the NAFTA package on environmental cooperation, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) was established in 1993 under the NAAEC (North American Agreement for Environmental Cooperation) to address environmental issues of continental concern, with particular attention to the environmental challenges and opportunities presented by free trade. The NACEC consists of a Council, a Secretariat, and a Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC). EPA represents the U.S. government in NACEC matters, and the Administrator is the U.S. representative on its Council - - the governing body comprised of the environment ministers of the three NAFTA countries.

To achieve the objectives of the NAAEC, the Council approves an annual program plan that includes projects in Environment, Economy and Trade; Conservation of Biodiversity; Pollutants and Health; and Law and Policy. U.S. agencies, including USTR and the Departments of State, Interior, Justice, and Commerce, play key roles in developing and implementing the NACEC work program through participation in intergovernmental working groups, and in meetings of the Council, Alternate Representatives, and public advisory committees.