



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre Plaguicidas
Le groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

PROJECT COMPLETION SHEET

SUBCOMMITTEE: Food Residue

PROJECT TITLE: Commodity / Pest-based Strategy for Addressing Trade Irritants and Risk Reduction for Potato

PROJECT ID: FR-08-05-1205

PROJECT LEADS: United States: Debbie Edwards / Jane Smith (EPA)
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PROJECT DATES: Initiation date: April 1997
Completion date: November 2007

GOAL/OBJECTIVE: To develop and implement a North American strategy to address trade irritants/barrier and achieve risk reduction for potato.

BACKGROUND

Potato grower organizations from Canada and the United States identified more than thirty priority pesticide active ingredients as potential trade barriers, and the list was submitted to the governments. Eleven of the priorities were selected to move through the harmonization process. A work plan was developed to identify key issues and approaches/options for resolving the differences in tolerance/MRLs. Bi-weekly PMRA-EPA-Mexico teleconferences or communications to discuss activities and track progress towards completion of these priorities were on-going. Consultations with potato grower organizations were made as necessary regarding approaches/options for resolving discrepancies. Periodic updates have been provided to potato stakeholders.

OUTPUT/RESULTS

Harmonization to alleviate a potential trade barrier has already been achieved for three active ingredients. Alleviation of potential trade barriers has also been achieved for four other active ingredients for which residue levels are not likely to exceed the established or default regulatory levels (tolerances, MRLs); therefore, "no real trade irritant exists." Seven active ingredients have on-going resolution activity, but harmonization has not been fully realized at this time while two of the active ingredients pose risks and are not likely candidates for consideration of MRLs/tolerances under this program. Although this commodity-based approach has demonstrated limited success, for the most part, it has proven to be resource intensive, complex and disruptive to the mainstream regulatory processes in place. Even on this small scale project, the drawbacks have limited the timely success for the regulatory agencies and the stakeholders. Any remaining grower priorities identified in the project that are not resolved will be transferred to the new chemical-based approach/grower priority database.