

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

October 21–23, 2002 REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL COMMITTEE ON PEST MANAGEMENT AND PESTICIDES

October 21- 23, 2002, Regina, Saskatchewan

The sixth meeting of the Federal Provincial Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides (FPT Committee) was recently held in Regina, Saskatchewan. It was co-chaired by Cameron Wilk, Inspection and Regulatory Management Branch, Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Revitalization, and Wendy Sexsmith, Chief Registrar, 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 to enable the exchange of information and a better coordination of actions related to pest management issues. The regulation of pesticides in Canada is governed under both federal and provincial legislation. Strong linkages are needed for effective, efficient management and solutions to shared concerns. The FPT Committee also serves as a vehicle for the discussion of current pesticide and pest management issues.

A Technical Session was held on Monday morning. This half-day session provided FPT members with an overview of the PMRA Initiative for Reduced Risk Pesticides and the risk assessment and decision-making process used by the PMRA for the regulation of biopesticide products, including microbials, pheromones and other semiochemicals.

Main areas of discussion at the FPT Committee meeting were as follows.

Working Group Reports

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

The Classification Implementation Working Group reported that all provinces have agreed to proceed with stakeholder consultation on A Proposal for a Harmonized Pesticide Classification System. The consultation document, available in both English and French, will be posted on the FPT Committee web site for a 90-day consultation period and will also be mailed to about 200 national stakeholders.

The Working Group on Pesticide Education, Training and Certification (WG-PETC) provided an update on their activities, including an on-line training initiative by the Assiniboine Community College. FPT agreed in principle to a re-certification program, as well as a label statement restricting products to certified applicators. In addition, the work plan was approved.

The Healthy Lawns Working Group provided an update of activities currently underway, including the report of the Product-Type Sub-Committee, the launch of the key messages concerning healthy lawns, and the planned meeting of the Labelling Sub-Committee.

The FPT Buffer Zone Working Group distributed a draft proposal for comment by February 15, 2003. FPT supported a proposal for a workshop on how PMRA establishes buffer zones now and directions for the future.

The Minor Use Working Group presented a report from their meeting in July 2002.

The ad hoc working group on the committee mechanics made recommendations for improving the FPT Committee meetings.

Other main areas of discussion included:

- ongoing activities relating to the product re-evaluation process and the use of antibiotics in agriculture;
- FPT agreed to set up a Drinking Water Monitoring Working Group, and to work on the collection of use information on agricultural fungicides;
- FPT agreed to the creation of a National Working Group on Pesticide Risk Indicators, including the involvement of OGDs (Other Government Departments) and other stakeholders;
- an update on the status of the proposed new *Pest Control Products Act*;
- a summary of Emergency Registration decisions for 2002;
- an update on FPT representation on external committees;
- an update on the PMRA's Risk Reduction Strategy for pest management in agriculture and on provincial initiatives related to pesticide risk reduction;
- Joint Review programs under the NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides; and
- activities under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Pesticides Programme and Working Group on Pesticides.

Stakeholder Involvement

Prior to commencement of the formal FPT Committee meeting, a stakeholder session was held. Presentations were made to the FPT Committee by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC), the Canadian Consumer Specialty Products Association (CCSPA), the World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF), the Canadian Aerial Applicators Association (CAAA), CropLife Canada and the Pest Control Safety Council of Canada.

Topics raised by stakeholders included potential partnerships for implementing systems to give producers better access to minor use and reduced-risk pesticides, the development of a Responsible Use brochure for pesticide use in and around the home, a review of World Wildlife Fund Canada's work on IPM adoption projects with apples, potatoes and canola, new technological advancements in the aerial application industry, and an update of CropLife Canada's stewardship program.

The next meeting of the FPT Committee is planned for New Brunswick and will be held October 20–22, 2003.