



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

**NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides
Guadalajara, Jalisco
November 4-6, 2014**

MEETING SUMMARY

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Technical Working Group on Pesticides (TWG) met in Guadalajara, Jalisco, from November 4-6, 2014. The meeting was hosted by Ing. Silvia Elena Rojas, of the Dirección General de Inocuidad Agroalimentaria, Acuícola y Pesquera (DGIAAP) from Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria¹ (SENASICA), Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación² (SAGARPA). Government officials from the United States, Mexico and Canada attended, including Jack Housenger, Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and Dr. Richard Aucoin, Executive Director of Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Representatives from Mexico's Ministry of Health (COFEPRIS³) and Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT⁴) also participated. The meeting was well attended by growers, registrants, and other interested stakeholders from all three countries.

PLENARY

On November 4, Silvia Rojas welcomed stakeholders and government participants from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to the meeting, and looked forward to the ensuing discussions on key issues of interest to NAFTA stakeholders. In particular, she expressed great interest in pollinator protection, and the continued efforts to harmonize maximum residue levels (MRLs). Jack Housenger and Dr. Richard Aucoin also emphasized the importance of continuous regulatory cooperation via the TWG, highlighted the 2008–2013 NAFTA TWG Accomplishments Report and encouraged stakeholders to provide perspectives on the draft NAFTA TWG Five–Year Strategy 2014–2019.

¹ National Service for Animal and Plant Health, Food Safety and Quality

² Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food

³ Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios

⁴ Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

The TWG leads provided a comprehensive update on minor uses, pollinator protection, including the new NAFTA Pollinator Project, joint reviews, MRLs and the Codex process, and the NAFTA TWG Five-Year Strategy 2014–2019.

Mexico showed great interest in the U.S. IR-4 and Canada's Pest Management Centre program concerning minor uses. Mexico stated they plan to establish a regulatory working group with the possibility of conducting a pilot program with the U.S. and Canada.

SEMARNAT representatives stated their interest in pollinator protection, and hope to form an *ad hoc* working group to discuss pollinator issues specific to Mexico and review their ability to adopt the [Guidance for Assessing Pesticide Risks to Bees](#). SEMARNAT also expressed interest in building their technical capacity through training with the U.S. EPA and PMRA concerning pollinators, joint reviews, and conducting risk assessments.

Mexico updated participants on their participation on joint review projects, and stated their continued interest in participating in this effort. They also emphasised the need for more capacity-building activities for government officials.

Government representatives discussed the scientific challenges of the establishment of aligned MRLs due to existing differences regarding pest pressures, agricultural practices, timing and data provided in the applications that are submitted to various regulatory bodies. The Executive Board would like to continue joint scientific discussions between countries to identify areas for further collaboration and engagement.

Stakeholders, particularly from Mexico, shared a common interest in continuing to work on pollinator protection and minor crop use matters. The participation of authorities from Mexico was greatly received. Stakeholder presentations discussed the industry perspective on NAFTA regulatory cooperation, the need for an IR-4 Programme in Mexico for minor uses, and MRLs harmonization issues. The NAFTA Industry Working Group (IWG) on Pesticides suggested areas for continued improvements such as the incorporation of Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment into existing frameworks, and urged the agencies to continue their efforts on scientific progress and receptiveness to new approaches (e.g., toxicokinetic (TK) approach for dose selection). The group also recommended the organization of a “lessons learned” workshop focused on joint reviews to reflect on where the NAFTA TWG started, where it is now and ways to move forward.

The NAFTA TWG Five-Year Strategy 2014–2019 will be finalized shortly after the meeting to incorporate suggestions received during the government and stakeholder sessions requesting focus on continued harmonization, pollinator protection and training.

Participating Countries from Latin America

This year the TWG invited government representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru to discuss their pesticide policy regulations within their own country, and the projects or topics they

could participate in with NAFTA countries. Mexico will request project ideas from those countries.

In Closing

The Executive Board concluded the three-day meeting by congratulating all of the TWG members for a productive meeting in Guadalajara, thanking the NAFTA government officials and stakeholders for their attendance and participation in the exchange of information and ideas on issues of common interest.

The Executive Board requested that the leads report back on the status of Action Items at the next Executive Board meeting. It was announced that the U.S. EPA will host the next government and stakeholder meeting.