

## **NRSP-4** Enabling Pesticide Registrations for Specialty Crops and Minor Uses

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### **Background:**

Fifty years ago, the Directors of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations created a program to assist growers of fruits, vegetables, herbs and other specialty crops with their pest management needs. The IR-4 Project (NRSP-4) has grown to be 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, USDA, EPA, DoD, 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 2013 Accomplishments include:**

- **187 New Specialty Crop Pesticide Tolerances:** US EPA approved 187 new pesticide tolerances supporting 1032 potential new use registrations for conventional and reduced risk pest control.
- **84 new EPA “Magnitude of Residue” studies:** IR-4 initiated 84 new EPA Guideline “Magnitude of Residue” studies to answer priority grower pest management needs; these studies include 534 field trials.
- **Biopesticide and Organic Support Program Funded 23 Projects:** The Biopesticide and Organic Support Program funded 23 research projects to provide data to support future biopesticide registrations. Efficacy research funded through the grant program resulted in the addition of 13 crops to biopesticide labels. IR-4 submitted data to EPA to support 2 new active ingredient registrations.
- **Ornamental Crop Uses Impacted by IR-4 work:** The Ornamental Horticulture Program data supported 5 new labels registered by EPA covering disease, insect/mite and weed management issues. Since the start of the IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture program, more than 160 product labels have been registered or amended, impacting more than 30,800 crop uses.
- **Public Health Pesticide Program:** IR-4 provided major support for new vector control uses for existing insecticides. For example, after four years of work, all-crop tolerances were published for the mosquito adulticide etofenprox.

**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.