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## 2001 Expert Committee on Weeds (ECW) Meeting - Canada

The 2001 Canadian Experts Committee on Weeds Meeting was held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, November 25 to 29, 2001. More than 150 scientists participated at the meeting. The meeting provided a forum for researchers to present their work on a broad range of weed science topics. The meeting was organized in sessions and working groups.

The sessions included: Tools available to increase weeds management - Present and Future in weed science, Modelization in weeds management, Diagnostic tools, Precision agriculture, the Web, the Quebec experiment, Scouting, Graduate student presentation, and Poster session.

Several working group meetings were scheduled: Application Technology, Herbicide Resistance, New Pesticide Product and Herbicide Characterization, Site Specific Weed Management, Forestry and Industrial Vegetation Management, Biological Control, Extension and Teaching, Integrated Weed Management and Noxious Weeds.

The attendees were researchers from the University of Guelph, University of Manitoba, University of Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Pest Management Regulatory Agencies of Canada, chemical companies, private research and consulting services, and growers.

IR-4 Headquarters was represented at the meeting. Marija Arsenovic gave a presentation (coauthored with Dan Kunkel and Jerry Baron) entitled "The IR-4 Project - a U.S. National Agricultural Program for Pest Management Solutions in the United States" at the Extension and Teaching Working Group. Michel Letendre (Ministry of Agriculture, Quebec), gave a presentation on Minor Use registration in Canada - process, issues and stakeholders, future plans. The presentations generated discussion among attendees about the IR-4 Project and pesticide registration on minor crops in Canada and the U.S. IR-4 has worked cooperatively with Canada in the development and exchange of food crop residue and performance data over the last several years. Eight residue projects have been conducted in Canada by IR-4 as a regular part of IR-4's studies. These trials have been used to supplement and replace U.S. trials of similar growing regions.

The meeting was an excellent opportunity to meet Canadian weed scientists from the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia to discuss better cooperation and information flow between Canada and the U.S. and to obtain valuable information on herbicide registration.

We are looking forward to working together with Canadian weed scientists and receiving more data regarding weed management in minor crops.

Article by Marija Arsenovic

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## New Companies

Since the last article on this topic in last winter's issue, further consolidation has occurred in the agricultural chemical industry.

The most recent major change was announced in a press release by Bayer on October 2, 2001 when they confirmed that a purchase agreement was signed for the Bayer acquisition of Aventis CropScience, following successful completion of negotiations with owners Aventis (76%) and Schering (24%). The crop science activities are being organized as a separate legal entity named "Bayer CropScience." The acquisition will make Bayer a world leader in crop science, close behind the world leader Syngenta. Bayer CropScience will be headquartered in Monheim, Germany. As part of the deal, Bayer won't take on liabilities associated with lawsuits linked to CropScience's genetically modified corn StarLink - these will remain only with Aventis.

Another consolidation in 2001 was the purchase of Rohm and Haas's agricultural chemical business by the Dow Chemical Company which was officially announced in March and finalized by the end of the 2nd quarter. By terms of the agreement, Dow AgroSciences, headquartered in Indianapolis, IN, acquired all of Rohm and Haas's fungicide, insecticide

and herbicide lines, including other product lines, trademarks and license to all agricultural uses of its biotechnology assets. The agrochemical sections at Rohm and Haas's Philadelphia headquarters and its nearby research laboratory at Spring House, PA, have been wound down.

As of January 1, 2001, the Agricultural Chemicals Division of Elf Atochem became Cerexagri, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Atofina Chemicals, Inc. (formerly Elf Atochem N.A., Inc.). This company's history dates back to 1932 when it began selling cryolite as a pesticide, followed by development of endothall salts in the '50's, partnership with Nippon Soda in the '60's, and acquisitions in the '70's and '80's. Today, Cerexagri is a global provider of crop protection, post-harvest and aquatic products. In May 2001, Cerexagri moved to its current headquarters located in King of Prussia, PA, northwest of Philadelphia.

As new developments in the world of crop protection chemistry come to our attention, we will continue to revise our list of official company contacts. Through all these consolidations, IR-4 continues to successfully help develop products to keep the minor crop growers' pest management toolbox full of new tools!

Article by Van Starnier