

Modification of the Peanut Risk Tool Developed at North Carolina State University.

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Peanut growers are challenged by numerous biotic and abiotic stresses and the economics required to adequately address the potential negative impact of these stresses on peanut in their production and pest management approaches. In 2005, funding through the USDA-CAR program and the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association (NCPGA) was used to develop a comprehensive risk tool with input from research and extension specialist at North Carolina State University, Clemson University and Virginia Tech and Cooperative Extension agents. More recently, the peanut risk tool has been expanded to include weeds and other pests in Excel Spreadsheet format. This approach is designed to facilitate updates and modifications by Extension Specialists on a more frequent basis without the need for a computer programmer. The updated version of the risk tool was funded in part by USAID Feed the Future Peanut Innovation Lab and the NCPGA. A risk index for each pest was developed and modeled on spotted wilt and southern corn rootworm indices developed previously. Weed management is being added to the new version of the risk tool. The risk tool includes a screen that provides the total risk when all pests are considered along with recommendations on how practices should be adjusted. As practices are altered to modify risk the change in cost of those decisions is provided. The basic premise and format of the risk tool is designed for other institutions and organizations to use both domestically and internationally.