

# Fact Sheet on the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program

## *□ What is the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program?*

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program is a joint initiative of the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). The program is designed to support the development, availability, and adoption of sustainable pest management tools and practices in agriculture. More specifically, this program will:

- ✓ help address growers' needs in achieving effective and sustainable pest management,
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- ✓ develop and implement strategies to reduce environmental and health risks from pesticide use,
- ✓ support research to develop and improve pest management tools,
- ✓ facilitate the registration of reduced-risk pesticides and adoption of their use by growers, and
- ✓ support the development and provision of comprehensive information on best IPM practices to growers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be defined as a process that combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical methods to manage pests so that the benefits of pest control are maximized while the risk to human health and the environment are minimized. IPM ensures that pesticides are only used when needed, and that they are applied responsibly as part of an overall pest management strategy.

## *□ Who is involved?*

The program focuses on individual agricultural commodities. Growers and growers' associations of a particular commodity are key to the success of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. Other groups which influence pest management activities on the farm may also be considered as stakeholders. Stakeholders typically include growers and growers' associations, the crop protection industry, extension specialists, research scientists, packers and distributors, other federal government departments, and other non-governmental organizations. Participation of stakeholders in the program is voluntary, but essential.

## *□ How does the program work?*

The program focuses on the priority pest management needs chosen by growers. Firstly, a crop profile, which identifies the pest management practices, issues, and needs for the crop, is produced in consultation with growers. An issue document is developed to summarize issues and needs. Stakeholders are then consulted to gain consensus on which needs should be addressed and select solutions for action. Solutions may include applied research, registration of reduced-risk products, and promotion of IPM tools and practices. A steering committee of

stakeholders, is charged with setting action plans to implement the solutions. These action plans are the risk-reduction strategy.

Active involvement of growers and other stakeholders is essential throughout the entire process to ensure the success of the risk-reduction strategy. This is intended as a grower-led program in which PMRA and AAFC collaborate and consult with stakeholders and in addition, provide coordination and secretariat functions. The program can be flexible and the individual steps of the program may vary depending on the commodity.

#### ***▮ What are the benefits?***

- † prioritization by growers of pest management needs to ensure best allocation of resources;
- † increased collaboration on a national level throughout the process among growers, researchers and other stakeholders;
- † research support to address specific growers' needs;
- † new or improved IPM tools and practices (e.g., development of treatment thresholds);
- † development, registration, and promotion of reduced-risk pesticides;
- † facilitated transition from pesticides under re-evaluation;
- † better use of existing pesticides;
- † and, ultimately, reduced risks to health and environment from pesticide use.

#### ***▮ Examples of improved IPM tools and practices***

*Canola: Canol@Grow* - an agronomic tool designed to help growers and extension workers quickly find canola production information.

*Cranberry: Integrated Pest Management for Cranberries in Eastern Canada* - an IPM manual to help growers monitor pest occurrence and use economic thresholds in making treatment decisions.

*Pulse: Bacterial bean blight* - the development of a long-term management plan for bacterial bean blight in dry beans.

*Potato: Late Blight* - an IPM partnership project to promote the understanding of the issues and identify concrete actions to manage the incidence of late blight in potatoes.

#### ***▮ For more information about the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program:***

Visit the AAFC ([www.agr.gc.ca/prrmup](http://www.agr.gc.ca/prrmup)) and/or PMRA websites ([www.pmra-arla.gc.ca](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca)), call AAFC (1-800-622-6232) and/or PMRA (1-800-267-6315), or write to:

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