



THE GLOBAL MINOR USE SUMMIT ROME, ITALY

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**MEXICAN AVOCADO GROWERS AND PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
INITIATIVES AND CHALLENGES FOR MINOR USE IN THE GROWING OF
MEXICAN AVOCADOS**

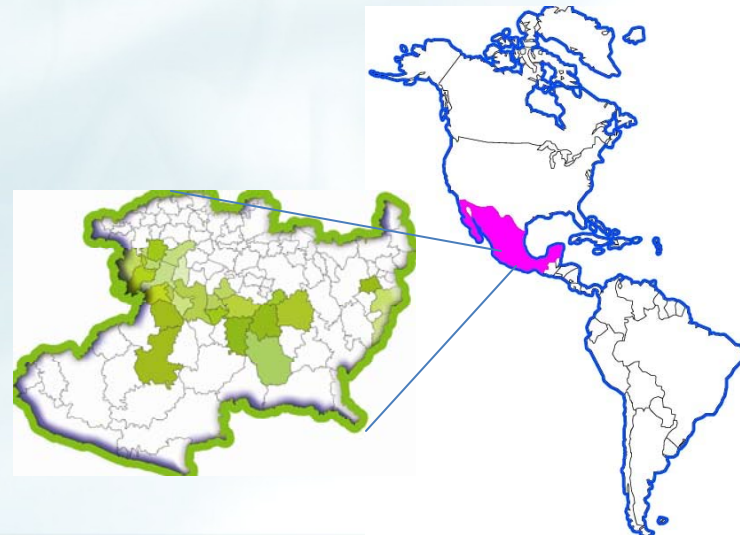
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BACKGROUND

Mexico's Avocado Industry represents around 117,000 has. Used for the growing of Hass Avocado, mainly in the state of Michoacan, which produces over a million tons in a year.

There are 20,000 producers, 400 packing houses, 14 processing companies, which in turn generate 400 direct and indirect jobs. With a total sales revenue of 1,500 million dollars.

The principal exporting destinations of Mexico's Avocados are: USA, Japan, Europe, Canada, Central America and now the exportation has begun to China and Korea.



The principal groups of insects and diseases which affect the crop in the order of phytosanitary and economical seriousness are: Coleopteros, thrips, web caterpillar, armored scales, corky surface and antracnose, the principal form of control is the use of pesticides.

There isn't an official program for minor use, no MRLs are generated, they are actually taken as reference from those from EPA, Codex Alimentarius, EU and the Japan positive list.



OBJECTIVE

Achieving a data base for Mexico's Avocado Industry of pesticides molecules sufficient and adequate that complies with the normal requirements established by the rules and regulations for the World's Health and Environment.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Mexico's Avocado Industry has been working along with the NAFTA-TWGP for over 5 years thus enabling the Avocado Industry to interact with the Pesticide Industry, IR-4, Producers, Health and Agriculture Authorities among the 3 countries are currently working side by side with CESV-MICH (Producers), SENASICA (Minister of Agriculture), COFEPRIS (Minister of Health) and AMIFAC (Pesticide Industry), and here are some of the advances made so far.



SENASICA has provided us with an updated basic list of avocado crop's pesticides in which as part of a self regulation by the growers there are 5 molecules which are no longer considered of negative impact to the population and environment, these have been questioned in our country as well as in the countries to which our product is exported to (Parathion Metilic, Benomil, Captan, Thiabendazole and Parquat) In other words this updated list is a sound technical tool which if it's properly and safely used it will enable us to produce innocuous fruit and become eligible to official and trade certifications, such as GAPs and GMPs which will make it easy for free trade of our product nationally and internationally.

The CESV-MICH reports an advance between certification and in the process of certification in GAPs 17,600 Has of avocado from 1,100 producers, 9 packinghouses certified in GMPs and there are 4 more undergoing the process of certification, as well as 5 .more Harvesting service companies also under going the certification process





Training programs have been made available to technical consultants, producers and pesticide applying personnel in The Good Use and Handling of Agrochemical Products, the Triple Washing Of Empty Containers and Clean Field which have as an objective avoiding that the empty agrochemical containers become a problem of contamination to the environment.

In the same manner radio spots in the growing areas are broadcasted in which it is recommended to use only the authorized products for the crop, to apply the authorized dosage for the crop and harvesting intervals, as well as encouragement for everyone to participate in such training events.

Posters inferring the proper use and handling of pesticides have been provided to producers and technical consultants, as well as manuals where the list of authorized products is found.





SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

We're aware that pesticides are only a tool in the fight against the crop's pests and diseases they are not the solution and the way in which we will achieve an effective control is by respecting Mother Nature, using the focus of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for which we most continue working in our attempt of provoking the cultural change as soon as possible in the avocado crop industry.

Training on behalf of the organizations (IR-4, COFEPRIS, SENASICA, AMIFAC) to the producers and technical consultants as to how calculate the MRLs, which is the process for getting registry of pesticide molecules.

It is required to implement as soon as possible a Lab for the analysis of pesticides in the avocado region and it must be credited by EMA (Mexican Certification Agency) in order to get the recognition from EPA and to be certified by ISO 17025 to validate the related activities with this issue



As of 2006 we have had the IR-4 support which in coordination with SENASICA are in the process of recording for the growing of several molecules which are already recorded in other crops, these molecules are green line chemicals and others are natural products, as for 2008 it has been planned to get 4 more molecules registered to be used in the crops.

Regarding the Pesticide Industry (AMIFAC) it has been planned the search For more molecules which promise to be efficient in the control of pests through a non official program with the support from COFEPRIS, GROWERS, SENASICA and the IR-4 looking for the establishment of MRLs and their registration in order to be used in the crops.

Thanks Very Much!!!!