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NRSP-4 – High Value Specialty Crop Pest Management

Presenter: Mark McLellan for Mary Duryea and Mary Delany

Background:

For over 45 years, the IR-4 Project (NRSP-4) has been the major resource for supplying pest management tools for specialty crops by developing research data to support registration clearances. IR-4 is a national multi-state project designed to link and facilitate research efforts with land grant universities, SAES, NIFA, ARS, commodity organizations and the crop protection industry.

Specialty crops include most: vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, spices, floral, nursery, landscape, turf and Christmas trees. They are high value/low acreage crops and make up about 33% of U.S. agricultural production and \$45 billion in sales.

Mission: To facilitate registration of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and minor uses.

Some 2009 Accomplishments include:

- **952 Specialty Crop Use Registrations:** US EPA established 219 permanent tolerances based on IR-4 submissions. These decisions support 959 new specialty crop use registrations for conventional and reduced risk pest control.
- **Biopesticide Programs Funded 34 Projects:** The Biopesticide Grant Program funded 34 research projects to provide data to support expansions on a number of biopesticide registrations. IR-4's efforts also supported 3 pesticide products which translated into 7 new biopesticide uses on food crops.
- **614 Ornamental Species Impacted by IR-4 work:** The Ornamental Horticulture Program data supported 6 registration decisions impacting 614 ornamental plant species. Additionally IR-4 conducted 1212 trials with greenhouse and field ornamentals crops in support of future registration decisions.

Planning for the Future in 2009:

- IR-4 held a strategic planning conference in December 2008 where stakeholders had an opportunity to provide suggestions on future directions.
- "A Strategic Plan for IR-4 2009-2014" was finalized in April, 2009.
- CSREES sponsored a Peer Review of IR-4 and the strategic plan in May 2009.
- IR-4 developed a renewal proposal and submitted it to the State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors in January 2010.

ACTIONS:

NRSP-4 Project Renewal Request:

The Project, NRSP-4: Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses seeks approval of its renewal proposal for continued Hatch Act Funding for the period of October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2015.

NRSP-4 Budget Request Summary:

The budget request for NRSP-4 for FY 11 through FY15 is at the same level as in previous years (\$481,182 annually). These off-the-top, multi-state funds that NRSP-4 receives partially cover the salaries of senior management and their support team at the national coordination headquarters office located at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. All research activities for NRSP-4 are funded in total by NIFA Special Grants, ARS contributions and unrestricted gifts.

Action Requested: Approval of NRSP-4 Project Renewal