

Technology Transfer

New reduced-risk pest management practices only make a difference when they are used by a large percentage of the agricultural community. New tactics and technologies only will be adopted by a broader audience through outreach, education, and demonstration.



To facilitate the widespread adoption of reduced-risk practices, the SAI and its collaborators use the following methods:

- Grower meetings and grower-to-grower exchanges
- On-farm demonstrations, field days, and crop tours
- Workshops and conferences
- Advisory committees
- Published project results
- Best management practices

SAI Priorities

- Resistance management
- Impaired waterways
- Pollinator protection
- Endangered species protection
- Rodent and predator control in livestock operations
- Alternatives to emergency exemption requests
- Urban/rural interface and volatile pesticides

SAI Is Making A Difference!

From 2003-2006, the SAI helped implement reduced-risk pest management strategies on over **1.2 million acres** of farm land, leading to a **30 percent reduction** in the use of higher-risk pesticides on those acres.

For More Information

Visit www.epa.gov/pestwise/sai to learn:

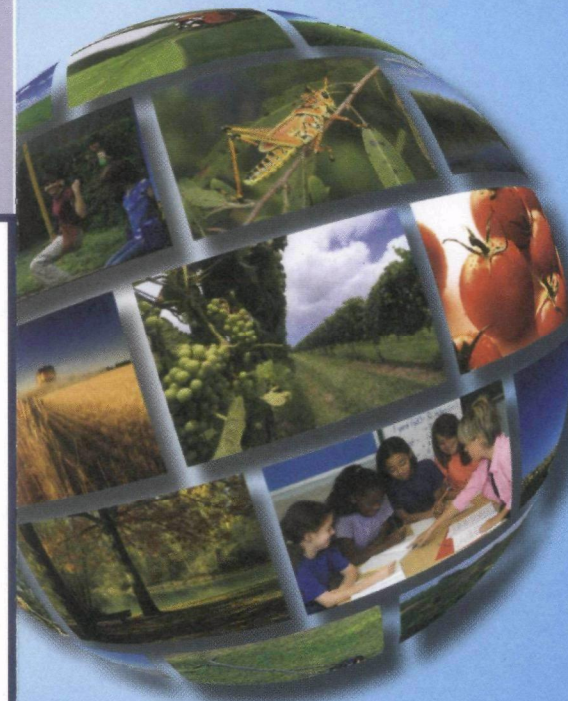
- How to apply for an SAI grant
- Information about previously funded projects
- How to partner with the SAI
- How to contact your Regional SAI Specialist



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Pesticide Programs (7511P)
EPA 731-F-08-005 October 2008

PestWise

Strategic Agricultural Initiative



Promoting the transition to reduced-risk practices

The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) of 1996 requires that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) phase out—or reduce the risks from—many toxic and persistent pesticides used in food production. Implementing the FQPA has significant impacts on specialty crops. These impacts are driving forces in the adoption of new pest management strategies by specialty crop growers. Because some pesticides are no longer available to them, growers need assistance identifying and adopting appropriate and effective reduced-risk alternatives. These alternatives include biological pesticides (biopesticides), advanced pest monitoring, pheromone mating disruption, and other Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.

Strategic Agricultural Initiative

The Strategic Agricultural Initiative (SAI) is an innovative partnership between EPA and the agricultural community. SAI promotes the transition away from higher-risk pesticides to agricultural and pest management practices that are economically viable and protect human health and the environment. SAI Regional Specialists work with growers to develop and access new tools necessary to make this transition. SAI provides:

- Grants and technical assistance
- Outreach and communication
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Technology transfer



SAI Grants

Each year, SAI awards approximately \$1.5 million in competitive grants for projects. Although the SAI is funded nationally, grants are awarded through each EPA Region—ensuring that funded projects address each region's unique needs. Projects address one or more of the following goals:

- Use demonstration, outreach, and education to increase the adoption of reduced-risk/IPM practices
- Encourage partnerships to find regional solutions to pest management issues
- Measure and document the risk reduction to the environment, human health, and the community

SAI Specialists – Working With Stakeholders

EPA designates one SAI Specialist in each of the ten EPA Regions. In addition to managing SAI grants, SAI Specialists develop extensive partnerships with a diverse array of agricultural stakeholders (e.g., growers, pesticide users, educators, USDA, and universities). These interactive partnerships:

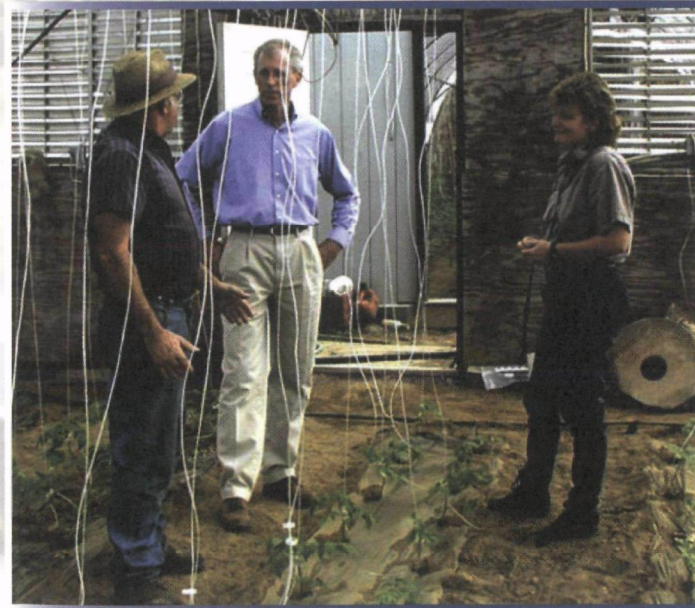
- Help translate Regional grower issues and perspectives to EPA
- Help communicate new developments at EPA to the agricultural community
- Provide technical assistance, outreach, and demonstration
- Facilitate new technology transfer

By facilitating a two-way dialogue between EPA and the specialty crop growers, SAI ensures that EPA can consider a variety of perspectives when acting on important pest management issues.

Please contact the SAI Specialist in your Region for more information on transition assistance.

SAI Partners and Collaborators

- Growers
- Agricultural associations
- Commodity groups
- Trade associations
- Universities and researchers
- Cooperative extension agents
- Food processors
- Environmental groups
- State Departments of Agriculture
- Regional IPM centers
- EPA National Agricultural Compliance Assistance Center
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Sustainable Agriculture, Research, and Education (SARE)
- Other Federal agencies



SAI's John Butler (center) with Amish grower (left) and Cathy Thomas, IPM Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.