

Canadian Fertilizer  
Products Forum



Forum canadien sur  
les produits fertilisants

**The  
CANADIAN FERTILIZER PRODUCTS FORUM  
in 2010**

**Peter McCann**

**Chair, Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum  
CEO & Chair Plant Inoculants Canada  
President, Brighton BioConsulting**





# 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





# 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 now

- 100% volunteer run model; working through *ad hoc*, industry-led, Working Groups, without direct financial support of any kind
- Canadian Fertilizer Institute provides valuable administrative services for CFPF (admin/web/annual FORUM )
- Membership is free & is open to all stakeholders (industry, agriculture, government, public)
- We strive for maximum transparency through open discussion and web postings ([www. http://www.cfpf-fcpf.ca/](http://www.cfpf-fcpf.ca/))





# Good progress has been made

- The registration applications backlog has been effectively eliminated & we continue to press for improved Service Delivery Standards
- Industry/CFIA Working Groups continue to be active and to continue to achieve results
- New Working Groups continue to be formed at the request of industry and/or CFIA. Some may be formed depending on outcome of discussions today and tomorrow
- Positive working relationships continue between the regulated parties and CFIA
- Not all plain sailing, but process is robust enough to survive disagreements & reach compromises





# Projects already completed

- Revision of T4 103 Field Trial Authorization
- Efficacy Guidelines – modernization of T-4-108
- Micronutrient Guidelines
- Fertilizer-Pesticide Guidelines
- Low/No phosphate fertilizers – standards/labelling requirements
- Marketplace Monitoring improvements
  - Program tracking imported products
  - Program targeting distributors and warehouses
- Regulatory Period increased from 24 to 36 months
- Specialty Fertilizers Labeling WG -mostly lawn & garden products
- Compost standards and requirements – T-4-120





# Ongoing Working Group projects

- T4 109 revision (imminent publication of draft version)
- Regulatory Guide compilation (CFIA) A –Z guide for registrants
- Environmental Stewardship Labelling for lawn / turf and garden fertilizers





# Potential future projects

- Revision of Schedule 2 (if agreed a WG would be helpful)
- Review, analysis and position on efficacy (RSEWG ?)
- 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





# Reviewing the process

- The CFPF is able to provide CFIA with well informed technical input to regulatory policy development
- CFPF members have the opportunity to get their views heard via the working group process
- CFIA welcomes input but must hold fast to the principles established in the Fertilizer Act & Regulations
- It is a slow & sometimes frustrating process –by industry standards
- However industry continues to be strongly supportive





# Summary

- We believe the system is robust & will continue to provide benefits to both regulators and the regulated parties
- 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





## Final thoughts

- The strength of Canadian Fertilizer Products Forum derives from you, the members.
- We have developed a new model which directly benefits companies wanting to bring new products to market
- Get involved & get your voices heard !!!





**Thank you, get involved in  
the discussion groups &  
enjoy the next two days**



**Any questions?**

