

Strategic Agricultural Initiative
Transition Gradient
To Evaluate Pesticide Risk Reduction Projects
(0 – 5 Scale)

- 0 No transition; growers resistant to change current conventional pest management practices; growers rely almost entirely on prophylactic pesticide applications with little effort to monitor pest populations through scouting or forecasting. *Project seeks to raise awareness and provide incentives for change or to identify pest management needs of cropping system.*
- 1 Growers are interested in learning about reduced risk pest management practices. *Project will provide training on specific practices, including a basic introduction to environmental impacts resulting from the mix of practices utilized.*
- 2 Reduced risk pest management practices have been initiated at grower level on a pilot basis; growers at early stages of implementation; *growers need more experience with available tools; economic aspects addressed.*
- 3 Growers utilize key management practices such as scouting, pest identification, knowledge of pest life cycles and monitoring of weather conditions to determine when and what tools to utilize in managing pests; environmental and human health benefits being addressed. *Project might consider ways to make bio-controls and other cultural practices such as crop rotations more affordable.*
- 4 Full implementation of reduced risk pest management practices with primary reliance on bio-controls to manage pest populations when present at economically damaging levels; cultural practices to manage pest populations fully utilized; health and environmental benefits are clearly defined with the use of quantitative and qualitative measures. Growers are actively mentoring others and moving toward a whole systems approach. *Project might focus on possibility of introducing new crops/animals into system. Training being provided in Integrated Crop Management.*
- 5 Adoption of a whole systems approach, such as Integrated Crop Management (ICM) that integrates pest, soil, water, and crop management practices; incorporates conservation planning and focuses on sustainable agriculture with long term outcomes using quantitative measures throughout the project. *Project focuses on transferring existing systems knowledge to other appropriate areas and utilization of new cutting-edge tools to cut costs or reduce risks even further.*

