

PSEP FUNDING WORKGROUP – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

March 15, 2013 - Conference Call Notes

Attendees: Carol Somody (Syngenta); Dave Scott (IN); Andrew Thostenson (ND); Jeanne Kasai (EPA); Lee Van Wychen (WSSA); Leslie Gilbert (USDA); Liza Fleeson (VA).

The 15 March meeting of the Federal Government Work Group commenced with a brief report of work group activities:

- State Funding Work Group – The Work Group has completed the task of gathering information on how State Lead Agencies can support PSEPs and begun the work of organizing this information into a document that PSEPs can use as a resource as they seek future funding.
- Non – Governmental Funding Work Group – The Work Group continues to work on both short and long term funding options. Two new groups (CCA and APLU) have joined the Team efforts. In conjunction with the Other Work Group, a small group is looking at the PSEP Survey and attempting to determine base funding levels for PSEPs. This information is important when requesting funding from registrants. The Work Group continues to identify challenges and consider the process for committing funds.
- Other Work Group – The Work Group is currently focusing its efforts on understanding the financial conditions of PSEPs. To date, 42 programs have responded to the PSEP Survey. As mentioned, this information is pertinent as we seek sustainable funding. The data is currently being analyzed and will be shared with the full Team.

A brief overview of the potential funding sources considered to date by the Federal Funding Work Group was provided. In general, increases in funding levels from federal funding sources, for example, through the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act, require legislative action and are long term. Regarding possible federal funding sources and the actions needed, Somody requested the following:

1. A proposal be presented to the Full Team that the Federal Funding Work Group draft a document on behalf of the Team for industry/registrants to take to Congress for seeking changes to the federal PSEP funding level (EPA line item and/or pesticide maintenance fees);
2. Information regarding where EPA FIFRA Penalty Dollars must go, for example, could they go to PSEPs under USDA-NIFA OR if related to the violation, i.e. could the penalty dollars be used to fund a training program as part of a negotiated settlement?; and
3. A proposal be presented to the Full Team that the Federal Funding Work Group draft a position paper on behalf of the Team reiterating to NIFA that pesticide safety education

is an integral part of IPM Programs and should be clearly eligible for IPM funding. Draft language should be offered to NIFA to be considered for future RFAs.

Regarding the proposal that the Work Group draft information for industry when seeking a legislative change, it was noted that a critical component of any proposal, to be able to move forward, is the message. It was offered that the Team is still in the process of gathering relevant information which will be used in the drafting of its communications regarding pesticide safety education, for example, base funding needed for a PSEP program. Also, prior to any proposal being presented to the Full Team, did the Work Group have the expertise to draft such a proposal? Van Wychen offered that the Pesticide Policy Coalition (PPC) may be able to move legislation forward given their expertise in this area. For a legislative change, the best “vehicle” or bill has to be identified to move through the process. The question was asked if the Farm Bill would be an appropriate vehicle to include pesticide safety education. Van Wychen stated that although it involved the same players, it was a different process than, for example, adding a line item for pesticide safety education.

Regarding the possible uses of EPA FIFRA Penalty Dollars to fund pesticide safety education programs, Kasai offered to research the issue and provide follow-up information to the Work Group.

Finally, regarding the proposal that the Work Group draft a position paper and language to be included in further IPM RFAs to explicitly include pesticide safety education as eligible for funding, Gilbert offered to pass any draft language we propose by NIFA members for their comments and suggestions.

The Full Team conference call is scheduled for April 9, 2013 at 11 AM.

Call adjourned at 12 PM.