



23 January 2006

Dear Stakeholders:

You are cordially invited to a one-day National Crop Protection Consultation Meeting on March 1, 2006, in Ottawa at the Westin Hotel.

This meeting is in response to a resolution from the 2005 meeting of the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) to provide an opportunity for interested stakeholders to discuss key crop protection issues in an open forum. This meeting will be co-hosted by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), the Canadian Horticultural Council, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada/Pest Management Centre (PMC).

Since joining the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) as Executive Director last year, I have been meeting frequently with stakeholders and have an understanding of the challenges facing the crop protection sector - issues such as harmonization, competitiveness, and minor use are very familiar to you. I have also been promoting a much greater level of transparency and communication with stakeholders and this will be key to moving forward on these issues. I believe that by working together, we can and will make substantial progress in the New Year. In that respect, I hope you will be able to participate in this meeting and bring creative ideas and solutions to some of these issues.

Although the agenda has not been finalized, I anticipate presentations by major stakeholder groups in the morning (with ample time for questions) followed by an open session of discussion in the afternoon on specific issues of interest.

You will note that this meeting has been planned to coincide with the annual CHC meetings in Ottawa. The CHC has kindly agreed to forego planned activities for March 1st to allow this meeting to be scheduled. Confirmation of your attendance (and any suggestions for topics of discussion or questions you have) would be appreciated to: Dasha Pelka by fax, (613) 736-3707, or e-mail at Dasha_Pelka@hc-sc.gc.ca by February 7, 2006 (see attached form).

While your travel expenses and accommodation cost will not be reimbursed for this meeting, we are pleased to advise that breakfast and lunch will be provided. Should you require accommodation, please call the hotel directly. You may also wish to contact the CHC for other details regarding the hotel.

For any further information or questions please contact Dasha Pelka (Dasha_Pelka@hc-sc.gc.ca), or at telephone (613) 736-3749.

I look forward to meeting with you in March.

Yours truly,

Karen Dodds, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada