



## **Executive Summary**

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/ Meeting Attendees

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: January 15, 2009

SUBJECT: Fall 2008 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting Minutes

Please find attached the December 2008 PMC meeting Executive Summary and minutes from discussions on December 9-11, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel, Washington, DC. The PMC thanks Cheryl Ferrazoli, for making hotel and other meeting arrangements.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact the appropriate PMC or Headquarters Staff member listed by the agenda item, or us, for clarification.

## December 2008 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its fall 2008 meeting on December 9-11, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Washington, DC. The following items were discussed:

### General Items

- Monte Johnson reported: proposed date for release of RFA for 2009 grants is Feb 23, 2009, with a submission due date of March 31, 2009 and the review panel convening in early May. Concern was raised again on how delays in the award would result in IR-4 having to submit extensive paperwork for a 180 day pre-award spending approval. Also noted, CSREES is changing from PurEdge to PDF as the tool for proposal submissions.

Marion Miller is concerned that the wording in the new RFA must include “fee for service”

- IR-4 continues to be very successful in 2008, with at least one Notice of Filing or Final Rule establishing new tolerances every week. It looks as though we are on target for > 1000 new uses registered

### Regions/ARS/HQ Updates

- ARS has hired its third FRD in 3 years at Maricopa, AZ
- Northeast Region –In 2009, the Northeast Region is establishing a partial replacement for tree fruit research at the Rutgers research station in Cream Ridge, NJ, which will become a research center in 2009.
- Southern Region – Michelle Samuel Foo will start as the new Regional Field Coordinator on Jan. 5, 2009
- Western Region – Jim McFarland was not able to attend the Strategic Planning Conference due to an EPA inspection at Colorado State. Riverside, CA is opening as a research center again.
- HQ – 2008 is proving to be another good year. The program continues to be productive.
  - The NRPM was successful. There is a realization there will be a strain on the labs as the program transitions from 4 to 3 labs.
  - The ginseng growers went to Congress seeking support for IR-4. HQ is cautioning people to be conservative about spending.
  - Strategic planning conference details were previewed
  - HQ made a temporary research assistant, Ms. Kathryn Homa, a permanent Study Director.???????

### Other items

- EPA has informed HQ that it will no longer be contributing funds for the Biopesticide Demonstration Grant program
- An economic impact analysis for the Ornamental Horticulture Program has been completed.
- The PMC met with RFC: Funding time lags were brought up as a major concern. Also, training and keeping skilled FRDs was a concern.
- Funding of centers needs to be evaluated. Holding back of a percentage of funds was suggested as a stop gap to funding lags. The PMC will look into this possibility.

- The PMC met with Study Directors. A discussion on where will we find research projects in the future occurred.
- EPA and Barbara Madden's group are doing a phenomenal job at clearing the backlog of submissions.
- It is important that IR-4 works efficiently, i.e. getting the books in on time in order to bundle submissions within the EPA's time frame, especially since we are not a paying customer. This is a point that must be communicated throughout the program.
- FUW - perhaps some changes can be considered such as "A" priorities without solutions, allowing different number of "A"s for entire program not just each discipline, giving "As" according to crop group.
- Dave Soderlund requested a letter from HQ designed to be submitted with the grant applications to explain the laboratory closure and its effect on funding distribution and workload.
- The Laboratory Guidance Document was discussed and suggested edits were noted
  - Motion: Move to adopt the Laboratory Guidance Document as a working document with amendments as noted. Approved.
- A report of the reevaluation of data from five targeted studies from the North Central Analytical Laboratory was provided. No critical situations were found that needed disclosure to EPA.
- The training committee discussed the progress of planning for the upcoming National Education Conference
- The Northeast Region's laboratory closing - planning the closing is progressing as expected with Cornell HR department.
- Materials for the Peer Review are expected by mid-April
- Outcome of Strategic Planning Conference was discussed - many items discussed were concerning managing the program not necessarily strategic planning; this could have been due to the influence of IR-4 personnel, who were the majority of participants. More stakeholder input is needed.
- CLC - Rocky will recommend Laura Phelps to become a new CLC member.



## December 2008 PMC Meeting Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its Fall 2008 meeting on Dec 9-11, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, VA.

### Attendees:

- Jerry Baron - IR-4 Executive Director
- Lori Berger - CLC member, Director of Technical Affairs for the California Specialty Crops Council
- Tammy White Barkalow- IR-4 Assistant Director, Quality Assurance
- Michael Braverman – Biopesticide and Organic Solutions Program
- Doug Buhler - North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Bob Hollingworth - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson (part-time) - CSREES National Program Leader
- Dan Kunkel - IR-4 Associate Director, Registrations
- Rocky Lundy (part-time) - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Marty Marshall - Southern Region Director and PMC Chair
- Marion Miller - Western Region Director
- Sherrilynn Novack – IR-4 Public Relations & Communications Manager
- Cristi Palmer (part-time) – IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager
- Michael Parrella – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Mark Robson (part-time) – Northeast Region Administrative Advisor
- Sally Schneider (part-time)
- Paul Schwartz - ARS Regional Director
- Dave Soderlund - Northeast Region Director
- Van Starner - IR-4 Assistant Director, Research Planning
- Dan Strickland (part-time) – USDA-ARS AA

PMC met briefly with Regional Field Coordinators in the morning Tuesday, Dec. 9, followed by Study Directors.

- Regional Field Coordinators
  - Stephen Flanagan
  - Edith Lurvey
  - Charlie Meister
  - Satoru Miyazaki
  - Rebecca Sisco
- Study Directors
  - Marija Arsenovic
  - Bill Barney
  - Debbie Carpenter
  - Johannes Corley

Keith Dorschner  
Kathryn Hackett-Fields  
Kathryn Homa  
Ray Leonard  
Ken Samoil  
Tracey Switek  
Dave Thompson

## **Tuesday, December 9th**

**Approval of Minutes/new agenda items** - The minutes of the Summer 2008 PMC meeting held July 8-10, 2008, in Portland, OR. MOTION to approve minutes with an amendment handed out by Jerry (a revision to the summary of the Ornamental Program discussion on page 10); B. Hollingworth seconded; MOTION APPROVED. A new item, the selection of a new CLC member, was added to the agenda.

### **Brief updates**

**Administrative Advisors** – Mark Robson will continue as the NE Administrative Advisor even though the majority of his duties have changed at NJAES/Rutgers.

**ARS** – Paul Schwartz reported they have hired their third FRD in Maricopa, AZ in 3 years

**CSREES** - Monte Johnson reported: the proposed release date of the 2009 grant RFA is February 23, submission date March 31 and panel will convene in early May. CSREES will be using a new on-line submission system that supports Adobe pdf submissions. They have hired a consultant to help with the transition.

**North Central Region** – Bob Hollingworth reported that the space issue discussions are still in progress; it is still up-in-the-air about their potential move.

**Northeast Region** – Dave Soderlund suggested a document be prepared about the NE lab closure that can be included in each regions proposal submitted for 2009 funding to explain shifts in workload based on IR-4 management restructuring decision. Monte will confirm with CSREES grants people that funds from the grant will be used in severance packages for NY lab folks.

**Southern Region** - Marty Marshall reported that he has hired the new Southern Region Field Coordinator. Dr. Michelle Samuel-Foo, who will start January 5, 2009.

**Western Region** – Marion Miller stated that a research center will be opened again at Riverside. Jim McFarland was not able to attend the Strategic Planning Conference due to an EPA inspection at Colorado State. Marion raised the concern that “Fee for Service” wording must be in the RFA or there could be severe problems.

**HQ** – Jerry Baron reported:

- 2008 will be a good one with IR-4 garnering more than 1,000 new uses.
- Many Notice of filings were issued in the past couple days.
- HQ hired Ms. Kathryn Homa as a permanent employee. She has been working as a temporary research assistant and now will become a Study Director/Research Coordinator.
- Laboratory assignments at the National Research Planning Meeting was challenging due to the transition from 4 to 3 laboratories.
- The Ginseng growers recently visited the US Congress seeking additional support for IR-4.

- A new technology developed by Group Systems will be used to collect data during the Strategic Planning Conference (SPC). The make-up of those participating in the SPC is clearly dominated by IR-4 personnel. Therefore, stakeholders' inputs may be in the minority, but PMC must glean from the results the critical needs of our stakeholders.
- Need to be conservative in our spending over the next months in case budgets are cut.

**Biopesticide and Organic Support Program** - Michael Braverman (slides included in meeting materials) reported: EPA funding of Demonstration grants will be eliminated; therefore the program will be reduced. Michael Parrella would like to see some kind of report on the success of the research projects as they have gone through the program.

**Ornamental Program** (slides included in meeting materials) – The Center of Economic Analysis at MSU just completed an economic analysis on the impact of the Ornamental Horticulture (OH) program. Cristi has this available. The report states the OH program has a \$1.18 billion impact on annual GDP - this is >900 times the return on investment. There were questions about the numbers being reliable and Doug Buhler stated that MSU uses a well accepted standard for judging these numbers. Cristi Palmer also handed out an Executive Summary of the Ornamental review. The PMC would like to review this before moving anything forward related to its results. For 2009, the OH program will remain at \$350K, rather than increasing the budget in anticipation of a rescission. If no rescission occurs, Cristi Palmer will hold a conference call with the coordinators to allocate the remaining \$50K. Tolfenpyrad was just given reduced risk status for ornamentals. Also, Cristi Palmer reported pyridalyl was given a registration in April 2008 and spirotetramat in Sept.

**Communication Update**-The new IR-4 Calendar was unveiled. Sherri Novack also informed the group about plans to produce a training video funded by and for the global residue study.

#### **Regional Field Coordinator Discussion**

Becky Sisco brought up 2 issues, 1) funding cycle - the money used to come in April and now it is coming in August/September which leaves her researchers unfunded for about 6 months. It is feared that eventually the delay in funding will increase to one year and how will we keep the field research centers open. She uses 2008 \$s for her work in 2008 and to begin her 2009 research. Having a one year grant puts her centers at risk, she would recommend the grant be a 3-4 year cycle since that is the length of most studies (from protocol to submission). Michael Braverman also agreed with this and stated that some people have told him they will not apply for the Biopesticide grants because the money comes in too late.

Becky's second issue concerned keeping and replacing Field Research Directors. It takes time, money and resources to bring a new FRD up to speed. This issue needs to be on the forefront of the PMC in order to keep the quality of the program.

Jerry Baron stated that every other Federal program except the Department of Defense is experiencing the same funding issue. Marty Marshall stated this is not new; we've had this as an issue since we became competitive. Regarding the question; can the language of the RFP be changed to allow for a 3-4 year funding cycle, or can the RFP be released much earlier than the end of February? This has been discussed with CSREES management and at this point there is not much they can do due to authorizing language. Monte Johnson felt the CLC plays a really important role in this and their activities with the US Congress are the most effective way to have this language changed.

Charlie Meister is concerned that IR-4 is weak at the ends: needing to identify projects at the beginning and successes at the ends. There needs to be better outreach to growers/extension/IR-4 liaisons. Becky asked where the problem lies. Edith Lurvey stated it's hard to ask extension to get the word out without offering them something in return for their time and effort.

Edith Lurvey's main concern was the critical mass of projects needed to sustain Field Research Centers. Dave Soderlund commented he'd like to see the PMC take on how to design a program on a national basis. Perhaps some Field Research Centers can specialize in certain research i.e. tree fruit. The Field Research Centers need to have a commitment of enough projects to help them sustain themselves. Becky cautioned against sustaining any Field Research Center that aren't delivering.

Dave Soderlund suggested holding back a percentage of funding to allow for fluctuations in the program. Also suggested making the entire program smaller. This suggestion was met with positive comments from regions and HQ. We would have to approve each year the field budget, set aside the percentage (5%) and plan a field program that can be supported by 95% of the expected budget. Edith Lurvey asked the PMC for a commitment to talk about this further. Marty Marshall assured her the PMC would.

### **Study Director Discussion**

The SDs introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their responsibilities.

- Dave Thompson suggested potential future work would be to look at the Section 18's where there are critical gaps. He suggested there is a lack of valuable project requests in our database to pursue in 2010 and beyond. Should we be more proactive in securing new use requests?
- Marija Arsenovic was concerned about the need of crop safety data that is required to support projects for weed science.
- Keith Dorschner has felt hamstrung by a single Field Research Director who refuses to turn in Field Data Books on time or respond to QA, thus holding up a submission bundled with other reports.
- Johannes Corley commented about the problems with one of the labs and issues arising from improper data fixing, reporting of sub-standard data and other issues that has led to a breakdown in the trust relationship between the LRD and the Study Directors. He stressed on the importance of strong trusting relationship between the SD and the LRD as well as FRD's & RFC's and the need to re-build this trust especially with the lab in question.

Concern was expressed about crop grouping and not getting all the crops on the marketing label, as well as the need to meet with "little" registrants not just the "big" companies.

Note: The QAU and the Laboratory Coordinators will be meeting with the PMC on Thursday Feb. 26

### **Wednesday , December 10**

**Dan Kunkel** (slides included in meeting materials) acknowledged Barbara Madden's group as doing a phenomenal job in clearing out a back log of old IR-4 submissions. This year IR-4 did not submit any chemical more than once - bundling made this happen. EPA is pleased to do this and prefers it, so when an Field Research Director holds up a Field Data Book, IR-4 could miss the timeframe to get a chemical submitted. Dave Soderlund talked about needing to drive this point home during the San Antonio education conference.

To date in 2008: 39 chemicals reviewed; 954 uses (about 60% of new EPA uses); submitted 31 chemicals, 104 PR numbers

Concerns for the 2009 field program: 1. what the final budget be; 2. lots of chemistries (>50) and some difficult ones (triazoles); 3. Excess in tree fruit and citrus, and lots of studies with few trials (basil, greenhouse, postharvest)

**New Study timeline.**

The “bundling” timeline will dovetail 2008 studies and 2009 studies where the chemistries overlap, resulting in some 2008 studies with “36-month” timelines and some 2009 studies with 24-month timelines and bundled into one submission; where work on one product is not being repeated over multiple years, will move on the typical 30 month timeline.

**Triazole issue**

IR-4 has requested a bid from Morse to analyze all triazoles samples in 2009 studies. Morse will be paid by “difficult to analyze” funds from HQ and regions (likely \$25K-35K) Paul will look into seeing if ARS can put in money too. All agreed cost of Morse would be shared 5-6 ways once the bid has been received from Morse.

**Laboratory Guidance Document**

Dan would like this signed for February San Antonio National Education Conference. Some edits were suggested, definition of “gatekeeper”, add list of Appendixes of document and purpose for each in the document. Add MSU checklist as attachment along with sample ASR (clearly marked a sample) and sample processing documents.

Bob Hollingworth wanted to know when manual integration is needed and who makes that decision. It was suggested the chemist should get other chemists involved in making this call.

This document is a good starting point. And the key is communication between those who control the study and those who do the study.

It was agreed this is a fluid document and this is a first in a series.

**MOTION:** Dave Soderlund moved to adopt this as a working document with suggested amendments. Seconded and approved

**Food Use Workshop**

Van Starner reported: (slides included in meeting material) we got back 18 responses about the new FUW format. All were favorable regarding the 2-day event and pre workshop preparation.

Different format might be selecting A’s by entire program not discipline. Also consider A’s by crop group.

Need to be aware of early deadline for new PCRs before current year research results are in.

**Assessment of NC Laboratory**

As a follow-up to the cancellation of cypermethrin/flax project and because of concerns about the data, the Northcentral Region and HQ reevaluated the data from 5 targeted studies. This reevaluation was designed to determine if the cypermethrin/flax issues were isolated or commonplace. The results of the reevaluation indicated that there were no issues that would trigger a notification to EPA about adverse findings. The North Central Laboratory is reworking SOPs from A to Z and suggests a set of standard SOPs could be helpful.

**QA**

Tammy reported her concern with the most recent EPA inspection in Colorado. IR-4 was given additional notification of this inspection, but no flexibility on its timing (which conflicted with the Strategic Planning meeting). This inspection is being used to train new Chinese inspectors as part of an ongoing EPA agreement with China.

Tammy will work with Paul Schwartz to identify ARS sites that need to be decommissioned.

### **Training Committee**

Van gave a San Antonio update - asked if the PMC might consider the next national event in 2012 include a different approach, not just a training focus due to the size of attendance.

The PMC reiterated comments that the training conference provides face to face networking that people like. This was a method to get people together.

Need to consider Training Committee members rotating off —will discuss in San Antonio

### **NE Lab Closure**

Obviously the news of the lab closure did not go over well. Dave Soderlund stated he has made it clear to the people who will be affected that they are free to depart at any time if they get another job, but he encouraged them to remain focused on their work while still employed at Cornell. Those who will be affected have the gift of time as Dave expects to keep these people employed through the holiday season of 2009. There will be 5 analysts, 1 archivist, 1 Laboratory Research Director and a support person affected. Dave is working with Cornell human resources to put together severance packages and if available, other jobs within Cornell. He is planning a group layoff rather than a trickle layoff.

The lab is still working on anthraquinone on corn.

### **Peer Review Committee**

The peer review (May 2009) will be made up of Dan Rosenblatt (EPA), Janice McFarland (Syngenta), Jerry Lee (Morovia Nurseries), Larry Chandler (ARS), Cheng Wi Way (Dean – Univ. of MD College of Agr.) and Wally Ewart (former CLC member). This still may change somewhat.

### **Thursday, December 11**

The PMC felt the session with Study Directors and Regional Field Coordinators went well.

The Strategic Planning Conference was successful regarding the technology, but there was concern that various “buckets” of thought do not relate to strategy, but rather to management. Mike Parrella and Doug Buhler indicated there was the need to incorporate Cooperative Extension personnel from Land Grants into working with IR-4 into the Strategic Plan document. Mike felt Ag Experiment Stations/Colleges of Ag/Coop extension would not be offended by the small IR-4 grants. Doug recommends Jerry get involved with regional and/or national Agriculture Experiment Station Director’s meetings. Try and attend the national meeting in September and make a presentation.

### **Strategic Planning Meeting – what the data suggest**

- Should focus on very new chemistries
- Should focus on developed compounds
- “A” priorities without solutions – maybe run such a program on a grant proposal system
- Prioritize residue work by crop group, for 1 ½ day and ½ day prioritize efficacy needs
- There needs to be a connection between IR-4 and Pest Management Centers in each region
- Strategic Plan must include an efficacy focus with a dedicated amount of money
- Addressing invasive species falls under the strategic initiative to address efficacy and crop safety
- Efficacy could be run as a grant program; those with the pest can apply for the grant
- Should have stopped at SWOC analysis: “priorities” should maybe not be the focus, but instead the “opportunities”
- Technology was useful, but didn’t allow for a lot of time to discuss
- There were only 9 stakeholders whose priorities were not same as the 4 tables filled with IR-4 people

- Global harmonization: new FAS funds are available to allow more submissions to CODEX and to support additional residue trials to support CODEX MRLs
- Outreach: needs to better communication about IR-4 to stakeholders; need to increase focus on State Liaison Rep value - this will become an agenda item for PMC to reassess and encourage their function
- Public Health is an area in which to get involved; there's a lot of opportunity here and no one is doing this. Efficacy work is required. GLP and IR-4 is situated to be at the right place and right time.
- Add "sustainable" and "green" in mission statement
- Need to state in SP how IR-4 will fulfill its mission to minimize the environmental footprint by providing effective pest management
- Maybe survey regions/attendees of recent FUW for feedback on number of "A" priorities determined at FUW versus the number of projects taken on each year
- Need a draft of plan in January and a second draft for San Antonio meeting

**Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) Report** – Rocky Lundy would like to bring Laura Phelps before the CLC as a member. He will do this via email.

#### **Events**

- February 23, 2009  
½ day PM GLP Training  
San Antonio, TX
- February 24-25, 2009  
National Education Conference  
San Antonio, TX
- February 25-26, 2009  
PMC Meeting  
San Antonio, TX
- March 17-18, 2009  
Western Region SLR/CLC Meeting  
Bozeman and Pray, MT
- May 19-20, 2009  
IR-4 Peer Review  
Princeton, NJ
- July 7-9, 2009  
PMC/AAFC Meeting  
Halifax, Nova Scotia
- August 10-11, 2009  
NCR SLR Meeting  
Kansas City, MO
- August 25-26, 2009  
SLR Meeting  
Myrtle Beach, SC

- September 15-16, 2009  
2009 Food Use Workshop  
Cleveland, OH
  
- October 6-8, 2009  
2009 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop  
Cleveland, OH
  
- October 14-15, 2009  
2009 ARS LR Meeting  
Cleveland, OH
  
- October 27-28, 2009  
National Research Planning Meeting  
Princeton, NJ