

Agenda Item #15

NRSP-4 – High Value Specialty Crop Pest Management

Presenter: Mary Duryea

Background:

For nearly 50 years, the IR-4 Project (NRSP-4) has been the major resource for supplying reduced risk 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, EPA, commodity organizations and the crop protection industry.

Specialty crops include most fruits, vegetables, herbs, ornamentals and other high value horticultural crops. They are high value/low acreage crops and make up about 40% of U.S. agricultural production with over \$45 billion in sales.

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

Some 2011 Accomplishments include:

- **Economic Impact of IR-4 Assessed:** A Michigan State University study, “Economic Impacts of the IR-4 Project and IR-4 Project Programs” by S.R. Miller and A Leschewski in 2011 concluded that IR-4 supports research and industry sales sufficient to support 104,650 U.S. jobs and bumps annual gross domestic product by \$7.2 billion.
- **382 New Specialty Crop Use Registrations:** US EPA approvals supported 382 potential new registrations for conventional and reduced risk pest control. IR-4 initiated 90 new studies which included 512 field trials throughout the U.S. and 59 in Canada.
- **Biopesticide Programs Funded 22 Projects:** The Biopesticide Grants Program funded 22 research projects to provide data to support expansions on biopesticide registrations. EPA approved new biopesticide registrations for Bacteriophage of *Clavibacter michiganensis* on tomato and *Aspergillus flavus* AF 36 on corn.
- **2572 Ornamental Species Impacted by IR-4 work:** The Ornamental Horticulture Program data supported 11 registrations impacting 2572 ornamental plant species. Additionally IR-4 conducted 1,199 trials with greenhouse and field ornamental crops in support of future registration decisions.
- **Public Health Pesticide Program:** This newest initiative assists in the development and registration of pesticides that protect the public from vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease. The first regulatory package to EPA for a new reduced risk product for adult mosquitos was submitted in 2011.

ACTIONS:

NRSP-4 Project Budget:

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

The budget 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, ARS contributions and unrestricted gifts.

Action Requested: No action required.