

For WG going forward: notes will be posted to Teams for review and edit by workgroup members. Make revision to the notes for each meeting in Teams before the next month's meeting. On June 3rd, the group will approve April and May notes.

WG discussed plans for the ETWG Update to the PPDC to occur on May 12 and 13th:

- Slides and bullets to add to current presentation
- What's happening/overview of Asia where drones have been embraced
  - Where they are on reg. requirements--they're getting down to details
- Canada--RPAS WG
- EPA Risk Assessments

WG discussed its planned deliverables:

- Deep dive into autonomous application platforms on manually and remotely operated equipment (weed robots, tractors, etc.)
  - It's the autonomy of the spray systems that counts (not the shape of machine spraying). Use this WG to be all-encompassing/change regulations on existing platforms. If we discuss only around remotely operated platforms, we lose the opportunity to be better stewards for reduced risk.
    - Automated devices *now* follow map and the applicator designs where device will go.
    - We're designing machines that will decide where to spray. That level of autonomy will have a new level of liability—risk increases in many ways.
- See & spray—ground based and flying robots
  - Concept of spraying system with knowledge of where particles will be deposited—autonomous spraying system exciting and needs to be encouragement for its use.
- AI--must change for different crop types, ex: think about how it will work in plant canopies, orchards, other crops.

WG discussed thoughts on future work on deliverable 1 between now and October meeting:

- Autonomous technology can generate lots of data—has implications for systems, for safety—opportunities for EPA if they can come up with data to be shared—implications for Risk assessments, etc.
- Should data be collected on what farmers use for each crop?
  - Maybe from registrants, as is collected for rates, etc. Would be a third view of pesticide use, important for reregistering a pesticide. Not necessarily from end user/grower.
  - Recently heard presentation on data privacy in Ag. That level of data to pinpoint individual using a certain product on their farm is controversial. Something to keep in mind: the private sector is using the info.
- Note to October: what Qs do we have—directional assistance needed?
  - There should be a focus on quantifying or at least discussing how technologies will prevent worker exposure and or reduce overall use.
  - Scope of WG and how to promote innovation
  - What Risk Assessment frameworks will be needed
  - This group must accurately represent what tech can do. We have relied on applicators but can't go forward. There have been wild claims about these new technologies.
  - There are many claims coming from Asia, which has diff standards. We need good framework to vet and approve those claims.
  - It would also be great if there could be a focus on how these new technologies can be accessible and empower producers at all scales.

## PPDC Emerging Technologies Workgroup Notes May 6, 2021

ETWG's PPDC presentation can be found [here](#).