



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 Pulse crops

PROJECT ID: FR06-03-1005

PROJECT LEADS: Canada: Peter Chan / Monique Thomas / Debby LeBlanc
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PROJECT DATES: Initiation date: September 2003
Completion date: November 2007

GOAL/OBJECTIVE: To develop and implement a North American strategy to address trade irritants/barrier and achieve risk reduction for pulse crops [dry lentils, beans, chickpeas, and peas (excluding soybeans)]

BACKGROUND

A list of priority commodity/active ingredient combinations identified as potential trade barriers were submitted by Canadian and American pulse grower organizations. The PMRA and EPA established three tiers of priorities for resolving trade barriers. All Tier I and II priorities as well as one Tier III priority were selected to move through the harmonization process. A work plan was developed to identify key issues for each priority and approaches/options for resolving differences in tolerances/MRLs. Through this work plan, EPA/PMRA/Mexico were able to identify and track specific strategies as well as actions toward harmonization. PMRA/EPA teleconferences and communication to discuss activities and track progress towards completion of these priorities were ongoing. Consultations with pulse grower organizations were made as necessary regarding approaches/options for resolving discrepancies. Periodic updates have been provided to pulse stakeholders. In some instances, harmonization options were expected to achieve risk reduction through identification of available potential alternative pest control tools.

OUTPUT/RESULTS

Harmonization to alleviate potential trade barriers has been achieved for four active ingredients (6 pest/pulse combinations). Alleviation of potential trade barriers has also been achieved for five other active ingredients (8 pest/pulse combinations) for which residue levels are not likely to exceed the established or default regulatory levels (tolerances, MRLs); therefore, "no real trade irritant exists." Although this project demonstrated limited success, for the most part, the commodity approach has proven to be resource intensive, complex and disruptive to the mainstream regulatory processes in place. The drawbacks to the approach have limited the timely success for the regulatory agencies and the stakeholders. The remaining priorities involving nine chemicals (nineteen pest/pulse combinations) will be transferred to the new chemical based approach / grower priority database.