# Implementing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act - Fiscal Year 2014

## **Eleventh Annual Report**



# Table 1 PRIA Funded Pesticide Safety Education and Pesticide Worker Protection Activities in FY 2014

National
Association of State
Departments of
Agriculture
Research
Foundation
(NASDARF)

Cooperative Agreement

Part 1 - \$314,000

Part 2 - \$500,000

**Part 1:** 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.

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.

#### • WPS Resources and Training Support

- o Audience-Response-System use for training WPS Handlers
- Agricultural Health Study and Applicator Safety Practices: training module & instructor guide, and measuring attitudes and behavior changes
- Video Clip Database for trainers: http://www.youtube.com/pesticidevideos
- o WPS worker Spanish language novella comic book
- Training on Good Pesticide Handling Practices for pesticide applicator, handlers and farmworkers:
  - Training manual (99 pages): Buenas Practicas de Manejo de Plaguicidas para una Agriculturea Sonstenble, Segura, Y Sana.
- Worker Train-the-Trainer manual in Spanish and English for pesticide safety educators of farmworkers

#### • Pesticide Safety in Other Communities

- Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisoning: editing, publication design, and printing of 50,000 copies.
- Youth Worker Safety Brochure and Factsheet for retail stores to prevent occupational injuries and illness among young workers.
  - 13,300 English and 9,800 Spanish tri-fold brochures to 17 different agencies and job corps.
  - Web page PDFs were designed for both languages.
- Farmworker Family Comic Books for Spanish-speaking communities; distributed through the health care providers
  - 55,000 copies printed and distributed.
  - 97% of respondents agreed that the comics were a useful tool to educate farmworkers and their families about pesticide exposure risk and prevention
  - 96% of respondents agreed that the content of the comics was relevant and easy to understand for farmworkers and their families.
- Good Neighbor Project in Florida: School-Agriculture interface pesticide safety training

**Part 2:** PRIA funds provide partial support for state level pesticide applicator safety training (classroom, manuals, 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.

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. Association of 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 Farmworker that may have a potential for high pesticide exposure. The characteristics of these **Opportunity** Programs (AFOP) communities are: high risk, low literacy, non-English speakers, low income, high mobility, and children at risk from take-home exposure Cooperative Agreement **AFOP's Health and Safety Programs:** \$306,000

**Limiting Exposure Around Families** (LEAF) 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.

**Heath and Outreach Pesticide Education** (HOPE) is a project through which AFOP has partnered with the EPA to provide farmworker training on the EPA agricultural worker protection regulation, designed to reduce pesticide-related fatalities and injuries among individuals working in agricultural occupations. The successful program trained more than 12,000 farmworkers in 2013.

**Heat Stress Prevention.** 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 fatalities are easily avoided. AFOP's Health & 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.

**Students Action with Farmworkers (SAF)** is a program with Duke University that trains interns to conduct interactive pesticide safety education for farm workers and for farm worker families.

### LA, FL, NC State Public Health Departments

Grants

\$195,000

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.

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.

State surveillance work includes the identification, classification and documentation of 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.

### Migrant Clinicians Network

### Cooperative Agreement

\$185,000

PRIA funds helps support the Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN) project to improve the recognition and management of pesticide poisoning by healthcare providers in the practice setting. This work increases health care provider competency in environmental and occupational health 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.

MCN Technical Assistance: MCN facilitated a targeted webinar and numerous conference calls with affiliates and partners to incorporate environmental and occupational screening questions into the health centers intake routines. Additional screening questions regarding activities and exposures at work will be incorporated into patient intake forms and will be collected annually. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is helping in coding the occupations that are collected.

MCN Best Practices: MCN is negotiating with the following organizations to partner with medical schools and residency programs to begin developing the Practice Models for Clinicians in Training: University of Minnesota, Mountain Area Health Education Consortium, Hendersonville, NC, East Tennessee State University, Skagit Valley Hospital, Mt. Vernon, WA, University of Dartmouth, NC Farmworker Health Program/University of North Carolina.

#### **MCN Webinars:**

- Workers and Health: How Frontline Providers Make a Difference in the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families. Ed Zuroweste, MD, Amy K. Liebman, MPA, MA.
- Pesticide Poisonings. Are You Prepared? Matthew Keifer, MD, MPH.
- Through MCN's partnership with EPA, technical assistance was provided to clinicians and other stakeholder to assist them in understanding the proposed changes to the Worker Protection Standard and to assist them in navigating the public comment process.

MCN Partnerships With Key Stakeholder Organizations: Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Agrisafe Network, American College of Nurse Midwives, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Public Health Association Occupational Health and Safety Section, Environment Section, Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Coming Clean, Earth Justice, East Tennessee State University, Farmworker Association of Florida, Farmworker Justice, Georgetown University, George Washington University School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and Bloomberg School of Public Health, The Mayo Clinic, Mountain Area Health Education Consortium, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation, National Children's Center for Rural Agricultural Health and Safety, National Farm Medicine Center, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health/Northeast Center for Agricultural and Occupational Health, National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, Oregon Law Center, Pesticide Action Network North America, Toxic Free North Carolina, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, Wake Forest University Worker Health Center,

and Watsonville Law Center.

#### **Other MCN Activities:**

- MCN received funding from the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety to reprint and distribute thousands of worker protection safety with pesticides comic books.
- MCN is exploring the possibility of creating a Recognition and Management of Pesticide Poisonings mobile app.
- MCN publication <u>Streamline</u> was distributed to nearly 7,000 constituents it featured an article on MCN's partnerships that highlight best practices in identification of migrant and seasonal farmworker patients' illnesses and injuries. Additional articles in this section included the undercounting of occupational injuries and illnesses in agriculture and linkages between pesticide exposure and depression among pesticide applicators.
- MCN continued to engage constituents with its e-newsletter. More than 6,050 MCN constituents receive MCN's e-newsletter which features EOH-related content and links users to MCN's EOH resources.
- The MCN EOH web pages had the following unique hits and downloads: EOH Page-1779 unique hits, Pesticide Page-820 unique hits, Pesticide Downloads-16,782.
- MCN continues to update and maintain the Pesticide Reporting Map http://www.migrantclinician.org/issues/occupational-health/pesticides/reporting-illnesses.html

\$1,500,000 Total