

Dear Cotton Colleagues,

I wish to thank you for your time and for meeting with Gilberto Castro and myself last week as part of a very important advisory process to this new project. I would like to briefly summarize our discussions and invite your further input on how we can have a very successful interaction this summer in support of your cotton industry.

US-EPA has a program that helps support pollution prevention programs along the U.S.-Mexican border. They had an interest in seeing programs put in place to assist Mexican growers improve their Integrated Pest Management programs. I therefore submitted a proposal that was partially funded for 12 months (May 2012 to May 2013) to support research and educational programs targeting the cotton industry in the Mexicali and San Luis valleys area. This “technical assistance agreement” is administered by the Mexican agency known as BECC or the Border Environment Cooperation Commission.¹

Our goals are straightforward. **We wish to provide educational and grower-cooperative research and demonstration programs that will help growers transition to reduced-risk insect pest management practices in cotton.** We hope to accomplish this in partnership with your industry to provide:

- A. Workshops and other field trainings
- B. Spanish language translated publications, advisories and other communications
- C. Regular site visits and informal training
- D. Several field demonstrations / grower cooperative research

To be successful with our limited resources and time, we will need as much cooperation from your industry as possible. Specifically, we identified the following needs:

- 1) Broad agreement for cooperation, communication and collaboration including permission for our personnel to visit area cotton fields, some on a regular basis.
- 2) Cooperation in identifying and locating several sites for deployment of field demonstrations.
- 3) Ability to communicate broadly to the industry and/or to the entomologist / technicians periodically through email or other means for publicizing workshops, educational seminars, and other information relevant to this project.
- 4) Logistical support such as secured office/lab space, access to a microscope, electricity, etc., for University of Arizona personnel to use in processing insect samples.
- 5) Other logistical support (meeting / conference rooms) for conducting trainings periodically.
- 6) Informational support and data to meet the needs of the project, including cotton field maps for the entire area, identification and contact information for all the major stakeholders (grower cooperatives, government and other agencies and interested parties), and some set of pesticide records (especially insecticides) for describing current and past practices, in aggregate, for the area.
- 7) Regular input from this Advisory Committee to help guide our programs and insure their effectiveness.²

The group was very helpful in discussing each of these needs and specific individuals or agencies that can provide the needed items. My notes on who will help with what are incomplete. I ask your assistance in finalizing this list of ACTION ITEMS below. **I also ask that you each formally play an advisory role to our project, as your input has already been extremely valuable.** I apologize if I have misspelled names or agencies involved.

Action Items (Bolded names indicate person(s) responsible for the item)

- 1) Pink bollworm eradication personnel will provide cotton field maps to Peter Ellsworth as soon as possible (**Roberto Roche**).
- 2) 11 cooperatives have been identified to me, representing about 39,000 ha. **Ramon Cinco** (ABC) and **Gaby Machado** (PAMSA) have agreed to check into getting insecticide use records from as many of the cotton cooperatives as possible. Full usage records are not absolutely necessary but are welcome. Representative records from each cooperative would also be useful. In all cases, the data would be provided directly to Peter Ellsworth and held in confidence. No individual practice would ever be shared with others; only aggregate data for the region would be provided in presentations to the industry and others. This permits us to measure any future changes in pesticide use practices.
- 3) The group agreed that it would be best to identify at least 2 fields (one early-normal planting date and one late planting date) from each cooperative as candidates for any demonstration testing of IPM strategies. This would mean each of the 11 cooperatives would provide location information for two cotton fields near the northern edge of the production area. **Ramon Cinco, Solio Hernandez (BajaMex)** and **Gaby Machado** will facilitate the collection of this information from each cooperative and provide to University of Arizona personnel.
- 4) Provide access to secure office/laboratory space for University of Arizona personnel at Comité de Sanidad Vegetal de Baja California (CESVBC) (**Roberto Roche**)
- 5) **Soilo Hernandez** (Systema Producto Algodon) has committed his contact list to our project and will send out communications to those individuals or groups as needed. Gilberto Castro and/or Ramon Cinco will assist in the translation of my English communications to the group.
- 6) Please provide input on any other stakeholders who were missing from our initial meeting but should also be invited to become a member of this University of Arizona / IPM Advisory Committee (**All advisory members please provide input**)

Other Business

Scheduling of next visit by Peter Ellsworth to the area. I suggest the week of June 4th [RCC suggest June 5th and have the advisory group meeting same day in the afternoon) The main goal will be to visit local fields under consideration for regular seasonal monitoring by Univ. of Arizona staff or for demonstration research. I would also like to visit with the technicians involved from each cooperative, individually or as a group.

Scheduling of next meeting of advisory group? June 5th at 5:00 PM

Footnotes:

¹ Information on what BECC's relationship is to other agencies in the U.S. and Mexico

"The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) and the North American Development Bank (NADB) were created in 1993 under a side-agreement to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the purpose of enhancing the environmental conditions of the US-Mexico border region and advancing the well-being of residents in both nations."

From the beginning of their operations, BECC & NADB have been working on certification and funding of environmental infrastructure projects in cooperation with both EPA and SEMARNAT, which are the National Coordinators agencies of Border 2012. In 2005, a cooperative agreement was signed with US-EPA (Region 9) to request BECC to provide grant management for Border 2012 projects in the California-Baja California and Arizona-Sonora Regions. In this framework, BECC manages the funds assigned by EPA to this program, and in addition, BECC supervises the projects.

PROFEPA (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente) is a Mexican Federal Agency. BECC maintains an institutional relationship with them as part of SEMARNAT, with no other formal or legal link.

² The University of Arizona / Mexicali Area Cotton IPM Partnership Advisory Committee

Gaby Machado (PAMSA; Productores Algodoneros de Mexicali, S.A.)

Ramon Cinco (ABC, Algodonera de Baja California, S.A.)

Soilo Hernandez (SPA, Sistema Producto Algodón, en B.C. and Algodonera BajaMex)

Roberto Roche (CESV-BC, Gerente de Comité Estatal de Sanidad Vegetal en B.C., Farmers Association)

Maximiliano Cervantes (Jefe de Sanidad Vegetal- SAGARPA, Federal Agency)

Francisco Navarro (FMC)

Juan Quiñonez (FMC)

Other potential committee members for consideration

Ari T. Mateos Mahler (Monsanto / Deltapine)

Cesar Lopez Mapula (Bayer CropScience)

Eduardo Gutierrez (USDA-Mexicali)

Javier Gutierrez (Arysta LifeScience)

Ricardo Mora (Coordinador de Manejo de plagas del Algodonero del CESV-BC)

Roberto Soto (Director, ICA-UABC; Instituto de Ciencias Agrícolas - Universidad Autónoma de Baja California)

Ted Boratynski (USDA APHIS PPQ, El Centro, CA)

Walter Albeldano (Valent)

³ **Cotton Cooperatives in Mexicali and San Luis area**

- A. 50 Agricultores
- B. Algodonera de Baja California
- C. Agorvizion
- D. Algodonera BajaMex Growers
- E. Cooperativa Bonfil
- F. Algodonera Cachanilla
- G. COHERMEZ
- H. Integradora Azteca
- I. Longoria
- J. Algodonera Oro Blanco
- K. Productores de Algodon de Mexicali S. A.

