

FPT Meetings

October 18-20, 1999 Meeting Report

The third meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was held in Winnipeg on October 18-20. Co-chairs of the meeting were Ken Plews, Manager, Pesticide/Fertilizer Approvals, Manitoba Conservation, Government of Manitoba and Wendy Sexsmith, Director, Alternatives Strategies and Regulatory Affairs Division, Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), Health Canada.

This committee brings together provincial, territorial and federal representatives who are involved in pesticide regulation, use and management so they can exchange information and better coordinate pest management issues. The regulation of pesticides is governed under both federal and provincial legislation and strong linkages are needed for effective and efficient management of shared issues. The FPT Committee is also a vehicle for in-depth technical and strategic discussion of current pesticide issues.

Linkages

Building stronger linkages among the FPT member organizations and between the FPT and other organizations emerged as one of the important themes of the meeting. For example, the provinces/territories and the PMRA are actively developing partnerships to share and maximize staff training and development opportunities. With this aim it has been decided to have a Technical Session to explore a topic of shared interest to coincide with the annual FPT meetings.

The PMRA will also be working with its regional offices to develop better mechanisms for providing prompt responses to the provinces/territories to meet urgent requests for information on registered products and regulatory issues.

The FPT Committee will seek to strengthen its ties to the Expert Committee on Integrated Pest Management, a working group reporting to the Canadian Agricultural Research Council. Its mandate is to coordinate and facilitate the development and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Canada.

FPT committee members will continue to play an active role in the Pest Management Advisory Council, a multi-stakeholder body that advises the federal Minister of Health on issues relating to the federal pest management regulatory system.

Issues Discussed

During the FPT Committee meeting, presentations were made and discussions took place on a wide variety of pest management issues. Some of the key topics were:

- risks to bees from the aerial application of pesticides and ways to mitigate these risks. It was recognized that there is a need to provide growers and pesticide applicators with recommendations on which pest control products to use and how best to apply them so as to reduce the risk of bee kills. As a first step, the FPT will gather the available information on the extent and the details of the bee kill problem.
- the continuing performance problems with ready-to-use strychnine baits. A high degree of variation in terms of formulation is leading to problems in the product's ability to control ground squirrels. Research in Alberta suggests that canary seed may provide a more effective delivery mechanism than current agents. The next steps will be to locate a formulator to produce a canary seed version of the product and to test its efficacy.
- the regulatory status of imidacloprid (Admire). While there is a generally positive picture in terms of its relative lack of toxicity to humans, imidacloprid continues to present a risk to the environment as a result of its high persistence in soil under agricultural field crop conditions in particular when it is used as a broadcast foliar spray. The FPT continues to support a cautious approach to extending the uses of imidacloprid.

- sustainable approaches to pest control including IPM Partnership Projects and development of a pesticide risk reduction policy. The FPT expressed interest in improving access to safer and IPM-compatible pest control tools. Several fast track approaches (priority review) already in place were discussed (joint review of reduced risk chemicals, joint review of biopesticides, and the User Requested Minor Use Registration program).
- providing label information by Compact Disc supplemented by e-mail updates to ensure timely access to registrations. A PMRA proposal to do this was accepted by the FPT. Next steps include preparation of an implementation proposal package (November 99) and implementation plan for January 2000.

Other topics covered included:

- endocrine disruptors.
- the PMRA's proposed re-evaluation program
- the status of amendments to the Pest Control Products Act
- the US Environmental Protection Agency's Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA)
- the implication of labelling for aerial application
- mechanisms to ensure appropriate FPT linkages to deal with Y2K problems.
- the conflict between the Fisheries Act and the PCPA
- the Record of Understanding between Canada and the US on Agricultural Trade, Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Working Group Reports

The FPT Committee addresses many of its priority issues through its working groups. The following is a summary of progress made by the working groups since the FPT Committee Meeting held last year in Halifax.

- Classification Criteria Working Group

The Working Group is engaged in formulating a hazard/exposure approach to identifying classification categories for registered pesticides and is planning a workshop on this topic in late 1999. A number of provinces expressed an interest in participating at the workshop. After the workshop, it is intended that a draft proposal document would be sent for comments to FPT members, the industry and other stakeholders. The target date for a final proposal is May 2000 at which time formal acceptance by all provinces at a senior level would be requested.

- Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WG-PETC)

The PETC working group is engaged in a number of initiatives including the finalization of a national text to be used in training manuals for aerial applicators, review of the basic knowledge requirements for all applicators (applicator core), and completion of examination and re-certification guidelines. A large quantity of the PETC documentation is being prepared for the Internet and will be made accessible through the [FPT Website](#).

The working group has proposed a project to be implemented by the North American Free Trade Agreement Technical Working Group on Pesticides (NAFTA TWG) to develop a core exam for all pesticide applicators, using a standardized process that will be statistically reliable, validated and legally defensible. The result would be a North American database for the core exam. The proposal will go to the Executive Board of the NAFTA TWG in January 2000.

- The National Pesticide Sales Data Base Working Group

PMRA has been able to confirm that any sales data sent to PMRA and to provinces/territories by industry can be kept in confidence, if received in confidence. A report on the success of a data collection pilot project for the National Pesticide Sales Data Base was provided. A regulation on the mandatory submission of sales data is being developed by the PMRA. The Crop Protection Institute (CPI) and the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialities (CMCS) has agreed to the voluntary submission of sales data in 2000.

Work is taking place on finding ways of sharing pertinent sales information with the provinces and other federal government departments and an agreement has been reached on how to make pesticide sales data available to the public.

- **The Post-Registration Monitoring Working Group**

A survey to discover what type of information is being collected by whom in the provinces/territories has been completed and will be compiled and sent to FPT members in the near future.

- **Buffer Zone Working Group**

The new Buffer Zone Working Group was formally established. Buffer zones are very important in mitigating the effects of pesticides on non-target organisms and in setting restrictions for the application of pesticides near sensitive areas. Some of the key issues for the working group to consider include end-points, application conditions, the establishment of minimum buffer zones and training.

Stakeholder Involvement

Following the conclusion of the FPT meeting in Winnipeg, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Crop Protection Institute of Canada (CPIC), the Urban Pest Management Council of Canada (UPMC), Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA), Retail Council of Canada, Canadian Forest Pest Management Caucus, Bayer and the Canadian Manufacturers of Chemical Specialties (CMCS). Presentations were made on such topics as the CPIC stewardship programs, UPMC's programs, the CAAA and their upcoming initiatives, the retail sector's concerns regarding pesticides, an operating template for regulating buffer zones in forestry, and the insecticide imidacloprid (Admire).

Minor Use Coordination Meeting

At a Minor Use Coordination Meeting held in conjunction with the FPT Committee a draft proposal on the PMRA URMULE program was previewed by the FPT members. The importance of the sponsors having timely access to stable and sufficient funding for minor use was stressed and various ideas on sources of funding were explored. A Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) phase-in approach for minor use field facilities was also discussed. A similar workshop is planned for next year.

Next FPT Meeting

The next meeting of the FPT is planned for October 16-18, 2000 in Ottawa, Ontario.
