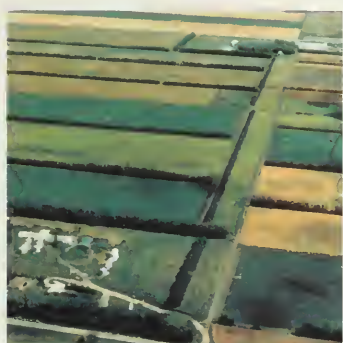


Pesticide Risk Reduction and Minor Use Programs


Improving ways to manage pests
with new technology



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Canada



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Strengthening Canada's agricultural policy

As the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector moves into the 21st century, it faces many challenges and opportunities for continued prosperity. In response, the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, and the agriculture and agri-food industry are working together to implement a plan to strengthen Canada's agricultural sector.

Called the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), this plan will help the sector become even stronger, more competitive, and more profitable, in markets at home and abroad.

Our goal? To ensure that Canada is a world leader in producing safe, high-quality food for Canadian and international markets in an environmentally responsible way using innovative methods.

To meet this goal, the Government of Canada has committed \$5.2 billion over six years. Taking into account cost-sharing arrangements with the provinces and territories, new investment in the Canadian agricultural sector is expected to exceed \$7 billion.

The environment is a priority

Canadians expect all economic sectors, including agriculture, to do their part to protect the environment—and the agricultural industry understands that environmental stewardship is key to both long-term sustainability and profitability.

Producers are working with governments to strengthen their longstanding tradition of carefully managing the environment. Through the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF), new programs will build on existing strengths to increase air, water, and soil quality, and to improve the ability of the agricultural sector to coexist with the natural environment in a sustainable way.

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program highlights priorities for pest management, including biological controls, natural products, and low-risk minor use pesticides. This program reflects the goals of the APF—to position Canada as the world leader in environmentally responsible production while improving air, water, and soil quality, and conserving biodiversity.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has allocated \$16.8 million over six years to work with other government departments and industry partners to develop and implement new, reduced-risk approaches to managing crop pests.

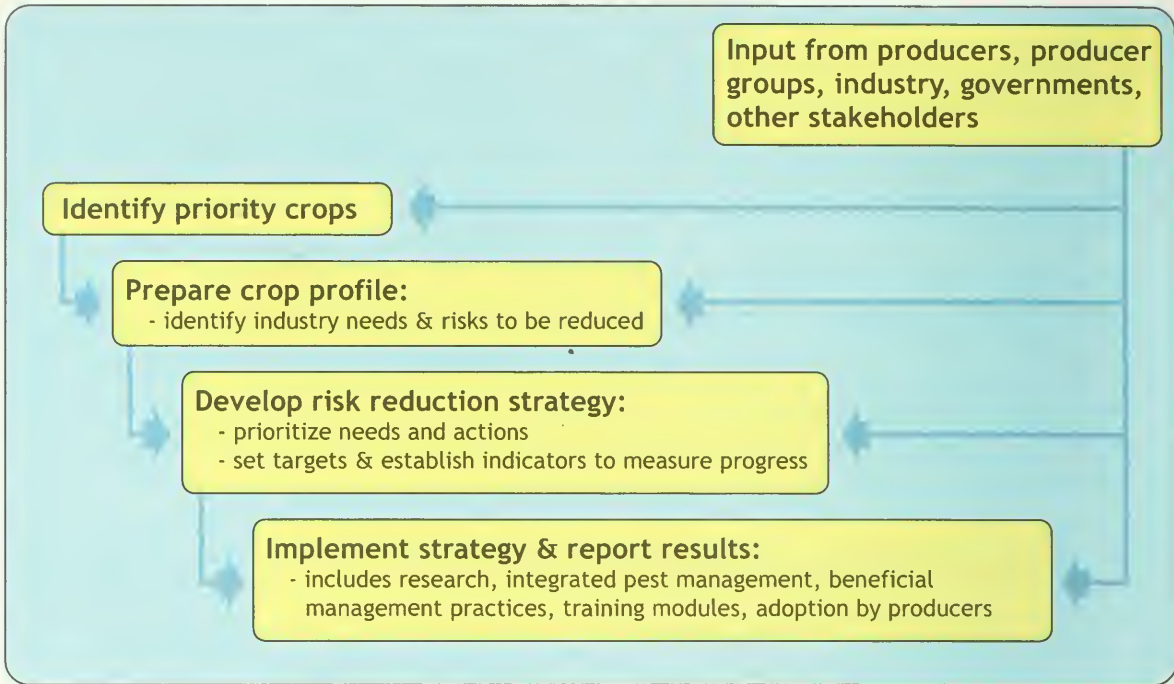
What are the program's objectives?

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program will help reduce the risks to the environment from pesticides used in agriculture, contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment, and result in safer food for consumers by focussing on:

- developing and implementing strategies to reduce pesticide risks;
- conducting research into improving methods for pest control;
- developing alternative approaches to pest management, such as integrated pest management, biological control methods, and bio-pesticides; and
- increasing the adoption of reduced-risk technologies by producers.



Pesticide Risk Reduction Program



How will the program work?

AAFC is working with provincial and industry partners to gather information on priority crops to identify gaps in the range of pest-management products now available, and to gauge the needs of the sector. This information will be used to design strategies and implement solutions that reduce the risk of pesticides, and that contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment.

AAFC will be involved in developing commodity-based, reduced-risk tools and integrated approaches to pest and crop management that will provide Canadian producers with alternative pest-management solutions.

Research activities

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program supports research to implement commodity-based pesticide risk reduction strategies, providing producers with improved technologies and practices that are environmentally sound. This may include developing new tools for integrated pest management (IPM), developing and implementing biological control agents in IPM programs, assessing the barriers to adopting alternative practices, and refining decision-support systems to reduce risk in pest-control activities.

In addition, the risk reduction program will support research into developing alternative pest-management tools and beneficial

management practices. Training modules and communication activities for transferring technology to the industry will also be developed. Research information will be used to determine new approaches to resolving pest-management problems, and to provide economic analysis that can be used to evaluate the benefits of adopting reduced-risk strategies.

The Minor Use Pesticide Program

The Minor Use Pesticide Program was launched in June 2002 under the APF. The Government of Canada has committed \$54.5 million over six years to develop and implement the program—a joint initiative between AAFC and Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA).

AAFC will use its \$33.7-million share of the program funding to improve access to minor use pesticides and to conduct field trials of minor use pesticides. The PMRA will use its \$20.8-million share to increase its capacity to review submissions, and to provide shorter time lines for registration decisions on new reduced risk products.

Together, these efforts will help enhance the environmental stewardship of Canadian producers, make it easier for them to compete in global markets, and will result in safer food for Canadians.

What is a “minor use” pesticide?

A “minor use” pesticide refers to the crop-protection treatments—fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides—used on low acreage crops,



or where pest control is only needed on a small portion of the overall crop acreage. These pesticides are usually used in such small quantities that manufacturers find the sales potential is not sufficient for them to seek registration in Canada.

Crops grown in small areas include vegetables, fruits, specialty crops, herbs, and spices, as well as nursery and landscape plants and flowers. These are often high-value, and are sometimes called “minor crops” because they are grown on significantly smaller areas of land compared to the large acreages of crops like corn, soybeans, and wheat.

What are the program’s objectives?

The Minor Use Pesticide Program will provide benefits to Canadian producers, the environment, and consumers by focussing on:

- making minor use pesticide products, with emphasis on reduced-risk products, more readily available; and
- providing Canadian producers with access to new pest-management technologies to improve their competitiveness domestically and internationally.

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How does the program work?

For many years, Canadian producers, especially those involved in the horticultural and specialty-crop industry, have not had access to the same range of pesticide products as producers in other countries. Because growing minor crops involves so many diverse



products and involves small acreages, many manufacturers have been unwilling to invest the time and money to pursue pesticide registrations for this important part of the agriculture industry.

Now, AAFC is conducting field trials to generate the data needed to support submissions to the PMRA for registering minor use pest-control products. This activity complements the existing roles and responsibilities of pesticide manufacturers in submitting products to the PMRA for registration, and encourages manufacturers to register products in Canada.

As a result, newer, more environmentally friendly and more efficient products will be made available to Canadian producers, which helps level the playing field and allows them to be more competitive in global markets.

AAFC is modelling its new program after the successful U.S. minor use pesticide program, called Interregional Research Project No. 4, or IR-4. AAFC is working closely with IR-4 officials to share information, consult on program content, and build strong relationships. This collaboration provides the opportunity to work together on field trials and improve ways to support registrations, so that more registered minor use pesticides are available to producers in both countries.


Under the Minor Use Pesticide Program, AAFC works with provincial governments, industry representatives, and producers to:

- match pest problems with minor use pesticide solutions;
- establish priorities and gain industry support;
- conduct field tests; and
- prepare pesticide submissions for new uses to the PMRA.

Matching pest problems and priorities

Producers and producer groups in each province meet annually with their provincial minor use co-ordinator to identify and prioritize the major pest problems in their regions.

These pest problems are then matched with potential pesticide solutions, using input from pesticide manufacturers, to produce provincial lists of pest priorities and possible solutions in three categories—weed, disease, and insect. Non-chemical solutions are also considered and included.



Provincial lists are then combined to form one national list, which is used at the annual AAFC Minor Use Pesticide Priority-Setting Workshop, usually held in March, to determine national priorities.

Representatives from a broad range of stakeholder groups—including provincial minor use coordinators, producers, the pesticide industry, crop specialists, as well as representatives from the U.S. IR-4 program and provincial and federal governments—attend the workshop.

Establishing priorities and gaining industry support

At the workshop, participants reach a consensus on the top national priorities in each pest category (weeds, insects, and diseases), and additional priorities are determined to address regional needs. The agreement of manufacturers is sought to include the new, approved use on the product label.

Conducting field trials and laboratory analyses

Once the priorities are established, AAFC's Pest Management Centre, in consultation with industry and government partners, undertakes to:

- obtain formal manufacturer support;
- prepare documentation to determine any additional data requirements;
- conduct field trials and lab analyses;
- provide quality assurance for the data-generation process;
- integrate data generated in Canada with the U.S. IR-4 pesticide program;
- prepare registration submissions to Health Canada's PMRA; and
- provide transparent tracking and reporting of results to stakeholders.

While the Centre's headquarters is located in Ottawa, it conducts field trials at sites across the country. Staff at the 10 AAFC sites have undergone training to meet the Standards Council of Canada Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) recognition standards for carrying out trials and generating data on minor use pesticides. In addition, private contractors are used.

Preparing submissions to the PMRA

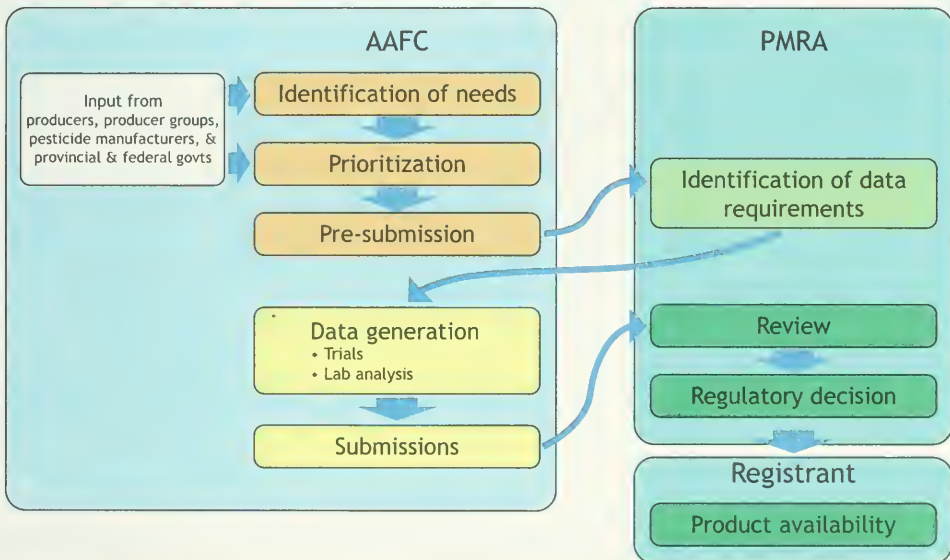
The Pest Management Centre reviews the data resulting from field trials and laboratory analyses, and prepares a submission to the PMRA to support the registration of the minor use pesticide.

Once the Centre has finalized a regulatory submission, the PMRA reviews it and decides whether or not to accept the pesticide for use in Canada. The PMRA bases its decision on whether the product demonstrates merit and value, and whether the risks to human health and the environment are acceptable.

When the PMRA accepts a pesticide for registration, it posts a notice on the PMRA Web site at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla>, with a link to the AAFC Pesticide Risk Reduction and Minor Use Pesticide Programs Web site at <http://www.agr.gc.ca/prmup>.

The process for registering a minor use pesticide

The following diagram summarizes the steps that AAFC's Pest Management Centre follows that lead to new minor use pesticides being made available to Canadian producers.



As well, grower groups and provincial governments may also submit minor use proposals through a provincial minor use co-ordinator to the PMRA to address local and regional pest management problems.

Research activities

The Minor Use Pesticide Program also includes a research component to support the introduction of new minor use pesticides, leading to a cleaner, healthier environment, improved pest-management products for producers, and safer food for Canadians.

AAFC will conduct research projects for minor use pesticide products and technologies for crops where no options or limited pest-control options exist, or where current pest-control options will be restricted. Research and development is proceeding on biological control agents, including bio-pesticides, microbials, parasites, and predators.

Working with stakeholders

AAFC has consulted with a variety of stakeholder organizations to establish a 12-member advisory committee that includes representatives from farm and commodity groups, the pest-control industry, environmental groups, and consumers. The first meeting of the committee was held in June 2003.

The committee's job is to advise on the overall management of both programs, and to oversee the tracking and reporting of results and expenditures to stakeholders and the public. The committee will provide AAFC with broad, strategic-level advice to support the program's goals, and on specific topics such as operational policies and program criteria, approaches to reducing risk, emerging issues, communications activities, leveraging funds, and research needs. The committee will be a valuable vehicle to report progress and results to interested stakeholder groups.



Contact information

Pest Management Centre
960 Carling Avenue, Building 57
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C6
Tel: (613) 759-1000
Web site: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/prrmup>

Regional field sites

Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre

- Kentville, NS
- Bouctouche, NB

Horticulture Research and Development Centre

- St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC

Greenhouse and Processing Crops Research Centre

- Harrow, ON (greenhouse and field crops)

Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre

- Vineland, ON
- Delhi, ON

Saskatoon Research Centre

- Scott, SK

Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre

- Agassiz, BC
- Summerland, BC

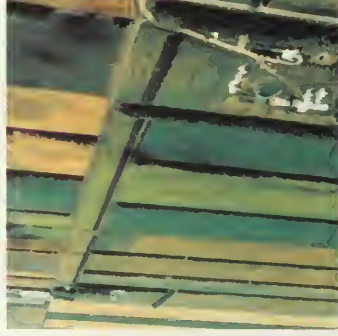
For more information on the Agricultural Policy Framework,
call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**

TTY 1 800 465-7735.



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