Message

From: Mercurio, Cristina [Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/16/2019 8:47:14 PM
To: Hill-Macon, Cam [Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov]; Ricciardi, Rachel [Ricciardi.Rachel@epa.gov]
CC: Emdur, Zoe [Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Thanks, Cam. I copied Rachel on my response.

Cristina

From: Hill-Macon, Cam
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Ricciardi, Rachel <Ricciardi.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>; Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

FYI, just to keep you in the loop since Zoe is out. No action from you is needed.

Cam Hill-Macon
EPA/OITA
+202-564-6408

From: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 2:33 PM
To: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>; Gilmore, John F - APHIS <John.F.Gilmore@aphis.usda.gov>
Cc: Hill-Macon, Cam <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>; Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>; Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Good afternoon,

I apologize for a late reply. I was out for a work conference.

Yes, I had received a note from Carlos asking if it would be possible to schedule a separate EPA meeting for the Brazilian government officials vs the meeting with industry officials. I am afraid that there was miscommunication among the delegation members on who was organizing what and how. As a result, while private industry (Aprosoja) was talking with me, the government officials were talking with their USG counterparts in APHIS, USDA. I have included John Gilmore, the head of APHIS Brazil office on this communication to close the loop. The dynamics between the two groups are good, they work similar to how USDA works with US cooperators (if you are familiar with that structure). However, the reason they are now requesting separate meetings is that the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture doesn't want a conflict of interest with industry.

I really apologize for the confusion on this. If it would be possible to accommodate both groups with an hour-ish meeting each, I would really appreciate it. However, from my perspective I also understand if that's not possible given your bandwidth. If so, please let me and John Gilmore know.

Thank you, and happy to discuss further,

Jenia

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From: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 1:55 PM
To: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>
Cc: Hill-Macon <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>; Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>; Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Hi Jenia,

I wanted to check in with you on the following inquiry from:
Carlos Goulart
Diretor
Departamento de Sanidade Vegetal e Insumos Agrícolas – DSV – Secretaria de Defesa de Agropecuária – SDA
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento

Given our limited bandwidth, I wanted to check in with you to get your sense of the importance of this request. They also seem to be looking for a 3-4 day visit which we would not be able to accommodate. We might be able to hold a 1-2 hour meeting with them depending on whether we determine this is a priority.

It would also be good to understand the dynamics between the two organizations.

Thanks for any feedback you can provide.

All the best.

Cristina

Cristina Mercurio
Brazil and Middle East/North Africa Program Manager
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tel. 1-202-564-6481
E-mail: mercurio.cristina@epa.gov

From: Carlos Goulart <carlos.goulart@agricultura.gov.br>
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 5:04 PM
To: Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>; Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Cc: Luiz Claudio de Santana e Caruso <luiz.caruso@agricultura.gov.br>
Subject: MAPA visit EPA DICAMBA
Importance: High

Dear Emdur and Mercurio,

I was oriented by the APHIS-IS to contact you to talk about our intention to send an mission to collect facts and experiences from EPA and other US government dealing with the technology of soybean/cotton varieties resistant to the herbicide Dicamba because its drifting problems.
We know that APROSOJA (brazilian association of soybean producers) has scheduled and visit to EPA in August and only last week we receive the orientation to plan our mission separately from the private sector.
We are planning an mission to cover 3 points:
- Meeting with our counterpart at regulatory level to gather experience to address the issue;
- Field visit to a local where the problem occur or persit
- Field visit to a local where it´s considered the issue was properly managed

We think this agenda can be done in 3 or 4 working days and would like to know if it´s possible to do in August, maybe at the same week that APROSOJA will be doing their visits but we are open to other dates if it´s better for you.
Our Agricultural Attaché, Mr Caruso, will help us with the arrangenments.

Best Regards,
Carlos Goulart
Diretor
Departamento de Sanidade Vegetal e Insumos Agrícolas - DSV - Secretaria de Defesa de Agropecuária - SDA
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>; Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Cc: Hill-Macon, Cam <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>; Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Works for my schedule. Thank you for organizing!

Jenia

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From: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 2:56 PM
To: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>; Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Cc: Hill-Macon <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>; Emdur, Zoe <Emdur.Zoe@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Hello Jenia,

I think a call would be helpful. I'm copying Zoe Emdur who is helping to coordinate this request so that she and/or her colleagues can join this discussion. Would next Wed, May 8, work everyone for a call? 2:30?

Thanks.

Cristina

Cristina Mercurio
Brazil and Middle East/North Africa Program Manager
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Tel. 1-202-564-6481
E-mail: mercurio.cristina@epa.gov

From: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>; Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Cc: Hill-Macon, Cam <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Good afternoon,

I am happy to discuss more in person, perhaps we can do a phone call if helpful. Or I can answer questions via email.

Just to follow up, our contacts have specifically asked for the meeting with EPA on August 14, 2019 at 9 am on the topic of "Understanding Dicampa use for Xtend soybean variety, and its regulation at the federal and state level."

Happy to discuss,
Jenia

Jenia Ustinova
Adida Agrícola | Agricultural Attaché
Departamento de Agricultura dos Estados Unidos | U.S. Department of Agriculture/Foreign Agricultural Service
Embaixada dos Estados Unidos no Brasil | U.S. Embassy Brasilia

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

evgenia.ustinova@fas.usda.gov

Official
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From: Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Cc: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>; Hill-Macon <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Hi Cristina,

I will likely serve as the go-between for now and am happy to help. You can copy Jenia also.

I understand from Jenia's colleagues, the specific herbicide that they are having drift issues with is Dicamba. They are interested in how EPA has resolved similar drift problems. Their preference is for a meeting with Brazilian government

and industry association participation. However, if EPA is not comfortable meeting with industry, then the Brazilian government agency could meet alone with EPA.

Thanks for your help on this,
--Pablo

From: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 9:55 AM
To: Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Cc: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>; Hill-Macon <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Hi Pablo,

Thanks for the update. Will you or Jenia be the go between for EPA as we work on setting up a meeting in August with the Brazilian visitors? I'll let you know if other questions arise.

All the best.

Cristina

Cristina Mercurio
Brazil and Middle East/North Africa Program Manager
Office of International and Tribal Affairs
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E-mail: mercurio.cristina@epa.gov

From: Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 9:56 PM
To: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Cc: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Brazil pesticide inquiry

Hi Cristina,
So the request has changed a bit, but for background USDA was involved in the earlier request and they thought EPA was the best place to inquire about possible support.

Here is the update to the earlier request:

USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS, Jenia copied) met with the association and they no longer need an event speaker.

However, they will be traveling to Washington August 12-15 and are seeking our help in setting up meetings at USDA and EPA. FAS will handle the USDA part. However they asked if you or someone else in EPA could help respond to their request for an EPA meeting?

Specific timeslots:
14 August after lunch; or
15 August morning

Topic:
Controlling pesticide drift from one farm to another. How the U.S. researchs, regulates, and enforces rules on pesticide drift.

Delegation:
Representatives from APROSOJA – Brazil's Grain and Soybean producers association
Representatives from Ministry of Agriculture / Agricultural defense department.

If you need more info to help respond to this request, Jenia could try to track it down with the Association.

Does this make sense?

Thanks in advance for your help,

—Pablo

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 16 April 2019 17:45:52 GMT-3, Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Pablo,

Our folks are somewhat confused by this request. Do you know if they are looking for someone to answer general questions or to attend the event? They are also asking if you have been in touch with USDA on this issue.

As you can probably guess, EPA would not have the travel resources to support a trip to Brazil for on this issue.

Thanks.

Cristina

Cristina Mercurio

Brazil and Middle East/North Africa Program Manager

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Tel. 1-202-564-6481

E-mail: mercurio.cristina@epa.gov

From: Valdez, Pablo M <ValdezPM2@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 3:55 PM
To: Mercurio, Cristina <Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov>
Cc: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>; Hill-Macon, Cam <Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Dicamba Drift USA

Hi Cristina,

We got an inquiry from the Brazilian Soybean Association asking is if we could put them in touch with an expert on U.S. experiences with regulating pesticide drift. I'm copying our Ag Attaché. If you think EPA could help, could you please connect us with someone in the agency that handles this issue? Note: the event date below has shifted, and we are confirming the new date.

Thanks for any help you might be able to provide,

--Pablo

Pablo Valdez

Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) Counselor

U.S. Embassy Brasilia

Conselheiro para Meio Ambiente, Ciência, Tecnologia, e Saúde

Embaixada dos Estados Unidos

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

valdezpm2@state.gov

From: Ustinova, Evgenia [mailto:UstinovaJ@state.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Gilmore, John F - APHIS <john.f.gilmore@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Dicamba Drift USA

John –

Oliver mentioned that you may know someone who would be a good fit for this request below. Ill stop by to chat in a few minutes…

Official

UNCLASSIFIED

From: Leonardo Minaré <leonardo@aprosojabrasil.com.br>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Ustinova, Evgenia <UstinovaJ@state.gov>; Fabricio Rosa <fabricio@aprosojabrasil.com.br>
Subject: Dicamba Drift USA

Good morning Jenia,

As previously reported, on March 20 we will hold an event at the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply.

This event will be exclusively for the technology of Bayer Intacta 2 Xtend.

This technology provides resistance to soybean, maize and cotton to Dicamba herbicide.

A few years ago American soybean producers had many problems when these varieties were released commercially.

The problem was the same that we must have here in Brazil, the drift (deriva in portuguese) of the product in the application.

This drift can kill the other vegetables that have no resistance to the herbicide.

I will forward you some links, the USDA and other media reporting the problem with drift

https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Dicamba-Drift

https://www.independentsciencenews.org/environment/dicamba-herbicide-drift-a-disaster-in-2017-will-be-much-worse-in-2018/

https://agfaxweedsolutions.com/2018/06/21/dicamba-injury-reports-2018-drift-issues-becoming-more-evident/

In that way I would like you to be able to indicate someone who can attend this event at the Ministry of Agriculture, to present the problems reported by the American producers and how they have managed to solve, or even succeeded was done.

It could be someone on behalf of the USDA or some American producer, someone who knows the real problem that Americans have gone through and that soon the Brazilian producers will have to go through.

Sincerely

Leonardo Minare Brauna

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