
EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting and “Beyond the Battlefield” Field Tour, 19 & 20 JUN 01



The June 2001 quarterly meeting of the TWG was held in the Washington D.C. area. Participants were from EPA, USDA, IR-4 (NJ, FL, MA, MI, and NY), and California's Dept. of Pesticide Regulation (Cal-DPR), and colleagues from Canada representing Canadian growers. Others who “attended” the meeting via conference call were from the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency and California DPR. Jim Jones, Director of the OPP Registration Division, applauded the TWG, which recently won a Team Award from EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, for its work. Jim said the value of the efforts of the TWG was an “easy sell” to OPP. This is the first EPA award to include people from outside the Agency.

Meeting participants were brought up to date on the status of proposals to establish tolerances for greenhouse tomatoes, create distinct residue data requirements for annual and perennial strawberries, and establish residue data reductions for the reduced risk chemicals bifenazate, carfentrazone, and pyriproxyfen (all of these issues are still under consideration for follow-up at the next meeting). Progress in the establishment of a website for reduced risk pesticides was discussed, and a summary of existing EPA websites that are relevant to IR-4's work was presented. Additional topics of discussion included propylene oxide as a methyl bromide alternative, oxyfluorfen use on strawberries, and the use of European data to support deltamethrin applications on flax in the U.S. A report was presented on the recently-held meeting of greenhouse vegetable growers at IR-4 Headquarters, and the issue of whether field residue data can be used to support labels for greenhouse transplants was discussed. The group was updated on the status of several crop group proposals.

Dan Kunkel spoke about the benefits of his recently completed sabbatical at EPA, and also discussed the current and upcoming Workplans. Roberta Firoved and Jerry Campbell talked about the work share arrangement between EPA and Cal-DPR. Shirley Archambault and Craig Hunter discussed Canadian field trials being conducted in cooperation with IR-4. John Redden talked

about the EPA Registration Division's Alternative Risk Integration and Assessment (ARIA) Team. Also discussed were the status of studies on fenhexamid uses on blueberries and caneberries, IR-4 petition reviews in Canada, the harmonization of data requirements between the U.S. and Canada, the NAFTA Joint Review, and the EPA Minor Use Team. Sandy Perry talked about her progress with summarizing IR-4's impact on Section 18 registrations.

The following day, a field tour (“Beyond the Battlefield”) organized by Van Starner from IR-4 Headquarters took 50-60 people from EPA, IR-4, USDA, Canadian Horticulture Council and California DPR to visit fruit and vegetable production and processing locations in Maryland and Pennsylvania, primarily to the west and north of the historic Civil War Battlefields in Gettysburg, PA. The tour was designed to provide some “hands-on” experiences on various types of farms, at an agr. research institute, and at a processing/crop storage facility; to expose attendees to some issues faced by minor crop growers, especially related to pest control; to have attendees hear grower, researcher and processor concerns/needs related to pesticide issues; and to demonstrate some typical commercial pesticide application equipment. The tour through this intensive agricultural area gave the attendees a day-long opportunity for interactions that will strengthen the team work and build even stronger working relationships.

Sites visited during the tour included watercress production, Penn State University fruit research, controlled atmosphere storage, applesauce processing, the epicenter of the U.S. plum pox virus outbreak and several family fruit and vegetable farms and farm markets. Pesticide needs were discussed with owner/operators, and airblast and ground sprayers were demonstrated at the farm sites. Everyone on the tour indicated they learned new information that would be useful in their jobs, and also gained an appreciation for some of the real-life regulatory and production problems faced by processors and minor crop growers.

Article by Sandy Perry, Ken Samoil
and Van Starner

European Weed Research Society (EWRS) Working Group “Weed Management Systems in Vegetables” Meeting

The EWRS Working Group Meeting “Weed Management Systems in Vegetables” was held in Zaragoza, Spain, June 4 -5, 2001. The meeting was organized by the Dr. Francesco Tei, University of Perugia, Italy/ Chairman and Dr. Carlos Zaragoza, Servicio de Investigacion Agraria, Zaragoza, Spain. Marija Arsenovic represented the IR-4 Project and gave a presentation entitled “The IR-4 Project - National Agricultural Program for Pest Management Solutions in The United States” with emphasis on herbicide registration in vegetable crops.

The participants presented and discussed research questions, methods and results concerning weed management in vegetable crops in different European countries. The major focus of the working group is to collect and exchange information on weeds and weed management solutions in tomato, onion and carrot. A field tour of the horticultural areas of Aragon and Catalonia was provided.

For more information, please contact Marija at IR-4 HQ, arsenovic@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Article by Marija Arsenovic