

CERSA Internship Program 2025

Time of Program: mid-May 2025- mid-August 2025

Submitted by: Nandi Nagaraj

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Location: 5 Laboratory Drive, Research Triangle Park, Durham NC 27519

Travel: None

Brief Description of Company/Agency:

UPL is focused on emerging as a premier global provider of total crop solutions designed to secure the world's long-term food supply. Winning farmers hearts across the globe, while leading the way with innovative products and services that make agriculture sustainable, UPL is the fastest growing company in the industry. Our successes in the field add up to powerful financials. UPL delivers results from protecting crops that translate into attractive investor value. Based on the recognition that humankind is one community, UPL's overarching commitment is to improve areas of its presence, workplace and customer engagement.

Through OpenAg® UPL is challenging the world's food systems – opening up new partnerships, new markets and new technologies to transform agriculture and create sustainable growth for all. For the North American grower, it starts with offering new solutions to age-old problems that will increase productivity and sustainability.

Project Description:

The challenge is straightforward - feeding a global population that will grow 40% by the year 2050, and our heroes are our 400+ million farmers around the globe who toil to feed the society in a sustainable manner. So, how do we feed the world as the world gets bigger and our resources become scarcer? At UPL, we do this by bringing together all the different players in the food system – from farmers to food producers to supermarkets to consumers – with a new purpose. We are creating a network that will change the way a whole industry thinks and works. Opening it all up, to new ideas, new ways, new answers.

Regulatory plays a key role in ensuring scientific risk assessments leads into sustainable solutions for growers who face challenging circumstances. With climate change, these challenges results in extreme conditions for the livelihood of growers & communities they support.

In the US Regulatory world, the pesticide **Label** is the Law, while **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** provides key information to ensure safe & sustainable use of pesticide products to benefit society. In this project opportunity, the intern will work with experienced Regulatory and Compliance experts to learn about these **two main aspects of the EPA processes, and regulations and its implementation**. And how science & commerce come together to benefit the community.

For a sub-set of UPL portfolio of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, and biologicals, the intern will gain direct exposure in ensure alignment & congruence between **Labels & SDS**. The intern will work closely with Regulatory, Supply Chain and other stakeholders, as required to maintain active registrations and the license to sell, distribute or market in the registered states.

Additionally, the intern will learn about **Labels**, the content, the development, the review for accuracy & completeness at Federal and State level. As changes occur to the **Labels**, whether it is initiated due to EPA scientific reviews or driven by new uses or commerce, it is important maintain an understanding & log of such drivers in a systematic way for future reference. The intern will contribute to these efforts & learn from what triggers are associated with **Label** changes, and how it is managed in commercial setting

The new OSHA HAZCOM 2024 standards require pesticide manufacturers to update **SDS** to add or change information which is now required. The intern will assist in reviewing current **SDS** and understanding differences for groups containing same AI for a prioritized list of products.

The intern will also support US Federal Managers in the development of **regulatory strategy** and maintenance of **regulatory databases**.

Outcomes from this Opportunity will include:

The primary areas of learning & impact for the intern includes areas of pesticide **Labels & SDS**. As a hands-on project, the intern will directly contribute to ensuring safe & sustainable use of pesticide products. Exposure to the OpenAg™ Center at UPL in RTP will provide the intern an overview of discovery, research, development and regulatory aspects of Ag. The intern will also appreciate the connections between risk assessments, US Federal and State Regulatory systems, the challenges associated with practical implementation. As an outcome, the intern will have the opportunity to develop & strengthen current understanding of US agriculture regulations, compliance, data assessments, and appreciate the contributions of regulatory professionals.