

# Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2015

## Twelfth Annual Report



*March 1, 2016*

**Table 1**

**PRIA Funded Pesticide Safety Education and Pesticide Worker Protection Activities in FY 2015**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)</b></p> <p><b>Cooperative Agreement</b></p> <p><b>\$315,000</b></p> | <p>PRIA funds supported a variety of the national affiliates of AFOP for safety training for pesticide workers and worker families. This training increases protection for communities that may have a potential for high pesticide exposure. The characteristics of these communities are: high risk, low literacy, non-English speakers, low income, high mobility, and children at risk from take-home exposure. The project builds and supports a network of community-based outreach specialists within the AFOP membership to provide Worker Protection Standard (WPS) and take-home exposure prevention training to farmworkers in their respective communities. The project provides <i>Train the Trainer</i> courses, training materials, educational handouts, technical support, and monetary support for on-site training expenses to AFOP’s trainer network.</p> <p><b>AFOP’s Health and Safety Programs:</b></p> <p>AFOP’s Health &amp; Safety Training Program has a network of 214 trainers located in 31 participating states. Under the Farmworker Occupational Health &amp; Safety Training Program, trainers use the health and safety training as an outreach and recruitment tool for their community based organizations, devoting an estimated 15 percent of their time delivering training on heat stress prevention and pesticide safety training.</p> <p>Trainers work closely with agricultural employers, their local county extension agents, growers’ associations, local Farm Bureaus, faith-based organizations and community-based migrant service providers to gain access to workers. These partnerships have been successful in providing annual safety training to migrant workers as they arrive for the seasonal harvests. Trainers sometimes have opportunities to visit farmworkers in their homes and deliver the training there. On other occasions, farmworkers come to the community-based organization for services, and trainers provide them with training while they are in the building. The training is delivered to groups, most often at the worksite, which could be a lettuce field or peach orchard, for example. Trainers are prepared to deliver an interactive training session using the materials we have provided, and rely upon role play, demonstrations, discussions, storytelling, and games. The training is conducted most often in Spanish. Occasionally it is presented in English, and recently trainers have had to arrange interpreters for workers who speak only Haitian Creole or an indigenous language from Latin America.</p> <p><b>Limiting Exposure Around Families (LEAF)</b> is a curriculum piloted in North Carolina and Florida, which seeks to mitigate and increase awareness of these take home exposure risks to families through a training curriculum and other educational materials. All training and materials are in a bilingual, low-literacy format that offers advice on how to reduce or even eliminate the possibility of exposing their children to pesticide residues.</p> <p><b>Heat Stress Prevention.</b> According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, farmworkers die from heat-related illness at a rate 20 times greater than that of the entire U.S. civilian workforce. Yet, with appropriate steps, heat-related illness is preventable and</p> |
|---|--|

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>fatalities are easily avoided. AFOP’s Health &amp; Safety Programs seeks to save lives and preserve health, providing farmworkers and agricultural employers with the knowledge they need to make healthy decisions in the field. During Heat Stress Prevention Training Marathon Week on June 22-26, 2015, AFOP’s network of trainers provided heat stress prevention training to 2,129 farmworkers.</p> <p><b>Students Action with Farmworkers (SAF)</b> is a program with Duke University that trains interns to conduct interactive pesticide safety education for farm workers and for farm worker families.</p>  |
| <p><b>National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation (NASDARF)</b></p> <p><b>Cooperative Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Part 1 - \$304,300</b></p> <p><b>Part 2 - \$500,000</b></p> | <p><b>Part 1:</b> PRIA funds support a cooperative agreement between EPA and NASDARF. Under a cooperative agreement with EPA, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation (NASDARF) works with a broad array of agricultural interests to reduce risks of pesticide poisonings, specifically to those communities disproportionately impacted by environmental burdens. The work and products of the cooperative agreement provides assistance to enable financially-strapped states, universities, and agricultural worker service organizations to help implement federal regulatory requirements for pesticide worker safety programs.</p> <p>NASDARF collaborates with others to: develop practical, strategic, and creative community-based action plans for pesticide risk reduction; convene teams to develop resources, such as but not limited to workshops, hands-on training, fact sheets, manuals, exams, Web, DVDs, webinars; and evaluate and report the outputs/outcomes. The result is a wide variety of resources developed for and distributed to state worker protection programs, millions of U.S. farm workers and their families, and health care providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WPS Resources and Training Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Audience Response System use for training WPS Handlers: pilot</li> <li>○ Colorado State University WPS program – Spanish language novella comic book</li> <li>○ WPS Worker Train-the-Trainer Manual (Spanish and English): printing and distribution for pesticide safety educators of farmworkers (used internationally)</li> <li>○ Costa Rica Training on Good Pesticide Handling Practices for pesticide applicator, handlers and farmworkers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Color training manual (99 pages) developed: <i>Buenas Practicas de Manejo de Plaguicidas para una Agricultura Sonstenble, Segura, Y Sana</i></li> <li>▪ Posters on triple rinsing pesticide containers and safe pesticide handling</li> <li>▪ April 2013: 1,300 farmers, 30 professionals, 25 students trained</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Nicaragua Training on Good Pesticide Handling Practices: 66 trainings, almost 1,300 people trained</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Pesticide Safety for Other Communities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Worker Safety Brochure and Factsheet for retail stores to prevent occupational injuries and illness among workers from age 14 through 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provided design and printing support for 13,300 English and 9,800 Spanish tri-fold brochures to 17 different agencies and job corps</li> <li>▪ Web page PDFs were designed for both languages</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Farmworker Family Comic Books (3 distinct foci) for Spanish-speaking communities; distributed through health care provider networks</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To date nearly 55,000 copies of each comic book have been printed and distributed</li> <li>▪ 97% of respondents agreed that the comics were a useful tool to educate farmworkers and their families about pesticide exposure risk and prevention</li> <li>▪ 96% of respondents agreed that the content of the comics was relevant and easy to understand for farmworkers and their families</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Good Neighbor Project in Florida: School-Agriculture interface <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 55 Florida counties reporting; school locations: 62% not near ag operations (more than 2 miles away), 19% under 0.5 miles, and 19% 0.5-2 miles away</li> <li>▪ 93% schools report not problem has ever occurred; 2 of 17 statements refer to pesticide spray</li> <li>▪ Conclusion: when applications are made according to the label, the probability of exposure due to pesticide drift is almost zero</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ NASDARF “Pesticide Safety” web site (<a href="http://foundation.nasda.org">http://foundation.nasda.org</a>) showcases four menu items for Pesticide Applicator Certification and Training, Ag &amp; Non Ag Safety for Workers and Handlers, Pesticide Safety for Health Care Providers, and Personal Protective Equipment, which include 63 web pages of deliverables developed under the EPA Cooperative Agreement</li> </ul> <p><b>Part 2:</b> PRIA funds provide partial support for state level pesticide applicator safety training (classroom, manuals, and online media) to develop competency for existing and potential certified pesticide applicators in using restricted use pesticides safely. The training focuses on a population of applicators (approximately 900,000 commercial and private applicators) who can suffer high exposure and risk themselves, or subject others to unnecessary exposure and risk if not trained to competency standards that help to ensure safe pesticide applications.</p> <p>Through a cooperative agreement with NASDARF, \$500,000 in PRIA funds go to state cooperative extension services – approximately \$10,000 per state. PRIA funds provide state extension programs with a predictable additional resource to help support their programs and help ensure that pesticide applicators receive adequate initial training, and regular retraining to ensure initial competency and continued competency to use restricted use pesticides.</p> |
| <p><b>LA, FL, NC State Public Health Departments</b></p> <p><b>Grants</b></p> <p><b>\$195,000</b></p> | <p>PRIA funds support capacity development in the state departments of public health in Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina (\$65,000 per state). The goal of the cooperative agreements is to develop a state's capacity to participate in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risk (SENSOR) project, a project to carry out acute pesticide-related illness and injury surveillance activities.</p> <p>The mission of the SENSOR program is to build and maintain occupational illness and injury surveillance capacity within state health departments. NIOSH provides cooperative agreement funding and technical support to state health departments to conduct surveillance on one or more occupational illnesses or injuries. One of the illnesses supported under SENSOR is acute occupational pesticide-related illness and injury.</p> <p>State surveillance work includes the identification, classification and documentation of</p>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>pesticide poisoning cases. The SENSOR-Pesticides program is valuable for providing depth of detail surrounding reported incidents, as well as for the timely identification of emerging trends involving occupational pesticide exposure.</p>  |
| <p><b>Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)</b></p> <p><b>Cooperative Agreement</b></p> <p><b>\$185,700</b></p> | <p>PRIA funds helps support the Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) project to increase clinical knowledge and improved clinical practices to recognize, manage and prevent pesticide poisonings. This work increases health care provider competency in environmental and occupational health (EOH) in order to support agricultural worker health and safety. The clinicians, nurses and physician’s assistants in the network may be the first and only health care providers for pesticide workers.</p> <p>The outcome of MCN's EOH initiative is to contribute to sustainable improvements in health and environmental justice for communities at risk for overexposure to pesticides. MCN seeks to increase clinician reporting to pesticide surveillance systems in order to contribute broader public health understanding of pesticide exposures, ultimately helping to protect communities and better inform public policy and regulation actions.</p> <p><b>MCN Technical Assistance</b></p> <p>MCN facilitated targeted webinars and numerous conference calls with affiliates and partners to incorporate environmental and occupational screening questions into the health centers intake routines. MCN provided expert technical assistance and EOH training to stakeholders and clinicians to improve clinical systems, quality of care and healthcare access for migrant and underserved populations. MCN’s trainings were rated an average of 8.83 out of 10 for overall training satisfaction and 89% of participants agreed that all learning objectives were met.</p> <p>Last year, MCN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented 620 encounters and 1,238.08 hours of EOH training and technical assistance.</li> <li>• Facilitated 12.5 hours of clinical training through four on-site sessions at health centers, three national webinars, and three targeted webinars reaching 617 clinicians and health professionals in training.</li> <li>• Facilitated and organized three presentations at three national and regional conferences and meetings.</li> <li>• Trained a total of 754 clinicians and stakeholders at national and regional conferences, onsite trainings and webinars.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Distribution and Development</b></p> <p>An integral component of the project throughout the five-year cooperative agreement is developing and distributing relevant, high quality resources to frontline primary care clinicians. During on-site trainings, conferences and strategic meetings and through the MCN website and email mailing lists, MCN distributed over 25,000 clinical and patient education resources. There were 95,875 unique hits/downloads from MCN's EOH and pesticide web pages. This includes 80,102 downloads of clinical resources and patient education materials.</p> <p>MCN worked extensively throughout year four to promote and distribute the updated <i>Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition</i>. Activities to</p> |

disseminate this resource included:

- Distribution of the new edition at four national and regional conferences and four onsite trainings.
- Facilitated one national and two targeted webinars focusing on key decisions points in the diagnosis of pesticide exposures, emphasizing the usefulness of RMPP 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. The webinar used case studies and the RMPP's Index of Signs and Symptoms to illustrate effective recognition and treatment of patients over exposed to pesticides
- MCN also promoted the RMPP through our social media platforms and through partner social media platforms.

MCN updated a number of resources in year four. MCN's Pesticide Exposure Assessment and Clinical Guidelines were updated in the third quarter according to feedback from OPP staff from MCN's on-site meeting on June 4. MCN's Environmental and Occupational Health Screening Questions were redesigned in year four. MCN updated and maintained a user friendly pesticide reporting resource located on MCN's website. This resource enables users to simply click on their state and find the relevant information and requirements regarding reporting of pesticide exposures.

<http://www.migrantclinician.org/issues/occupational-health/pesticides/reporting-illnesses.html>.

#### **Worker Protection Standard**

In year four, MCN partnered with EPA to actively engage clinicians in strengthening and responding to the proposed revisions of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). In the first quarter, Amy Liebman joined EPA Assistant Administrator, Jim Jones, on a national press call to announce the pre-publication of the proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Also in the first quarter, MCN partnered with EPA to present the webinar "National Conversation: Strengthening the Worker Protection Standard".

In response to EPA's request for input MCN drafted a letter to engage clinicians that outlined 14 areas of the proposed revisions in which the EPA specifically requested feedback and data. MCN also submitted technical comments regarding the proposed revisions as well as provided resources and technical assistance to clinicians and researchers to support submission of evidence-based comments.