

## FPT Meetings

### November 24-26, 1997 Meeting Report

The inaugural meeting of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was held November 24-26, 1997 in Edmonton. Co-chairs of the meeting were Walter Yarish, Pest Prevention and Management Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Government of Alberta and Wendy Sexsmith, Director, Alternatives Division, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada.

The new committee brings together provincial, territorial and federal representatives on pesticide use, regulation and management to exchange information on pest management issues. The FPT Committee will strengthen important federal/provincial/territorial linkages in this area, and lead to a more effective national pesticide regulatory approach. Since regulation of pesticides involves the mandates of federal and provincial/territorial governments, good coordination is essential. The opportunity created by the FPT Committee for focussed technical discussion and information sharing helps participants provide the best advice possible to their respective governments and fosters greater efficiency in addressing pest management issues.

### Structure of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides

Each province has two nominated members on the FPT Committee with the territories having one member each and the PMRA two. The secretariat for the organization is provided from the PMRA. A representative from the American Association of Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) has been invited to sit at the committee for information exchange purposes.

There will be a new provincial/territorial co-chair each year, based on an east/west rotation. The FPT annual meeting will be held in the home province/territory of the co-chair. Every third meeting will take place in Ottawa, to help minimize travel time and cost.

The FPT Committee has been structured to enhance information sharing and encourage a problem-solving approach through its working groups. It provides a solid linkage between the PMRA and the provinces and territories on matters relating to the important harmonization activities taking place in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new committee will encourage a more consistent and streamlined approach to pesticide regulation, as it replaces the work done in two former federal/provincial/territorial bodies, the Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO) and the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Standing Committee on Pest Management.

### Stakeholder Involvement

In addition, the Committee allows increased flexibility for the involvement of stakeholders. Following the successful conclusion of the inaugural FPT meeting in Edmonton, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association, the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties, the Crop Protection Institute, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, AAPCO and the Agriculture and Agri-Foods Saskatoon Research Centre and Environment Canada. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to hear about and discuss the progress and direction of the activities of the FPT Committee.

### Progress Achieved

At the FPT meeting, cooperation in the area of pest management and pesticide regulation was strengthened through the confirmation of the existing [Classification Criteria Working Group \(WG\)](#). All members supported further work being done on harmonizing the various pesticide classifications systems that exist provincially, territorially and federally. An integrated Canada-wide pesticide classification system would increase efficiency and reduce costs by eliminating duplications and streamlining decision-making. Compliance actions would also be facilitated. It was agreed that the Classification Criteria WG would be briefed on all developments relating to the OECD and NAFTA harmonization activities, and that they would keep in step with international progress, so that the work on a single classification system in Canada would be done only once.

The following new working groups were established:

- The [National Pesticide Data Base WG](#) to include representation from the PMRA, industry, provinces and other stakeholders. Initially, it will develop a mechanism to facilitate the collection of sales information and other data from registrants so that a national pesticide data base can be established. Canada is currently one of the few countries that does not have a comprehensive national data base on pesticide use. Such a data base would generate information to assist in monitoring risks to health, safety or the environment, regionally or nationally. It will also help pave the way for harmonization and work sharing internationally.
- The [Post-Registration Monitoring and Incident Reporting WG](#) will work on developing a process to help ensure that any post-registration monitoring and incident reporting done in the provinces is made available to the FPT Committee. This will aid decision making and enable better coordination of these activities in the provinces/territories and the PMRA.

The establishment of further working groups to: a) determine and address the specific information needs that the provinces/territories have of the PMRA; and b) to address the type of information needed on labels, was raised at the meeting. The process for establishing these WGs is now under way.

The accomplishments of the existing [Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification \(WG-PETC\)](#), which replaced the former CAPCO Task Force on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification were recognized and a strong linkage to the FPT Committee established. This will allow for a continuing Federal/Provincial/Territorial mechanism for adoption and implementation of pesticide education, training and certification standards. The WG-PETC will take direction from the FPT Committee on the establishment on new projects, and prepare a work plan to submit for approval at the next FPT Meeting.

The reporting status of several external committees which have FPT Committee member involvement was clarified. It was decided that for the [National Air Issues Co-ordinating Committee](#) and the [Methyl Bromide Industry/Government Working Group](#), the FPT Committee's role would consist of providing information to its members via the FPT World Wide Web site, (which will be developed on the PMRA web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra>) plus the tabling of a yearly report on progress. The FPT will be represented at [Agri-Chemical Warehousing Standards Association](#) meetings, and regular information will be sent to and input sought from FPT Committee members.

The FPT Committee will be meeting annually; efforts on technical issues are on-going in the FPT Working Groups. The next meeting of the FPT is planned for October 19-21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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