



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 Potato**

PROJECT ID: FR-08-05-1205

PROJECT TEAM: United States: Debbie Edwards/Linda Murray
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INITIATION: December 2005

UPDATE: June 2006

GOAL: To develop and implement a North American strategy to address trade irritants/barriers and achieve risk reduction for potato.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Stakeholder agreement was sought to develop recommendations and priorities for harmonizing pest control tools for potato. One initiative asked the Canadian and American potato grower organizations to develop priorities for action and submit them to the governments. This work is being considered within the potato trade irritant/barrier and risk reduction projects.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Addressing trade irritants/barriers through risk reduction strategies provides the potential to increase trade of potato crops while improving public health and the environment. A more sustainable potato 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 and transition to "reduced risk" pesticides where these tools are needed. There is significant potential to contribute to worldwide availability and sustainable development of these crops by reducing overall pesticide use, thereby benefiting producers, consumers including children (as potato products are an important part of most North American children's diets) 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 an implementable strategy that provides a common and sustainable approach to addressing trade irritants/barriers and reducing risks while managing pests. It is expected that, due to the short-term nature of addressing trade irritants/barriers and the risk reduction process, trade issues and residue limits will constitute a substantial portion of the work at the beginning of this initiative. Subsequent work will focus on progressively longer-term issues such as trade resolutions, regulatory harmonization and integrated pest management (IPM) solutions that will assure/maintain the sustainability and North American trade level of the potato industry. In addition, this strategy will provide a common context for regulatory decisions as well as a coordinated North American input to relevant international activities, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Pesticides Forum initiatives on risk reduction.

In November 2005, Canadian and American potato grower organizations met to discuss and formulate their proposal for a NAFTA MRL/tolerance harmonization project for potato. Active ingredients/chemicals that are potential trade barriers/irritants were identified and a priorities list was developed for submission to the governments at the December 2005 NAFTA TWG Meeting.

WORK PLAN

SUBCOMMITTEE: Food Residue and Risk Reduction

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

GOAL	ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME
Establish general goals for a Commodity/Pest-Based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Potatoes.	Prepare a NAFTA/TWG project sheet .	November 2005
Solicit input from stakeholders regarding trade irritant and risk reduction priorities.	Meeting between governments and potato grower organizations.	November 2005
Identify top priorities for trade irritant resolution.	Grower organizations provide to governments their top trade irritant priorities.	November–December 2005
Develop a strategy and schedule for resolution of agreed upon top 5 trade irritant and risk reduction priorities (“Tier 1”) identified / submitted by each country.	Strategies should be developed in the context of risk reduction (e.g., viable alternatives will be sought for high-risk products).	January–June 2006
Identify additional priorities for trade irritant resolution.	Grower organizations in each country provide additional trade priorities to governments.	To be determined
	Governments to review additional priorities.	To be determined
Develop a strategy and schedule for resolution of the agreed upon additional trade irritants and risk reduction priorities.	Strategies should be developed in the context of risk reduction (e.g., viable alternatives will be sought for high-risk products).	To be determined
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. Provide periodic updates on request.	Next meeting: December 2006