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## Herbicide News/Meetings: Canadian Weed Science Society Meeting

The Canadian Weed Science Society Meeting was held in Saskatoon/SK, Canada, November 24 to 28, 2002. More than 200 participants attended 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 Sections and Working Groups:

- Field Boundary Habitats: Implications for Weed, Insect, and Disease Management in Canada
- Graduate Student Presentation
- Reduced Herbicide Rates Workshop: Opportunity or Problem
- New Pesticide Products and Herbicide Characterization Working Group
- Biological Control Working Group
- Herbicide Resistance Wheat Workshop
- Poster Session

The IR-4 Project was represented at the meeting. Marija Arsenovic gave a poster presentation (coauthored with F. Salzman, M. Braverman, D. Kunkel, J. Baron, and B. Holm) entitled “The IR-4 Project - a U.S. National Agricultural Program for Pest Management Solutions in the United States - Herbicide Registration Update”.

The meeting was an excellent opportunity to meet Canadian weed scientists from the provinces of Ontario (Al Hamill, Leslie Huffman, Peter Sikima, David Robinson), British Columbia (Victoria Brookes), Alberta (Karol Bubar, Denice Maurice, John O’Donovan), Saskatchewan (Eric Johnson) and Quebec (Diane Benoit, Michel Letendre and Daniel Clotuire) and to discuss pesticide registration in minor crops in Canada and U.S. IR-4 project has worked cooperatively with Canada in the development and exchange of food crop residue and performance data over the last several years. There are 20 IR-4/Canada joint pesticide residue projects scheduled for 2003 growing season, with 56 field trials in Canada. Canadian researchers provided an update on the

newly initiated Minor Use Program in Canada. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has designated six Research and Development Centers that will conduct field residue trials. The six sites are: Research and Development Center located in Agassiz which is linked to Summerland for British Columbia, Scott in Saskatchewan, Harrow in Ontario, Vineland in Ontario that will be linked to Delhi, Ontario, St. Jean-sur-Richelieu for Quebec, and a research center in Kentville, Nova Scotia which is linked to Bouctouche, New Brunswick. The Minor Use Development Centre Headquarters will be located in Ottawa. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet PMRA officers, Dr. Najib Malik/ Section Head, Dr. Charles Smith/ Senior Evaluation Officer, and Douglas Cattani/Evaluation Officer, Herbicides and Plant Growth Regulators Section, Efficacy and Sustainability Assessment Division, and Dr. Ted Kuchnicki, Section Head, Environmental Assessment Division and to discuss herbicide registration requirements and general requirements for conducting pesticide efficacy trials in Canada. Canada has required efficacy tests for years.

EPA does not require pesticide efficacy testing except for antimicrobial products. In August 2002, PMRA issued a regulatory proposal entitled “Efficacy Guidelines for Plant Protection Products” which is intended to harmonize PMRA guidelines with those stipulated by foreign agencies such as the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, and Australian National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinarian Chemicals. The intent of the guidelines is: to outline the general requirements for conducting efficacy trials, describe procedures and criteria for efficacy data evaluation, and provide guidance in developing rationales for reduced data requirements.

Attending the Canadian Weed Science Society meeting was an effective way to meet researchers, private consulting agencies (such as Marbicon Inc, I.C.M.S., Atlantic Agritech), growers, and industry representatives and to discuss different weed management options and problems in Canada.

Article by Marija Arsenovic