



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: Food Residue and Risk Reduction

PROJECT TITLE: Commodity/Pest-based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Pulse Crops

PROJECT ID: FR06-03-1005

PROJECT TEAM: PMRA: Suzanne Chalifour / Ted Hagen (leads)
EPA: Debbie Edwards / Linda Murray (leads)

INITIATION: September 2003

UPDATE: June 2006

A list of priority active ingredient/commodity combinations identified as potential trade barriers was submitted by Canadian and American pulse grower organizations. The PMRA and EPA established three-tiers of priorities for resolving these issues. All Tier I and II priorities as well as one Tier III priority were selected to move through the harmonization process. A work plan was developed to identify key harmonization issues and approaches/options for resolution for each active ingredient/commodity combination identified as a priority. An action plan was created to identify and track specific strategies and actions towards harmonization. PMRA/EPA harmonization teleconferences to discuss actions, activities and track progress towards completion of these priorities are ongoing. Consultations with pulse grower organizations were made as necessary regarding approaches/options for resolving discrepancies. Periodic updates have been provided to pulse stakeholders. In some instances, harmonization options are expected to achieve risk reduction through identification of available potential alternative pest control tools. Next step is to complete these priorities and keep moving forward to work through remaining Tier III priorities that were identified.

GOAL:

To develop and implement a North American strategy to address trade irritants/barriers and achieve risk reduction for pulse crops (dry lentils, beans, chickpeas and peas, but excluding soybeans).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

In June 2002, a work group consisting of growers, commodity groups, pest control advisors, regulators, university specialists both in the United States and Canada; United States Department of Agriculture as well as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada officials; and other technical experts met for two days in Saskatoon, Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to identify the needs of pulse growers in the two countries with reference to possible regulatory actions regarding pesticides and the *Food Quality Protection Act*. The outcome of this exercise resulted in a list of critical needs, general conclusions and tables listing the efficacy of various management tools for specific pests. Many of the critical short-term pest management needs identified in the June 2003 summary of the 2002 Saskatoon meeting have been resolved through pesticide registration actions by the EPA and the PMRA.

Interest from pulse growers across North America to explore a strategy to address trade irritants/barriers and achieve risk reductions on pulse crop production has been expressed (President of the Mexican Bean Council and the Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Durango, Dr Adame; United States Dry Pea and Lentil Council and United States Dry Bean Council; Pulse Canada). Stakeholder agreement was sought to develop recommendations and priorities to work towards harmonization of available pest control tools and risk reduction measures with the governments. One initiative asked the pulse associations from the United States, Canada and Mexico to develop priorities for action. This work is considered within the pulse trade irritant/barrier and risk reduction project. Discussions of new pest management strategies/products and of pesticide food residues (tolerances/maximum food residues) in North America are expected to address both environmental as well as trade issues.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Increasing pulse production in North America is essential to meet world market demands. Addressing trade irritants/barriers through risk reduction strategies provides the potential to increase trade of pulse crops, while improving public health and the environment. A more sustainable pulse production system can be achieved through reduction in crop losses due to pest infestation, management of resistant weed populations, reduction in the amount of and reliance on pesticides as well as transition to “reduced-risk” pesticides where these tools are needed. Pulse crops are currently grown on approximately one million hectares in Canada, Mexico and the United States combined. There is significant potential to contribute to worldwide availability of these crops and sustainable development by reducing overall pesticide use and to benefit the producer, consumers and the environment through this project.

Development of this strategy by the NAFTA TWG, in partnership with growers, the pesticide industry and other stakeholder groups, will lead to a strategy that can be implemented and provide a common and sustainable approach to addressing trade irritants/barriers and reducing risks while managing pests in these important crops. It is expected that due to the short-term nature of addressing identified trade irritants/barriers and the risk reduction process, trade issues and residue limits will constitute a substantial part at the beginning of the initiative. On the other hand, progressively long-term trade resolutions, regulatory harmonization and integrated pest management solutions will be considered to assure/maintain the sustainability and North American trade level of the pulse industry. In addition, this strategy will provide a common context for registration decisions and a coordinated North American input to relevant international activities, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Pesticides Forum initiatives on risk reduction.

WORK PLAN

SUBCOMMITTEE: Food Residue and Risk Reduction

PROJECT TITLE: Commodity/Pest-based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Pulse Crops

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME
Explore the needs of industry	Pest Management Strategic Plan between the United States and Canada	Meeting held June 26–27, 2002, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Summary of workshop issued on June 29, 2003
Establish general goals for a Commodity/Pest-Based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Pulse Crops	Prepare a NAFTA/TWG project sheet	September 2003
Solicit additional input from stakeholders regarding trade irritant priorities	Meeting between PMRA and Pulse Canada; and meeting between EPA, IR-4, U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council and U.S. Dry Bean Council	September 2003
Develop a strategy and schedule for resolution of top 5 trade irritant priorities identified in each country	Strategies should be developed in the context of risk reduction (e.g., viable alternatives will be sought for high-risk products)	Presented strategies at December 2004 NAFTA meeting in Merida, Charleston, 2005
Address/remaining trade irritant priorities identified in each country	Harmonize MRL's/tolerances where feasible and/or work with stakeholders to identify harmonized alternative pest control options.	Continue during 2006
Keep stakeholders involved/engaged to ensure that their needs are met as priorities change and the project moves forward	Meet annually with growers and other stakeholders to solicit input and determine progress	Next meeting: December 2006