



PULSE & Tomato Pilot Projects

**NAFTA TWG Meeting
Stakeholder Session
December 4, 2003**

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The Challenge:

- **Eliminate trade barriers**

through

- **Focus on reduced risk strategies**

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These Projects Are:

- **A direct response to feedback from New Orleans meeting (break-out session)**
- **Being pursued in direct partnership with stakeholders**
- **Case studies - intended to inform a larger strategy to eliminate trade irritants and achieve risk reduction across all commodities**

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Goals of the pilot projects are:

- **Identify trade irritant priorities in each country**
- **Develop strategies and schedules to address those irritants**
- **Develop long-term trade irritant/risk reduction strategy for these commodities**
- **Keep stakeholders actively engaged to ensure their needs are met as priorities change**

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What's been done so far?

- **In June 2002, held pulse crop meeting in Saskatchewan to explore needs of stakeholders (meeting summary issued June 2003)**
- **Developed NAFTA TWG Project Sheets for pulse and tomato crops (September 2003)**

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What's been done so far?

- **Held PULSE stakeholder meetings in Canada and U.S. (September/October 2003)**
- **Requested PULSE growers/stakeholders provide their top MRL harmonization priorities**
- **Received top MRL harmonization priorities from PULSE stakeholders (U.S. and Canada)**

Pulse Crop Grower MRL/Tolerance Harmonization Priorities

- PULSE Canada provided 12 priorities
- US Dry Pea and Lentil Council provided 7 priorities
- Both organizations list glyphosate (peas and lentils) and imazethapyr (chickpeas) as priorities.

U.S. Pulse Crop Grower MRL/Tolerance Harmonization Priorities

- U.S. PULSE growers have stated that product pricing and NAFTA labels are their top priorities
- U.S. PULSE growers have not been faced with MRL/tolerance trade problems between Canada and U.S. but the potential is there while differences exist
- U.S. PULSE growers believe there is a potential for trade problems in European and Asian markets if NAFTA countries don't speak with one voice to achieve international MRLs

Information regarding tolerances and MRLs may not be clear or readily accessible:

- Incorrect U.S. tolerance level cited by growers in both countries for imazethapyr/chickpeas
- Canadian PULSE growers list 0.5 ppm as Canadian MRL for imazethapyr/chickpeas but U.S. growers could find no MRL for Canada
- Canadian PULSE growers could not find information for azoxystrobin tolerances (U.S.) or MRLs (Canada)

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Plans for resolving MRL/tolerance harmonization priorities include:

- **Engage Mexican stakeholders in project**
- **Harmonize established MRLs**
- **Establish MRLs, where non-existent, through data sharing**
- **Find already harmonized, alternative pest control tools for growers' use – e.g., reduced risk products**

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Future plans include:

- **Annual meetings with stakeholders to solicit input and determine progress.**
- **Possible expansion beyond these commodities.**
- **Revise Procedures Document for resolution of NAFTA trade irritants based on experience gained from pilots**

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