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THE WORKING PARTY ON CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT
REDUCTION STRATEGIES AS PART OF NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

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**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR
ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION
THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AS PART OF NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

OECD Environment, Health and Safety Publications

Series on Pesticides

No. 46

**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR
ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION
THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AS PART OF NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

12 June 2008, OECD, Paris, France

IOMC

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Paris 2009

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- No. 43 *Working Document on the Evaluation of Microbials for Pest Control* (2008)
- No. 44 *Report of Workshop on the Regulation of BioPesticides: Registration and Communication Issues* (2009)
- No. 45 *Report of the Seminar on Pesticide Risk Reduction through Education / Training the Trainers* (2009)

Published separately

OECD Guidance for Country Data Review Reports on Plant Protection Products and their Active Substances-Monograph Guidance (1998, revised 2001, 2005, 2006)

OECD Guidance for Industry Data Submissions on Plant Protection Products and their Active Substances-Dossier Guidance (1998, revised 2001, 2005)

Report of the Pesticide Aquatic Risk Indicators Expert Group (2000)

Report of the OECD Workshop on the Economics of Pesticide Risk Reduction (2001)

Report of the OECD-FAO-UNEP Workshop on Obsolete Pesticides (2000)

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Report of the 2nd OECD Workshop on Pesticide Risk Indicators (1999)

Guidelines for the Collection of Pesticide Usage Statistics Within Agriculture and Horticulture (1999)

Report of the [1st] OECD Workshop on Pesticide Risk Indicators (1997)

Report of the OECD/FAO Workshop on Pesticide Risk Reduction (1995)

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This publication was developed in the IOMC context. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or stated policies of individual IOMC Participating Organizations.

The Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) was established in 1995 following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen co-operation and increase international co-ordination in the field of chemical safety. The participating organisations are FAO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WHO and OECD. The World Bank and UNDP are observers. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote co-ordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organisations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

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or contact:

**OECD Environment Directorate,
Environment, Health and Safety Division**

**2, rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
France**

Fax: (33-1) 44 30 61 80

E-mail: ehscont@oecd.org

FOREWORD

This document is the report of the OECD *Seminar on Pesticide Risk Reduction through Spray Drift Reduction Strategies as part of National Risk Management* that took place on 12 June 2008, at OECD, in Paris, France. It was chaired by Dr. Wolfgang Zornbach of the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

This was the ninth in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide Risk Reduction Steering Group, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides. These Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD governments. The Seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss the issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further OECD activities.

Following presentations reviewing the existing spray drift programmes in OECD countries and among various stakeholders (copies of all presentations are in Annex 3), the Seminar discussed several aspects concerning spray drift reduction and management. Common approaches towards spray drift reduction strategies are used in OECD countries, such as establishing buffer zones, encouraging drift reduction technologies, communicating on labels, and ensuring better education and training. The Seminar developed a number of recommendations for promoting spray drift reduction technologies and policies and also recommended the establishment of an international network of experts on spray drift (note: the OECD Network of Experts on Spray Drift was set up immediately after the Seminar and started its activities by developing an OECD public website on spray drift that can be found at: www.oecd.org/env/spraydrift).

The draft report of the Seminar was approved by the 24th meeting of the Working Group on Pesticides that took place on 29-30 June 2009.

The Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology of the OECD agreed that this document be unclassified and made available to the public. It is being published on the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD.

THE 9TH RISK REDUCTION STEERING GROUP SEMINAR

**REPORT OF THE SEMINAR ON PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION
THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AS PART OF NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

Paris, 12 June 2008

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INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the results and recommendations of an OECD Seminar on ways to achieve pesticide risk reduction through spray drift reduction strategies as part of national risk management. This one-day Seminar, held on 12 June, 2008 was chaired by Wolfgang Zornbach (Germany), Chairman of the OECD Risk Reduction Steering Group (RRSG), and took place at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, France.

2. This Seminar was the ninth in a series of Seminars organised by the OECD Pesticide Risk Reduction Steering Group, a sub-group of the OECD Working Group on Pesticides (a group composed primarily of representatives of the 30 OECD governments but that also includes representatives of the European Commission and other international organisations, the pesticide industry, and the environmental community). The RRSg Seminars focus on key issues in pesticide risk reduction of concern to OECD governments. The seminars are intended to provide an opportunity for OECD governments to discuss these issues together with non-governmental stakeholders and to develop recommendations for further OECD activities. Topics discussed during past seminars included:

- Compliance (2003)
- Minor uses (2003)
- Good container management (2004)
- Good pesticide labelling (2005)
- Better application technology (2005)
- Harmonised environmental indicators for pesticide risk (held jointly with European HAIR group in 2006)
- Better worker safety and training (2007)
- Education/training the trainers (2007)

The reports from these Seminars are available on the OECD public web site at:

<http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides>, under “Risk Reduction.”

3. The members of the RRSg selected “spray drift reduction strategies as part of national risk management” as the topic of this Seminar considering its significance for pesticide risk reduction in the fields of human health and the environment. The importance of adopting spray drift reduction technologies was noted during earlier OECD Seminars and surveys (i.e., the Seminar on Better Application Technology and the 2nd Risk Reduction Survey, carried-out in 2004-2005).

- The Seminar on Better Application Technology considered opportunities for risk reduction through better pesticide application technologies. It considered a variety of technology options with such opportunities, equipment and techniques for reducing spray drift being one of them. It also reviewed regulatory (e.g. equipment inspections) and voluntary (e.g. spray drift management guidelines) mechanisms that exist, which address the issue.
- The importance of reducing spray drift was also highlighted in the Second Risk Reduction Survey. Spray drift guidelines that address data requirements, assessment processes and risk mitigation strategies for spray drift have been developed by several OECD countries. Some others have enacted legal provisions that include the use of application equipment with reduced losses (50%, 75%, 90% and 99% less spray drift) published in a register in the official gazette.

PARTICIPANTS

4. People attending the OECD Seminar included:
 - Representatives of the pesticide regulatory authorities of OECD countries (Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US) and Brazil;
 - Officials from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
 - Representatives of CropLife International (the international association of pesticide manufacturers) and of BIAC (Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD); and
 - Invited experts engaged in spray drift programmes from other key stakeholder groups such as NGOs (Pesticide Action Network and Greenpeace), farmer associations (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) and drinking water providers (European Union of national Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services).
5. A participant list is provided in [Annex 2](#).

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE SEMINAR

6. The main objectives of the Seminar included:
 - to identify key issues concerning pesticide risk reduction through reduction of spray drift;
 - to get a better overview of national and international legislative and non-legislative activities for promoting the adoption of spray drift reduction technologies by farmers and other pesticide users to reduce risks from using agricultural pesticides;
 - to exchange information on OECD countries' current activities in the areas of spray drift reduction;
 - to suggest options of further steps for OECD countries and key stakeholders in OECD and non-OECD countries to address the identified issues; and
 - to recommend possible further steps for OECD.
7. In particular the following issues were discussed during the Seminar:
 - spray drift models
 - buffer zones
 - application technologies
 - spray drift action plans
 - information of neighbours
 - good agricultural practices

STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

8. The first part of the Seminar in the morning was devoted to presentations from governments and other stakeholders. The second part in the afternoon consisted of roundtable discussions that built on issues that arose from morning presentations, and recommendations for the OECD. The Seminar Programme is provided in [Annex 1](#).

GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDER EXPERIENCE & PERSPECTIVES WITH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION TECHNOLOGIES AND POLICIES

9. Government representatives of Canada, Germany, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Australia and the US first presented their experiences with spray drift reduction strategies in their own countries. Then representatives of the industry (water and pesticide manufacturers), farmers, NGOs and the research area presented their actions and concerns related to spray drift. All presentations are available in [Annex 3](#).

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

10. Following the presentations reviewing the existing spray drift programmes in OECD countries and among various stakeholders, the floor was opened to all Seminar participants for a roundtable discussion. The following points guided the discussion:

- Regulatory requirements that exist in different countries, and existing guidance and other voluntary measures concerning spray drift reduction
- Economic aspects related to innovation and adoption of spray drift reduction technologies
- Good practices and innovative approaches
- Barriers to and solutions for the development of spray drift reduction technologies
- Opportunities for further development for all stakeholders.

Common approaches towards spray drift reduction strategies in OECD countries

11. The various presentations demonstrated that there were commonalities in the strategies developed and used for reducing risk from spray drift. The emphasis on some aspects could vary among countries, hence different risk mitigation measures.

12. There is a range of possible approaches that use and combine habitat protection considerations (buffer zones), technical aspects (drift reduction equipment, drift deposition modelling), regulatory aspects (label restrictions) and non-legislative activities (education & training programmes, including best practices). These policies also integrate the fact that spray drift occurs under non-controllable (e.g. wind speed and directions, temperature, humidity, crop structure) and controllable conditions (e.g. field practice, non-spray zones, nozzle type, spray pressure).

Buffer zones

13. Establishing buffer zones (where no spray is allowed) constitutes a common measure to protect the ecosystems (aquatic, but also terrestrial – as well as residential/suburban environments). In some countries, buffer zones are part of a mandatory system while in others they are listed among recommended practices. There are a number of parameters that could affect the determination of a buffer zone, including the nature of the crops, pesticide uses, wind directions. These parameters combined with drift deposition models and actual field data sets could help define buffer zones. It was also noted that depending on the country geography and land use (and thus on national risk mitigation policies), there could be important differences in buffer zone sizes, with for example the width of a buffer zone ranging from some centimetres to hundreds of meters.

Drift reduction technologies

14. Drift reduction equipment was also often presented as an effective way of reducing drift at its source. Such sprayers influence the droplet size (and thus the potential to drift) and use techniques such as stabilizers and air-inducted nozzles. When used, these technologies could lead to reduce buffer zone widths (with sometimes no more buffer zones necessary). Low- or anti-drift nozzle classifications (and standards) leading to a certain reduction (%) in spray drift appear to be well documented. However, while many countries indicated that they have available lists of reduced-drift equipment (e.g. published in national registers) the meeting took note that there may be some potential for more stakeholders' awareness of these techniques, through more advertising. In addition, it was reported that nozzle testing and equipment/sprayer inspections were also well in place.

Labels

15. Among the regulatory measures, labels are a direct communication tool towards users regarding buffer zone and drift reduction equipment recommendations, in addition to restrictions linked to rate, time of applications, wind speed, etc. The Seminar participants recognized that label directions were often complex and confusing for farmers. It was stressed that texts of the labels should remain simple to get farmers' wide acceptance.

Education and training

16. Education and training were seen as key factors that could lead to drift and risk reduction. Many participants indicated that it was important to guide and train farmers on newer and safer technologies. Extension services, advisors, industry stewardship programmes could all contribute to make farmers more aware of available techniques and best practices for limiting spray drift.

Other approaches for spray drift reduction

17. Industry mentioned the importance of additives in spray mix as drift control agents. Additives include adjuvants (such as spreaders, wetters, stickers or anti-evaporants), crop oils, fertilizers, drift retardants (polymers and thickeners). Additives play a role on water evaporation and sometimes on droplet size.

18. Some research is also carried out to use barrier vegetation and other edges to limit and modify drift deposition, in particular at the frontier between agricultural and residential areas.

19. Some participants stressed that one challenge faced with spray drift reduction technologies was the balance among economic aspects (e.g. cost of equipment at the farmer's level, but also consequences on international trade), agricultural sustainability (e.g. width of buffer zones) and environment protection.

SEMINAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS

20. The Seminar developed a number of recommendations for promoting spray drift reduction technologies and policies. These included:

- **Education and training are key for spray drift reduction** (as in other pesticide risk reduction areas). All stakeholders are encouraged to communicate with users and farmers about available techniques (reduced-drift technologies) and existing standards, buffer zone implementation and other label directions.
- **Incentives and rewards should be developed and promoted for farmers that use and adopt drift reduction techniques.**
- **Use of non-chemical alternatives in plant protection and use of reduced risk products** should be promoted wherever practicable.
- **Messages (e.g. on labels) and tools (e.g. choice of specific drift reduction nozzles) should be simple.** It was recognised that the scientific background and the technical/political rationale behind these messages and tools could be complex; however, at the users'/farmers' level, they should be kept simple and readily understandable to get wide acceptance.

Other important findings

21. It was recognised that pesticide drift is not just spray drift. It also includes post-application drift, i.e. volatilization that is gaining a lot of attention in North America, in particular for the adverse health effects in residential areas.

Recommendations for possible further OECD work

22. One main recommendation for the OECD was the **establishment of a network of experts on spray drift**. It was suggested that this network could be informal in nature and propose innovative ideas in a proactive way. While it would be up to the OECD Risk Reduction Steering Group to set up this network*, the following activities for the network were recommended:

- **develop a website** on spray drift information
- **collect available information** (through a survey/compilation e.g. on more countries' approaches, on activities carried out in other organizations, on existing standards/models/scenarios)
- **exchange experience** and documentation
- **provide a best practice framework on spray drift management.**

* The RRSB met on the following day and endorsed the Seminar recommendation to set up a network of experts.

ANNEX 1

PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION SEMINAR

**RISK REDUCTION THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AS PART OF NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

12 June 2008, Paris, France

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

9.00 a.m.	<p>Introduction by Chair (Wolfgang Zornbach, Germany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and structure of the Seminar • Tour de table to introduce participants
	<p>Government Experience and Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada: <i>Habitat protection from pesticide spray drift: Canadian Approach</i> (Peter Delorme, Director, Product Evaluation, Environmental Assessment Directorate, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada) • Germany: <i>Testing, listing of spray-drift reducing application technique and use as risk mitigation measure to protect the environment in the authorisation procedure</i> (Martin Streloke, Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety) • Czech Republic: <i>Drift reduction possibilities in the Czech Republic</i> (Petr Harasta, Head of the Application Technique Department, Harmful Organisms Section, State Phytosanitary Administration) • Netherlands: <i>Spray drift mitigation measures and the authorisation of pesticides: the Dutch Approach</i> (Ynze Stienstra, Scientific assessor for environmental aspects, CTGB - Board for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides) • Australia: <i>Spray drift risk assessment at the APVMA</i> (Alan Norden, Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority) • USA: <i>EPA's plan to address spray drift</i> (Susan Lewis, Special Review and Reregistration Division, Environmental Protection Agency)

	<p>Stakeholder Experience and Perspectives</p> <p>Industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water industry: <i>The drinking water sector's perspective on pesticides</i> (Durk Krol, Deputy Secretary General, EUREAU (European Union of National Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services)) • CropLife International: <i>Influence of Additives on Drift Reduction</i> (Bernhard Johnen, Manager, International Regulatory Policy, CropLife International) <p>Farmers associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau Français de Coordination du Machinisme Agricole: <i>Application of pesticides - How to bring knowledge and expertise to good agricultural practices with plant protection products</i> (Philippe van Kempen, Agro-equipment engineer) <p>Non-Governmental Organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide Action Network: <i>Monitoring, modelling and urgent mitigations for airborne pesticide drift</i> (Brian Hill, Director, Science Department, PAN North America) <p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Queensland and Lincoln, Australia: <i>Spray drift management</i> (Mark Pace, Director, Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety, University of Queensland)
	<p>Round-table Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory requirements that exist in different countries, and existing guidance and other voluntary measures concerning spray drift reduction • Economic aspects related to innovation and adoption of spray drift reduction technologies • Good practices and innovative approaches • Barriers to and solutions for the development of spray drift reduction technologies • Opportunities for further development for all stakeholders
	<p>Summary of the Discussion, Ideas for Follow-up, Recommendations for possible further OECD work</p>
5.30 p.m.	End of the Seminar

ANNEX 2

PESTICIDE RISK REDUCTION SEMINAR
RISK REDUCTION THROUGH SPRAY DRIFT REDUCTION STRATEGIES
AS PART AS NATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT
12 June 2008, Paris

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Australia/Australie

Alan NORDEN
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

Mark PACE
Director, Vocational Education Centre
Faculty of NRAVS

Canada/Canada

Peter DELORME
Acting Director, Product Assessment Division, Environmental
Assessment Directorate
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
Health Canada

Mary MITCHELL
Director General
Environmental Assessment Directorate
Pest Management Regulatory Agency

**Czech Republic/République
Tchèque**

Petr HARASTA
Head of the Department
Application Technique Dept.
State Phytosanitary Administration

Josef SVARICEK
Plant Protection Products Senior Specialist
State Phytosanitary Administration
Plant Protection Products Section
Methodological Unit

Germany/Allemagne	<p>Wolfgang ZORNBACH Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)</p> <p>Martin STRELOKE Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL)</p> <p>Bernd HOMMEL Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI)</p>
Ireland/Irlande	<p>Dermot SHERIDAN Head of Registration Division, Pesticide Control Service Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food Laboratories</p>
Japan/Japon	<p>Atsuko HORIBE Associate Director Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Plant Products Safety Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Agricultural Chemicals Office</p> <p>Masanobu KIMURA Deputy Director Ministry of the Environment</p>
Mexico/Mexique	<p>Ana Patricia PINEDA ZAVALETA Manager Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks</p>
Netherlands/Pays-Bas	<p>Ynze STIENSTRA Board for the Authorisation of Plant Protection Products and Biocides</p>
New Zealand/ Nouvelle-Zélande	<p>Warren HUGHES Programme Manager (Standards) Approvals and ACVM Group New Zealand Food Safety Authority</p>
United States/États-Unis	<p>Elizabeth BEHL Chief, Environmental Risk Branch 4 Environment Fate and Effects Division Office of Pesticide Programs US Environmental Protection Agency</p>

United States/États-Unis
(continued)

George HERNDON
Deputy Division Director
US Environmental Protection Agency

Jane HOPKINS
Field and External Affairs Division
US Environmental Protection Agency

Richard KEIGWIN
Director
Biological and Economic Analysis Division
Office of Pesticide Programs
US Environmental Protection Agency

Susan LEWIS
Branch Chief, Special Review and Reregistration Division
US Environmental Protection Agency

Anne LINDSAY
Deputy Director for Programs
Office of Pesticide Programs
US Environmental Protection Agency

Lois ROSSI
Director, Registration Division
US Environmental Protection Agency

Brazil/Brésil

Luis Eduardo PACIFICI RANGEL
General Manager for Pesticides
Input Inspections Department
Ministry of Agriculture

**Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)/Food
and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)**

Theodor FRIEDRICH
Senior Officer
Crop and Grassland Service
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Business and Industry
Advisory Committee
(BIAC)/Comité consultatif
économique et industriel
(BIAC)**

Brenda HARRIS
Regulatory & Government Affairs Manager
Dow AgroSciences Canada Inc

Peter HORNE
Global Regulatory Affairs Manager
DuPont Crop Protection Products/Croplife

BIAC (continued)	Bernhard JOHNEN Director CropLife International
European Union of national Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services (EUREAU)/ European Union of national Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services (EUREAU)	Durk KROL EUREAU European Federation of National Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services
International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)/Federation Internationale des Producteurs Agricoles (FIPA)	Philippe VAN KEMPEN Ingénieur Agro-équipement FIPA
Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)/ Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA)	Brian HILL Director Science Department Pesticide Action Network North America
Greenpeace/Greenpeace	Manfred KRAUTTER Greenpeace E.V.
OECD/OCDE	Sylvie PORET Principal Administrator Environment Directorate Richard SIGMAN Principal Administrator Environment Directorate Béatrice GRENIER Environment Directorate