

Thursday, February 11, PPDC Emerging Technologies WG Meeting Notes

- X-Leap software was presented for the group's use. X-Leap is a meeting facilitation software that allows for anonymous entries.
- Overview of the workgroup's charge questions
 - How should EPA obtain a greater understanding of how the use of emerging agricultural technologies leads to reduced or increased risks that differ from those resulting from current methods?
 - What changes to EPA's approach to pesticide labels, if any, are needed to accommodate emerging technologies?
- The group addressed whether chemical technology should be included in the group's focus. The decision was made to narrow the category to equipment for this workgroup and keep the option of a later workgroup that focuses on chemical emerging technologies.

Presentation by American Equipment Manufacturers

- Presentation on Types of Modern equipment and a high-level overview of their operational capabilities
- Presentation on AGCO's Xaver, SwarmFarm, SABANTO, EcoRobotix
- Presentation on See and Spray Technology
- Presentation on Aerial Application Technology

Discussion

- The group discussed narrowing the focus of the workgroup, keeping it manageable.
 - Considerations for the group:
 - Getting a full list of the technologies that currently exist (possible deliverable).
 - Decide which technologies the group would like to focus on (review deliverables).
Report out in May and final report in October.
 - UAV Based Technology, also considered manned aircraft.

- See and Treat Technology: they are (or will soon be) on the market and there is potential for the reduction of pesticides, but current label language does not accommodate it. See and spray could be applied to several technologies.
 - Potentially brainstorm on how the EPA would be able to modify its risk assessment
- Review the emerging technologies and the regulations or oversight needed
- Assess the benefits that these emerging technologies bring and how risk assessment may need to change to include the benefits.
- Consider Prescriptive Application, or including prescriptive terminology. Applies to See and Treat, and UAV based.

Next Steps:

- Gather items for the next workgroup meeting agenda.
- Ask of EPA if they are considering these technologies and applying them to risk assessments? How do the technologies affect the risk assessments and labeling ultimately?
- Continue to add suggestions to XLeap.