

Information Exchange

Meeting Face to Face: Building Trust

What began as a simple get-together between a few international friends, became the first face to face meeting of the International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee (ICGCC). More than 50 people joined Committee Chair, Hong Chen, and ICGCC Advisor, Bernie Schneider,

as they and IR-4 Executive Director, Bob Holm, welcomed guests from nine countries to participate in the meeting, which was held in San Diego, CA on September 12, 2005. The day long meeting ran into the night as key international representatives were invited to speak and share their views and efforts

in relation to crop grouping and international harmonization opportunities.

USDA Special Assistant to the US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Burleson Smith, delivered a presentation on the USDA Perspective of Crop Grouping as it relates to Imports and Exports. He

talked about the importance of crop grouping as it allows for the availability of nutritious foods, and about the increase in US demand for fruits and vegetables. He shared the benefits of crop grouping as increasing pest control options and having a better utilization of scarce resources, and went on to discuss the international benefits of crop grouping that allows for better regulatory harmonization, facilitates trade and extends the seasonal availability of fruits and vegetables. Burleson also talked about the challenges in adopting crop grouping, which are: identifying logical groupings, overcoming regulatory obstacles and the increased need to foster international cooperation. An audience member who grows vegetables in California, reiterated the need to have international harmonization of pesticide tolerances or Maximum

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Back row l to r: Dan Kunkel, IR-4 Assistant Director; Wally Ewart, California Citrus Quality Council; Hoyt Jamerson, Former EPA Minor Use Officer; Bob Holm, IR-4 Executive Director; Second row l to r: Erica Muller, Plant Protection Service, The Netherlands; Vivian Powell, UK, Horticulture Development Council; Doug Rothwell, Senior Minor Use Coordinator, PMRA; Jerry Baron, IR-4 Associate Director; Burleson Smith, USDA Special Assistant to Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; Yuhai Guo, China Agriculture University; Seated l to r: Naoki Motoyama, Japan, Chiba University; Bernie Schneider, EPA Senior Plant Physiologist and ICGCC Advisor; Hong Chen, IR-4 Crop Grouping Committee Chairperson; Alan Norden, Australia APVMA, Pesticides Program; and Lois Rossi, EPA Registration Division Director



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Watercress: A Health Food with a Fresh Taste

— by Gopal K. Saxena, Horticulturist, B&W Quality Growers, Inc.

Watercress is a herbaceous plant in its natural condition and grows along fresh water streams. It has been used since prehistoric times. Xenophon, General and historian of the Greek-Persian campaign, and Xrexes, Persian King, recommended watercress for their soldiers.

Native to Asia Minor and the Mediterranean, today watercress is cultivated throughout the world. It boasts about being the richest source of the glucosinolate nasturtiin, which upon hydrolysis produces phenethyl isothiocyanate (PEITC). PEITC has been demonstrated to have a role in protection against cancers associated with tobacco specific carcinogens (J.Agric Food Chem. 51(18):5504-9).

In the U.S., most of this specialty crop is grown in Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Prior to commercialization, watercress was harvested from fresh water streams and sold in markets. In the last forty years, commercial production practices have gone through a major transformation.

Environmental concerns

have played a key role in shaping the production techniques of this crop. Currently watercress farms operate along water resources in an environmentally friendly way. A significant part of the acreage uses water recycling techniques to irrigate the crop.

The industry is moving away from the traditional wet (low) areas toward lands used for growing crops like corn and soybeans. This initiation is helping to move watercress out of an aquatic classification.

The majority of watercress is sold as traditional bunches, however recently packaging has caught on. With food safety concerns, the irrigation waters and the packed products are tested for several food pathogens.



Watercress growers are particularly thankful to IR-4. In the last 20 years, IR-4 has played a major role in helping us by working on pesticide registrations for this specialty crop, when registrants would not. Earlier successes included diazinon, glyphosate, malathion, mevinphos, and permethrin. With the introduction of "reduced risk" and other safer pesticides, azoxystrobin, cyprodinil + fludioxonil, imidacloprid, and spinosad were registered for use in watercress production.

Currently, IR-4 is helping in the registration of metaldehyde for snail control. Snails create serious problems since they are lodged inside bunches at harvest.

The growers are also looking forward to the products that will become available to us as a result of crop grouping. When this is completed, crop grouping will be a significant help to this orphan crop.

Watercress is a healthy food that tastes good. If you haven't tried it, watercress has a zesty taste. It is consumed fresh in salads, sandwiches, and cooked in soups or used as garnish. For more information about watercress and to print recipes, please visit www.watercress.com.



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Efficacy for an Evolving Agriculture

— by Michael E. Bledsoe, Ph.D. Vice President of Technology and Corporate EHS Officer, Village Farms, L.P.

Over the past 15 years Agriculture has experienced the introduction of terms like Risk Cup and OP replacements; it has suffered the loss of hundreds of pest management tools, and has "advanced" into an environment of GMO crops. The idea of wanting a new use for a specialty

tough? Welcome to the world of Greenhouse (GH) Hydroponics Vegetable Production! Today, the US GH industry is fortunate to have an organization that can help them overcome some of these hurdles. The IR-4 Project, established to meet the needs of specialty crop growers, working in cooperation with the USEPA and chemical companies, performs the research and submits the data necessary to achieve new use product labels for specialty crops. While this cooperation is a true boost to this industry, there is an even greater challenge: **Efficacy Data.**

Manufacturers are willing to work with IR-4 to have their products labeled for GH use, however, they are requiring more and more efficacy data or as they prefer to call it, "crop safety data" in order to support the label submission.

At the recent IR-4 Southern Regional meeting in South Padre Island, TX, a common theme echoed by each of the chemical company representatives who reported on new chemistry and product advances was the need for

crop (less than 300,000 acres) is hard enough but what if your specialty crop is really minor and is grown on less than 800 acres? In addition, you need products that have a 1-3 day PHI (pre harvest interval), short REIs (re-entry intervals) and are safe to beneficial insects. And if that isn't hard enough, this minor, minor crop industry needs to have products labeled for uses that didn't even exist 15 years ago. Sound

"The Hydroponics vegetable industry is growing steadily. It currently supplies over 37% of the retail (grocery) market for fresh market tomatoes..."



EuroFresh Greenhouse, Wilcox AZ

more efficacy data to support IR-4 label registrations.

The hydroponics vegetable industry is growing steadily. It currently supplies over 37% of the retail (grocery) market for fresh market tomatoes (Calvin and Cook, 2005). This is not unexpected considering the European GH industry supplies greater than 90% of the fresh market tomato production. However, as of yet, GH research is not included as part of main stream extension or research at most US universities. Therefore, the US GH industry is urging University research and extension scientists to recognize this opportunity to increase their programs.

In the IR-4 Southern Region, Regional Field Coordinator, Charles Meister has championed this need for efficacy for specialty crops and thanks to his efforts and the support of the IR-4 Grants Program we are seeing a few more studies focused on GH, but to meet the critical needs for this industry we need universities across the nation to step up to our challenge and help us by supporting research and efficacy trials.

The GH Industry is willing

to share its part of the burden by supplying materials for research, space, sharing knowledge, and fostering a long term relationship between The Greenhouse Hydroponics Vegetable Industry and the University system. If you'd like to learn more about this industry and take us up on the challenge, contact your Regional Field Coordinator (*see below*) and Michael E. Bledsoe at Village Farms, L.P. or Karin Tiffit, at EuroFresh, Inc for more information on potential projects. ▲

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Summer Regional Meetings

IR-4 North Central Annual Regional Meeting, Lincoln, NE, Aug. 9-10, 2005

— by Van Stamer, IR-4 Coordinator, Entomology and Pathology

The IR-4 North Central Annual Regional meeting was held in Lincoln, NE, in August, and was attended by more than a dozen people. Doug Doohan from Ohio State University chaired the meeting, and local arrangements were organized by Shripat Kamble from the University of Nebraska. Persons who participated represented Purdue University, University of Illinois, South and North Dakota State Universities, the North Central USDA IPM Center at Michigan State, University of Wisconsin, University of Nebraska at Scottsbluff, IR-4 at MSU, and IR-4 Headquarters (HQ). Rich Zollinger (ND State Univ.) served as secretary.

Following a number of administrative items, two award presentations, and an IR-4 HQ presentation, Larry Olsen from the North Central IPM Center talked about their organization and programs - he thanked IR-4 for involvement in their prioritization process. Two common themes in subsequent state reports were 1) the serious effects of drought this summer across large parts of IN, IL, WI and MI; and 2) the

proliferation of vineyards and wineries in many North Central states. An increase in ethanol production in their states was also mentioned by several state reps. Regional Director Bob Hollingworth announced that Jeff Wyman, Professor of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin, a long-time Field Research Director and IR-4 supporter, officially retired Aug. 3. A new person from industry who has primarily small and tree fruit experience was recently hired and the hope is to add capacity to do fruit GLP trials with this person.

The group went through potential projects that could be prioritized at the annual IR-4 Food Use Workshop (FUW) in San Diego, and discussed the projects they'd like to push. They also discussed which projects might be appropriate for regional upgrades. During the course of this discussion, various questions regarding this year's FUW process were addressed via phone consultation

with IR-4 HQ. A number of suggested additions were raised to be added to the FUW project book (such as EPA region map, crop groups/rep crops, definitions of various categories/priorities, etc.), and these were communicated to IR-4 HQ. When the meeting was adjourned, all attendees went away with a feeling that it had been a good meeting and worth their while to be there participating.

The IR-4 Southern Region Annual Meeting, South Padre Island, TX August 22-24, 2005

Southern Regional Director, Marty Marshall welcomed the crowd of over 40 attendees to South Padre Island. He gave a brief introduction and overview of the IR-4 program and turned the meeting over to Regional Field Coordinator, Charlie Meister. "It's at the annual meeting where my researchers learn about

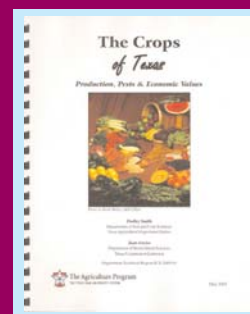
the new technologies. That is why I invite chemical company representatives to give a 10-minute presentation about their products," stated Charlie. "This year we are focusing on Ornamental products on day one and Food Use products on day two." More than 15 companies responded to Charlie's invitation to talk about their products.

In addition to product presentations, researchers were invited to give a 10-minute presentation about their studies and pest control needs. Ornamental researcher, Yan Chen, from LSU talked about her 2005 trials to control efficacy of five preemergence herbicides on yellow nutsedge and their phytotoxicity on six herbaceous perennials in landscape plantings. Scott Ludwig from Texas Cooperative Extension discussed the pest control needs for Ornamentals in Texas. He concluded Texas needs more products to

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The Crops of Texas

Dudley Smith, and Juan Anciso have written a book entitled "The Crops of Texas. The book is a compilation of facts on crop production for the state. The authors, drew upon their backgrounds in crop production and economics, pests and pest management, and commercial agriculture to produce colorful narraties and compile data on 200 horticultural, agronomic, and forage crops, plus seed production for the state. Narratives for each crop provide production facts, marketing trends, and key weed, insect and disease pests. Crop acreages are provided by production regions and then summarized for the state, along with cash values. This publication is available online at <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu> or you can obtain a CD or hardcopy by contacting Dan Lineberger, Horticulture Department, Texas A&M University. ▲



Growers Recognize Efforts

— by Mary Hausbeck, Ph.D., MSU Professor and Extension Specialist in Vegetable and Green House Ornamental Crops

On August 11, 2005, IR-4 Residue and Analytical Chemistry Coordinator, Johannes Corley, was recognized by the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin (GBW) for his efforts in working with ginseng growers to achieve new pesticide registrations. An inscribed plaque was presented to Johannes by the GBW President, Joe Heil, at a Field Day held in Wausau, Wisconsin. Joe emphasized that the partnership

between the ginseng industry and IR-4 has become especially valuable because of the occurrence of pest resistance, an overall lack of registered products, and increased market pressure from foreign competition. "Ginseng growers are very familiar with the help that IR-4 offers to our industry. Johannes has done an outstanding job and we wanted to show our gratitude." He added, "We do not hesitate to let our

legislators know the importance of IR-4's work to the state's economy". During the Field Day, Johannes provided an update of the IR-4 projects and priorities. In particular, he discussed the potential of non-food use registrations for products that might be helpful to a multi-year, perennial crop such as ginseng. This is the second time Johannes has made the trek to Wisconsin to observe an ongoing IR-4 residue trial and meet with growers to assess their needs. Over the course of his August visit, he observed an application made to an IR-4 residue trial. He also saw a number of field research trials



IR-4 Residue and Analytical Chemistry Coordinator, Johannes Corley, right, observes a ginseng trial application performed by Research Assistant Blair Harlan.

established with grower cooperators and supported through IR-4 Biopesticide grants including an IR-4 Biopesticide Demonstration Trial.

IR-4 North Central Regional Field Coordinator, Dr. Satoru Miyazaki, was also a featured guest during the Ginseng Field Day. ▲

2006 IR-4 National Education Conference

— by Van Stamer, IR-4 Coordinator, Entomology and Pathology

The first national training event since the 2001 meeting in San Antonio will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28, through noon on Thursday Mar. 2, 2006. The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) will hold its annual February meeting in concert with this conference, and will be participating throughout.

As prescribed by the PMC a few years ago, a national training event is to be organized every third year for the benefit of everyone involved in IR-4 research across the country. We also welcome our colleagues in Canada.

All IR-4 Field Research Directors and their

technicians; Laboratory Research Directors and their analysts / technicians; Regional Field Coordinators, Quality Control reviewers, Quality Assurance officers, Study Directors, PMC members, and others involved in IR-4 GLP research are encouraged to attend.

The agenda for the 2-day event is being finalized by the IR-4 Training Committee (TC), and there will be something for everyone. Plans include special speakers from outside the IR-4 Project; plenty of time for FRD/RFC/SD/QA to just "talk shop" among themselves about day-to-day protocol, field data

book, and other GLP issues; a full day of laboratory-specific training for lab personnel; opportunities to choose topics from several mini-course offerings; and discussions about the future of electronics in IR-4 data collection and final report preparation.

The training will be held at the newly remodeled Wyndham Phoenix Hotel in downtown Phoenix, AZ - not a bad place to spend a few days near the end of winter! For your time outside the classroom, and within walking distance, there are many places to eat, several theatres, the Phoenix Museum of History, the AZ Science Center, the Phoenix Convention Center,

and the America West Arena (home of the NBA Phoenix Suns, who have a home game Wed. night Mar. 1 vs the Milwaukee Bucks). Also, about a dozen major league baseball teams (Cubs, Giants, White Sox, etc.) call the Phoenix / Tucson area "home" for spring training, and you might be able to catch a "Cactus League" game.

Reserve the Dates - You Don't Want to Miss It!!! Look for more details in the coming months on the IR-4 website at ir4.rutgers.edu. For more information, contact the TC Chair, Van Stamer at, 732-932-9575 x621 or stamer@aesop.rutgers.edu. ▲

The call came in on Friday, August 5, 2005. A pickle grower in Eastern Michigan asked researcher Mary Hausbeck to look at his cucurbit crop because of what appeared to be a



Mary was in emergency management mode when an outbreak of downy mildew was discovered in Michigan. She and her team spent hours leading into days contacting growers.

virus. Mary, who had committed to spending the weekend at a family reunion, requested her Ph.D. student, Amanda Gevens, take the trip and investigate the issue. Amanda suspected the virus was actually downy mildew. She took samples to the lab and had them analyzed. What she suspected was confirmed; downy mildew, a pathogen that had not been found in the entire state of Michigan for fifteen years, had reached Michigan.

Amanda alerted Mary who was seven hours away vacationing in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Mary established a grower and processor phone chain and got to work making contact with growers and processors. By 5pm on Saturday, a vast majority of growers and processors in the state of Michigan had been alerted. County agents continued the phone chain on Monday.

Getting fungicides on the cucumber crops during the next 24-48 hours was crucial in keeping the outbreak at bay and luckily the higher than average Michigan temperatures provided some help in keeping the disease in check. "Our growers haven't seen this pathogen up close but are familiar with its devastation as they

reaped the benefits of the downy mildew outbreak on southern watermelon and cucumber crops last year," stated Mary. "They don't want what happened to those growers to happen here and are serious about keeping this under control."

Mary described the devastation of this pathogen in an article she wrote for the August 26, 2005 Crop Advisory Team Alert (www.ipm.msu.edu/CAT05_veg/V08-25-05downy.htm). "Downy mildew is well-known for causing catastrophic losses in a brief period of time. When the conditions are favorable, unprotected foliage can become completely infected and appear to be frosted within 10 days of initial infection. The worst case scenario is that once the foliage dies, the fruit stop developing, quality decreases, sun scald occurs and secondary rots develop. In a best case scenario, if the fruit are mature enough when the foliage becomes infected with downy mildew, they can be harvested with minimal yield loss even though the foliage has completely collapsed."

Mary continued working the phones and counseled growers on the pest control options for downy mildew, as Brian Cortright, her research assistant, drove them to meet with vegetable growers in western Michigan. Ralph and Ken Oomen own and operate Oomen Bros. Farm in Hart, MI, about two hours from Mary and Brian's office at MSU. She had arranged a special meeting with growers in this part of the state to meet with an IR-4

IR-4 Focus on Mary Hausbeck, Michigan

representative. Ralph and Ken knew a little bit about IR-4 and as a result of the meeting, understood a bit more about how IR-4 could help them. Ralph discussed one big issue concerning Folicur a triazole fungicide. "We really need this product. It has a great potential for us in controlling rust on asparagus. Right now we have it as a Section 18, but we really need it registered." Ralph went on to ask if IR-4 might have a way of working with the registrants on the PHI of fungicides labeled for PHYTOPHTHORA control on zucchini. "You see the



Mary visits with Ken (seated) and Ralph Oomen at their farm. Ralph and Ken have provided Mary with land and materials for research.

registrant develops this product for major crops, such as potatoes, where the PHI is not an issue. For the smaller acreage crops, it is an enormous issue. A product with a PHI of three and five days is almost unworkable for us when we're hand-harvesting every day. If IR-4 could help in that aspect, it would make a huge difference." (see side bar) Mary encouraged Ralph and Ken to communicate their needs to the Michigan Vegetable Council and to their State Legislators. She stated to them, "This would not only help you in getting IR-4 priorities, but would

also help IR-4 maintain legislative support." Ken Oomen agreed that the IR-4 research was valuable and discussed Mary's IR-4 research, which has been conducted on his farm for ten years. He commented, "These test plots are extremely critical to us and I can't stress enough how important the test products are, especially when they help us find ways to control pest issues." Ralph and Ken have been very generous to Mary and her research efforts and will often organize their crops and plan their pest control management with Mary's research in mind. Mary relayed, "They've given me as many as ten acres for trials, and will often call and ask if I need some space and then adjust their planting in consideration of my trial plots."

Mary invited Ralph and Ken to join her for a lunch meeting. She was able to put together an impromptu luncheon with key growers, crop consultants, and Extension agents to discuss the downy mildew outbreak and distribute the information fliers. Mary remarked, "I think that Michigan is somewhat unique in how we are able to pull together these sorts of meetings, sometimes at the last minute, to get information out to the



Mary shows grower, Tom Oomen, pictures of downy mildew



One aspect of Mary's research is solving. A grower tries and find out why not growing adequately.



Mary points to a contrast it with looks promising

on Researcher: Michigan State University



Mary's job is problem solving. She has asked Mary to visit an asparagus farm that was showing poor growth. After a look at several areas of the field, Mary, Brian Cortright and Brian Wernstrom, a crop consultant, concluded the stress was not a result of a pathogen. Problem solving is an integral part of Mary's job and she is often asked to look at problem fields to help in identifying both the cause and research a solution. It's this problem solving Mary likes best; when she hears directly from the grower about their needs and is able to apply research to the problem.



a control plot to a product that

industry as quickly as possible. We also value the feedback and everyone is helped by the exchange."

Later that day, Mary was asked to visit an asparagus farm that was showing poor growth. After a look at several areas of the field, Mary, Brian Cortright and Brian Wernstrom, a crop consultant, concluded the stress was not a result of a pathogen. Problem solving is an integral part of Mary's job and she is often asked to look at problem fields to help in identifying both the cause and research a solution. It's this problem solving Mary likes best; when she hears directly from the grower about their needs and is able to apply research to the problem.

Mary was not only working the phones to communicate the downy mildew emergency, but was also working with her Research Assistant, Blair Harlan to put the final touches on a ginseng growers field day. The event was held in Wausau, WI the next day. With an expected attendance of 50 growers, the field day was an event they looked forward to and one where they could share strategies for ginseng. Mary got involved with these growers about 5 years ago when the Michigan Department of Agriculture asked her to become involved with the ginseng industry in Michigan which had begun to grow significantly (approximately 170 acres) especially in the Upper Peninsula. In

particular, the group needed a Section 18 label for use of mancozeb to control ALTERNARIA blight. Since she had been involved with writing Section 18 labels for vegetable crops over the years, it seemed like a good fit. The largest ginseng grower in Michigan at the time was working closely with the Wisconsin ginseng industry and it was through his efforts that a regional research effort was initiated.

According to the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin, "Commercial ginseng cultivation in the US is about 100 years old, but trade in Wisconsin ginseng has a history dating back to the 18th century. Wisconsin produces approximately 95% of all US cultivated ginseng, with the majority coming from north central Wisconsin." The industry, however, is in crisis with more and more growers leaving the business. They are finding it harder to manage diseases, which devastate their crops. When ginseng crops take four years from planting to harvest to realize a return on investment, the risks in keeping the crop healthy are often too great for some growers. That is why Wisconsin has lost over 200 growers in the past decade. President of the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin, Joe Heil stated, "The few growers that are left are so dependent on IR-4. Many of the less than 50 growers are merely



Blair Harlan, Joe Heil, and Bryan Webster (1-r on the left) and, Jerry Heil, Shaunta Hill, Dan Reif, and Mary Hausbeck pose in front of Joe's ginseng garden.

staying in business because they are relying on the products in the IR-4 pipeline getting registered. Their hopes are riding on IR-4 helping them manage and sustain their gardens." These growers are committed to the IR-4 process and as many as five or six will take time out of their gardening to attend the annual IR-4 Food Use Workshop.

Mary is one of IR-4's unique researchers in that she conducts research across all disciplines in both the Food Use and Ornamentals programs. Across the board, her students and assistants talk about Mary's ability to champion their cause and encourage them to succeed. "She works hard to find grant money for us," stated graduate student, Shaunta Hill. "She takes a real interest in her students and the thing I learned the most from Mary is how to be encouraged."

It's no wonder that people like Joe, the Oomen brothers, and her students are so fond of Mary. Even when hosting a trial means that the untreated check plot will succumb to disease and potentially endanger the entire field,



Waiting for the flight to WI is Mary (right) with grad student Shaunta Hill and Research Assistant Blair Harlan.

growers feel confident that research will lead to a future solution. They see results and know that Mary, her team, and IR-4 are working for them. ▲

PCRs: The Key to Change

- by IR-4 Associate Director, Jerry Baron

When Ralph Oomen asked if IR-4 had a role in helping the registrants reduce the PHI on the labels the answer is a resounding YES. But in order to do that, a Project Clearance Request (PCR) needs to state "reduce PHI" or in some cases, "increased use rate" as the reason for need. IR-4 is in a position to help but we need to make sure the PCR reflects the proper use. If you are unsure about the "reason for need" section on the PCR, please contact a Regional Field Coordinator. Since it takes up to four years and costs in excess of \$100,000 for a study to be completed, it is important that the PCRs are filled out correctly and efficacy data supports the request. Sometimes, due to a new pest or a change in use pattern, the efficacy data are not available. Here, too, IR-4 may be able to help. If you have questions about the data needed, contact a Regional Field Coordinator. They're there to bring clarity to these issues. (See contact information on page 3.) Don't forget, a complete and accurately filled out PCR helps IR-4 help you. ▲

Building Trust

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More than 50 people from nine countries participated in the first face-to-face meeting of the International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee.

Residue Levels (MRLs). He commented on the need for standardization because he trades with Mexico and finds the differences in MRLs to be prohibitive to operating his business.

Wally Ewart also restated the need for setting international MRLs. As the President of the California Citrus Quality Council, and a member of the CODEX Committee on Pesticide Residues, his organization provides guidance so that California citrus meets the regulatory and scientific standards for domestic and export markets. Wally reported on the grower's perspective and suggested one solution for harmonization should include uniform data requirements and parallel risk assessments for international and national standard setting bodies.

This suggestion was strongly echoed by each presenter. In Japan, the discovery of illegal residues of an insecticide on imported spinach from China and Japanese distributors selling unregistered agrichemicals to farmers led the government to revise the Japan Pest Control Act,

which provides for heavy penalties (up to \$100,000) and prison terms (up to three years). Chiba University Professor Naoki Motoyama reported his country's need for more pest management tools and encouraged further grouping of specialty crops in order to meet this need.

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, Minor Use Project Officer, Alan Norden also sees the advantage of crop grouping. He stated the benefits could be great as there would be a reduction in regulatory costs. This would come via reduced duplication in gathering supporting information, improved access to data and fewer overall trials.

Erica Muller, traveled from The Netherlands to deliver an update on CODEX and Crop Grouping Activities in the European Union. Erica is a member of CODEX and the EU Working group on Pesticides Residues and SCFCAH, and is affiliated with the Plant Protection Service of the Netherlands.

The day also included presentations from, Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Senior Minor Use Coordinator, Doug Rothwell, reporting on NAFTA; UK's Horticultural Development Council, Technical Manager, Vivian Powell

reporting on the UK's approach to minor uses and crop grouping; and China Agriculture University's Yuhai Guo reporting on the status of specialty crop production in China.

Some feel the catalyst for the face-to-face meeting was the participation of the EPA Registration Division Director, Lois Rossi who represents the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) on

many international committees and also spent a six month sabbatical with the EU in Brussels. She stated the role of the OPP is being a leader in promoting harmonization efforts both internally and externally and also sees her office as being a champion for identifying opportunities for collaboration and cooperation. She encouraged the participants to see themselves as being significant players in this effort to harmonize data and establish crop groupings. "Our role is leadership in thinking globally and trying routinely to think of our role as a global leader," stated Lois, "It's important to have coffee with one another and get to know each other so that communication can be fostered and trusts established. It's through



Lois Rossi encourages the participants of the ICGCC Meeting to spend time building trust and then go forward together to affect global change.

this trust that we build that can help us accomplish the task of working together globally."

"Trust is critical to success," stated IR-4 Associate Director, Jerry Baron during his concluding presentation that introduced a proposal developed by IR-4's Assistant Director, Dan Kunkel, that a not for profit International Specialty Crop Foundation be established. He recommended that it should be funded by various stakeholders and housed at IR-4 HQ. The purpose of the Foundation would be to assist in the facilitation of MRL establishment through data mining and reformatting data in an appropriate (standard) format for various government authorities. The recommendation was heeded by the group and more discussion will certainly follow.

A special evening meeting discussing medicinal crops was added onto the day-long sessions and was hosted by IR-4 Associate Coordinator, Bill Barney. The medicinal crop meeting included presentations from Michigan State University's Mary Hausbeck, Auburn University's M.S. Reddy and China Agricultural University's Yuhai Guo.

To get a good sense of the speakers and to view their presentations, visit the IR-4 website at ir4.rutgers.edu and follow the link for the International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee Meeting. ▲

Changes at CSREES

In the past few months there have been some changes at CSREES that will affect IR-4. Dennis Kopp has been promoted to Assistant Administrator of Program and Analysis. Dennis has been a supporter of IR-4 Programs for many years in several different capacities. Our former National Program Leader, Jim Parachetti, reported to Dennis for many years and as such received support and direction from Dennis on CSREES policy and budget issues. Dennis replaced Jim for a short time prior to Monte Johnson being named as the CSREES IR-4 National Program Leader. During this interim, Dennis was an active participant in PMC Meetings and challenged IR-4 to become a better program through new initiatives and stakeholder involvement. Dennis continues to be an active IR-4 supporter in his new position and he and Bob Holm have breakfast meetings when Bob is in DC to keep each other abreast of important issues on CSREES and IR-4 respectively.

IR-4 would also like to congratulate Rob Hedberg on his new position at CSREES. Rob has been Director of Science Policy for the National and Regional Weed Science Societies (Weed Science Society of America, Aquatic

Plant Management Society, Northeast Weed Science Society, Southern Weed Science Society, North Central Weed Science Society and Western Society of Weed Science) since 1999. His primary responsibilities are to strengthen communication between federal policy makers and the 4000 members of these societies, to increase public awareness of weed problems, and to improve federal weed research and management efforts.

His previous policy experience included work on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee as an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow from 1995-1996. He also has many years experience working with farmers as a Regional Agronomy Agent for the University of Vermont Extension Service.

When asked about his vision in his new role as USDA/CSREES Science Policy and Legislative Affairs Advisor, Rob commented, "My vision for my role within CSREES centers on communication with the spectrum of customers, beneficiaries and supporters. I want to ensure we have good communications about what CSREES is currently doing as well as how we can employ all the components of our system (Extension, Education and Research) to meet their needs and expectations. The IR-4 program and its Commodity Liaison Committee is one of the models for successful communications that I will keep in mind as I look for ways to make sure we have

good two way communication with our stakeholders."

IR-4 Welcomes New CSREES National Program Leader

While Monte Johnson isn't new to CSREES, he has recently become the new CSREES National Program Leader for the IR-4 Project. Since 2001, Monte has been the CSREES National Program Leader for Environmental Toxicology and has worked with the Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP) and the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). Previous to CSREES, Monte spent eleven years as an Extension Specialist within the Department of Entomology at the University of Kentucky.

Monte is passionate about communicating the successes of CSREES programs. The CSREES PMAP program is one in which he is particularly proud to have played a role. As the Director of PMAP, he worked with the communications staff to develop informational sheets that highlighted the programs' accomplishments (www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/p est/pdfs/pmap_flyer.pdf). PMAP funding has supported research such as Alternative Weed Control in Vegetable Crops, Pest Management for Greenhouse Bedding Plants, Alternative Control of Varroa Mites on Honey Bees, and Replacing OPs on Stored Grain for Food Processing.

Monte has a strong interest and background in

Personalities in the News

landscape and ornamentals and is pleased to join IR-4 as it strengthens its support of the Ornamental Horticulture Program. While in Lexington, KY, Monte participated in tours of horticultural research at the South Farm Experiment Station. He often spoke with groups concerning Integrated Pest Management research on junipers, dogwoods and birch.

"We are delighted to have Monte working with us as the CSREES liaison," stated IR-4 Executive Director, Bob Holm, "he has already proven his commitment to us by attending IR-4's EPATWG meeting, visiting the HQ office a couple of weeks later and attending the July IR-4 Project Management Committee meeting held in Vermont. Considering his other responsibilities, Monte's zeal to learn more about IR-4 and become more actively involved is impressive."

"I'm glad to assume the role as CSREES IR-4 liaison," stated Monte, "IR-4's reputation for success has made a name for itself in the grower community. I see my role as keeping the successes of IR-4 ever present before those who can help IR-4 fulfill its mission to Specialty Crop Growers."

Monte can be contacted at mpjohnson@csrees.usda.gov.

IR-4 extends its best wishes to all three men as they take on new challenges and accomplish innovative goals within CSREES. ▲

2005 Food Use Workshop Priorities

The 2005 IR-4 /USDA Food Use Workshop was held September 13-15, 2005 in San Diego, CA. With beautiful weather as a back drop, some say this was the best attended most cooperative meeting to date.

The Food Use Workshop is the place to be for setting research priorities for the next year. Since research funding is limited, IR-4 ranks research priorities according to interest, industry support, and clearly stated "reason for need" on the Project Clearance Request (PCR) forms. At each workshop session, Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science, twelve "A" priorities are allowed. An "A" priority guarantees the research will be funded in the next research season, additionally, each session selects 36 "B" priorities, which have the ability to be upgraded and researched on a regional basis if funds become available. Workshop participants vote by voice on which PCR should be ranked "A", "B", or "C". With as many as 300 requests to rank in each session, the task can be daunting. That is why attendance is crucial in having a project ranked highly. This year, over 20 commodity and grower representatives attended the meeting to make sure their needs were presented.

The initial hours of each session is devoted to a cursory ranking of priorities and ends with many more "As" and "B's" than are allowed. The last hour or so of each session is where the negotiation and "horse trading" begins. This is when the "A's" and "B's" are narrowed down to fall within the limits of twelve "A's" and 36 "B's". This is the most tactical part of the workshop when compromise and "research trading" (where an "A" may be changed to a "B" with the goal to upgrade the "B" to a regional "A" later in the planning process) become the focus. Time is allotted in between the initial ranking and the final in order for participants to discuss their most needed priorities with other participants, commodity groups and company reps.

Cooperation is key to this process as an "A" priority can often be needed for a regional need and all four regions must agree the need is warranted. The give and take during these last hours is remarkable and this is when an outsider notices the true collaboration of IR-4. Somehow the researchers, chemical companies, growers and commodity groups make the compromises to achieve the overall IR-4 mission: provide safe and effective pest control products for specialty crop growers.

Next year's meeting will be held in the Midwest. The following is a list of the 2005 Food Use Workshop "A" priorities. Visit the IR-4 website at www.ir4.rutgers.edu, to learn more about the workshop priorities. ▲

Entomology Working Group Priority A

PR#	Group	Commodity	Chemical
09669	A	BEAN (DRY)	INDOXACARB
09675	A	BEET (SUGAR)	THIAMETHOXAM
09679	A	BLUEBERRY	SPIRODICLOFEN
09344	A	CANE BERRY	E2Y45
09421	A	CELERY	METALDEHYDE
09649	A	CUCUMBER	THIAMETHOXAM
09614	A	ONION	FORMETANATE HYDROCHLORIDE
09079	A	PARSLEY	FIPRONIL
09690	A	PEACH	SPINOSAD
08985	A	PEPPER (BELL & NON-BELL)	NOVALURON
07574	A	TARO	METALDEHYDE
09514	A	WATERCRESS	DINOTEFURAN

Weed Science Working Group Priority A

PR#	Group	Commodity	Chemical
09660	A	AVOCADO	NAA
09243	A	BLUEBERRY	HALOSULFURON
08563	A	BROCCOLI	DIMETHENAMID-P
09519	A	CABBAGE	FLUMIOXAZIN
01243	A	CARROT	GLYPHOSATE
08066	A	GREENS (MUSTARD)	DIMETHENAMID-P
08992	A	LENTIL	2,4-DB
09677	A	PEPPER (BELL & NON-BELL)	FOMESAFEN
09407	A	RHUBARB	HALOSULFURON
09538	A	SQUASH (SUM.)	FOMESAFEN
09352	A	STRAWBERRY (ANNUAL)	OXYFLUORFEN
08948	A	TOMATO	FOMESAFEN

Plant Pathology Working Group Priority A

PR#	Group	Commodity	Chemical
09501	A	BLUEBERRY	V-10118
09263	A	BROCCOLI	FLUTOLANIL
09143	A	CABBAGE	TRIFLUMIZOLE
09612	A	CANE BERRY	OXAMYL
09176	A	CANTALOUPE	V-10118
09616	A	CITRUS (POSTHARVEST)	PROPICONAZOLE
09392	A	GINSENG	FLUTOLANIL
08760	A	GREENS (MUSTARD)	FLUTOLANIL
09497	A	GUAVA	MANCOZEB
09567	A	PEPPER (BELL & NON-BELL)	CYPRODINIL + FLUDIOXONIL
09093	A	PERSIMMON	BOSCALID + PYRACLOSTROBIN
09177	A	SQUASH (SUM.)	V-10118

2005 Food Use Workshop



The give and take during these last hours is remarkable and this is when an outsider notices the true collaboration of IR-4.

Clearances June - August 2005

Product: 2,4-D

Trade Names: AquaKleen, Barrage, Hi-Dep, Lawn-Keep, Malerbane, Planotox, Plantgard, Weedar, Weedtrine

Crops: Hop, Soybean, Wild Rice

Federal Register: July 27, 2005

Product: Pymetrozine

Trade Name: Chess, Fulfill, Plenum

Tolerances

Crop: Asparagus

Federal Register: July 27, 2005

Product: S-Metolachlor

Trade Name: Dual II Magnum

Crops: Head and Stem Brassica, Corn (Field, Sweet, and Pop), Cotton, Garlic, Leafy Petioles, Dry Bulb Onion, Green Onion, Dried Shelled Peas, Dried Shelled Beans, Soybean, Edible Podded Legumes, Peanut, Safflower, Shallot, Sorghum (Grain), Fruiting Vegetables, Root Vegetables (except Sugar Beet), Tuberos and Corn Vegetables

Regional Meetings

continued from page 4

control armored scales, slugs and snails and found there were only limited products to control whiteflies, ambrosia beetles, leafminers, herbaceous perennials and liverwort.

Day two focused on Food Crops. IR-4 Manager of Seed Treatment Technology Program, Jack Norton, spoke about IR-4's initiative to form a separate program that will

be focused entirely on pest management solutions for the protection of germinating seedlings from phyto-pathogenic fungi, nematodes, and insects. University of Georgia's Stanley Culpepper communicated that there is a desperate need for herbicides in greens, cole crops, pepper, squash, eggplant and watermelon. Texas A&M's T.X. Liu reported on new insecticides for management

of onion thrips on onions and Mike Bledsoe reported on the need for efficacy for greenhouse plants. (See related article on page 3.)



Weslaco Orchid Nursery

Some say the highlight of the meeting was the evening shrimp feast, donated by Fritz Jaenike, the onsite Business Manager from Harlingen Shrimp Farms.

The Southern Region also hosted an Ornamentals Tour on Wednesday, August 24. The day-long tour visited Rivers End Nursery to see tropical fruit trees, bamboo and other exotic ornamental trees. Other stops included Fletcher's wholesale nursery, Southern Fields Aloe farm, the Weslaco orchid green-

house, the USDA Bee field laboratory, and the USDA IR-4 research site.

A great deal of planning and preparation went into this meeting and tour. Robin Adkins, Amanda Hogle and Lori Gregg worked tirelessly to pull the meeting together. Their efforts did not go unnoticed. GOOD JOB! Plans are underway for next year's meeting too. To learn more about the the Southern Regional meetings contact Charlie Meister at 352.392.2399 cmeister@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Calendar of Events



Feb 28-Mar 2, 2006, IR-4 National Education Conference: Phoenix, AZ, Contact Van Starnier 732.932.9575 x 621



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