

Canadian Fertilizer
Products Forum



Forum canadien sur
les produits fertilisants

**The
CANADIAN FERTILIZER PRODUCTS FORUM
in 2009**

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Chair, Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum

CEO & Chair Plant Inoculants Canada

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RETIRED !





The starting point

- The inoculants industry, as well as micro-nutrients, lawn & garden product manufacturers, bio-solids producers and composters were very frustrated with the slowness and inefficiencies in the regulatory process operated by CFIA Fertilizers Section
- Regulatory “backlog” existed. New products were taking too long to get approval for sale
- CFIA acknowledged that problems existed and moved forward through the federal Smart Regulation Initiative
- Initiatives by Plant Inoculants Canada, Canadian Fertilizer Institute & with support of CFIA, lead to the formation of the Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum in March 2006





Initial funding from ACAAF

- CFIA supported an application for \$707,600 ACAAF 2-year funding for CFPF.
- Funding approved Fall 2006
- Contract managed by Canadian Fertilizer Institute





What We Set Out to Achieve

CFPF Mandate

- Facilitate consensus-based advice to Canadian Food Inspection Agency–Fertilizer Section that will improve the efficiency of the regulatory process
- Create a forum for dialogue with regulators and other stakeholders, on current & emerging regulatory processes.
- Promote a consultative, non-adversarial regulatory milieu that will ensure domestic & export markets get timely access to products with proven efficacy and human & environmental safety .





Desired outcomes (CFPF Mission Statement)

- **Improve** the efficiency of the Canadian **regulatory system** and policies for fertilizers and supplements that will encourage innovation, economic and environmental sustainability and international leadership;
- Support **regulatory foresight** that will result in **fast and efficient approval of** new products based on emerging fertilizer & supplement technologies.





The Vision

CFPF Vision

Fertilizer and supplement stakeholders have an established framework in which they can participate, provide feedback and consultation so that the regulatory system is fully modernized and ensures users that fertilizer and supplements in Canada are globally competitive and that users have access to new products in a timely manner.





CFPF in 2009

- Funding contract with ACAAFF was wound down in 2008
- No other funding located; industry unwilling to contribute significant cash
- Moved to 100% volunteer run model; working through *ad hoc*, industry-led, Working Groups, without direct financial support of any kind
- Membership is free & is open to all stakeholders
- Canadian Fertilizer Institute provides basic services for CFPF (admin/web/annual FORUM)





Good progress has been made

- Industry/CFIA Working Groups are active & are achieving results
- New Working Groups continue to be formed –several at the request of CFIA
- Positive working relationships have been established between the regulated parties and CFIA
- Not all plain sailing, but process is robust enough to survive disagreements & reach compromises
- CFPF's consultative approach to regulatory policy development is providing positive outcomes for the regulators and the regulated parties





Projects completed

- Revision of T4 103 Field Trial Authorization
- Efficacy guidelines
- Micronutrient Guidelines
- Low/No phosphate fertilizers
- Marketplace Monitoring
- Regulatory Period increased from 24 to 36 months
- [Introduction of Service Delivery Standards by CFIA]





Current Working Group projects

- T4 109 RSEWG -"simplified" regulatory process for inoculants
- Regulatory Guide compilation (CFIA) A –Z guide for registrants
- Specialty Fertilizers Labeling WG -mostly lawn & garden products
- Slow & Controlled Release Fertilizers WG –technology definitions; efficacy standards
- Reports from each of these ongoing groups will be presented later today





Potential future projects

- Regulation of dual property microbial products
- On-line application for registration & renewals
- Continue annual stakeholder sessions (FORUM) to identify & prioritize issues to be addressed, including regulators issues
- Other projects as they arise from industry concerns or CFIA policy initiatives





Testing the process

- CFIA tightening of regulations for re-registration of existing microbial products is causing concern
- Affects many established products
- RSEWG is working with CFIA to come up with a “win/win” solution
- First major sticking point encountered in the working group process
- We believe the system is robust & will provide resolution





Summary

- The CFPF process has proven to work well for both stakeholders and the regulators. An original large investment by ACAAF has paid-off
- CFPF is successful because of the consultative approach taken by CFIA and the willingness of industry to actively engage in the process
- It has proven possible to continue the work without direct financial support
- Industry's immediate issues/concerns have been largely addressed & CFPF continues to work proactively with CFIA
- Primary vehicles continue to be issue-specific, *ad hoc* Working Groups





Final thoughts

- The CFPF-CFIA process is being suggested as a model for policy development in other federal regulatory agencies, both agricultural and non-agricultural, by officials in Ottawa.

WOW !!!





Thank you

Any questions?

