ANNUAL REPORT OF COOPERATIVE REGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS
INTERREGIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT NO. 4

JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31, 1977

1. PROJECT

IR-4 - A National Agricultural Program for Clear-
ances of Pesticides for Minor or Specialty Uses.

2. COOPERATING AGENCIES AND PRINCIPAL LEADERS;

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Technical Representatives

Dr. W.W. Kilgore, California, Chrm.
Dr. J.B. Bourke, New York
Dr. R.F. Ruppel, Michigan (to 31 May 77)
Dr. S.K. Ries, Michigan (1 June - 31 Oct. 77)
Dr. F. Matsumura, Michigan (1 Nov. 77)
Dr. P.A. Schwartz Jr., USDA-Beltsville
Dr. N.P. Thompson, Florida

Region
Western
North Eastern
North Central
North Central
North Central
USDA-ARS
Southern

Administrative Advisors

Dr. J.P. Mahlstedt, Iowa, Chrm.
Dr. H.D. Brown, New Jersey
Dr. W.M. Dugger, California
Dr. H.H. Wilkowske, Florida

Region
North Central
North Eastern
Western
Southern

Consultants

Dr. R.C. Riley, USDA-CSRS, Chrm.
Dr. H.J. Korp, EPA-PRD
Mr. C.L. Fletcher, EPA Minor Uses Officer
Mr. R.E. Hamman, NACA
Dr. K.R. Hill, USDA-ARS
Dr. J.E. Swift, Statewide Pesticide Coordinator, California
Mr. K.C. Walker, USDA-ARS, Honorary Secretary

Project Coordinators (Located at Rutgers University, New Jersey)

Dr. C.C. Compton, Coordinator
Dr. R.T. Guest, Associate Coordinator
Mr. G.M. Markle, Assistant Coordinator and Recording Secretary
Dr. J.E. Elson, Assistant Coordinator
Dr. R.G. Choban, Assistant Coordinator
Mr. D.M. Baker Jr., Assistant Coordinator
Mr. J.S. Wilson, Technician

In addition to the Technical Committee, State Experimental Station Staff Members appointed by the Experiment Station Director for each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam, and three USDA-ARS scientists from each region serve as liaison representatives for the IR-4 Project. Also there are four Regional Coordinators who are located at each of the Leader Laboratories to coordinate research projects in their respective region.
3. PROGRESS OF WORK AND PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

At the beginning of 1977 there were 722 pesticide requests on file. Of this number 217 needed additional efficacy and residue data. 142 were selected as Leader Laboratory projects for 1977. Current projections call for 78 of these projects to be terminated with the completion of analysis of data from the 1977 season. 61 projects will continue on into 1978.

An additional 326 new pesticide requests were received during 1977 and there are 128 leader laboratory projects for 1978. This number includes those 1977 projects which need further research, those projects of the 127 for which no work was done in 1977, and those new requests which were received during the year.

Necessary information was prepared to assist states in the application for experimental use permits (EUP) relating to IR-4 research projects.

Detailed research protocols were prepared for 53 projects during the year. These protocols assist the field researcher and residue laboratory in their planning of specific work required to collect necessary data for petition development and submission to EPA.

The IR-4 Project worked closely with the USDA-ARS in selecting ARS projects to be carried out. This close cooperation helped to eliminate duplication of efforts, which may have occurred.

The Minor Use Analyst Program was fully operative during 1977 and was responsible for eliciting nearly 6000 ornamental needs. With the cooperation of 30 outstanding ornamental researchers who participated in Ornamental Workshops in April and December 1977, selection of high priority research projects to be funded through programs supported by both the Leader Laboratory and USDA-ARS Minor Uses Program. In aggregate, nearly 1200 individual ornamental research projects were supported in 1977 with concomitant generation of much needed registration data.

During 1977 IR-4 prepared 52 pesticide tolerance petitions. Of these 39 were submitted to EPA. The remaining 13 are awaiting completion of review by manufacturers (potential label registrants) or are being amended prior to submission to EPA.

Four proposed rules for tolerances resulting from IR-4 petitions were published in the Federal Register in 1977. In addition, three tolerances or exemptions from tolerances were established. An exemption from the requirement of a tolerance was established for the use of sodium chlorate on soybeans. Tolerances were established for the uses of chlorothalonil on papayas and aluminum phosphide on safflower seed.

Roadblocks to additional clearances which surfaced in 1977, were RPAR candidates, acceptable daily intake (ADI) problems, data audit of suspect toxicological reports from certain private laboratories, and
nitrosamine contamination inquiries. This is in addition to the new toxicological requirements which surfaced in 1976. These problems have been the reasons for rejecting 43 IR-4 tolerance petitions. Data developed through the IR-4 system was not in question in these rejections.

Distribution of the IR-4 Policies, Procedures, and Standard Reference Manual to all IR-4 personnel was initiated in 1976 and completed in early 1977. Continuous updating will be carried out as required. Two updates were distributed in 1977.

Good interest was shown in the IR-4 Slide Package No. 1. The slide package will be revised in 1978.

IR-4 personnel organized and participated in the Minor Use Workshop in January 1977. The Minor Use Analysts (MUA) attended and they were provided background information on pesticide clearances.

The first printing of IR Bulletin No. 1 (New Jersey Bulletin No. 828) "Food and Feed Crops of the USA" is exhausted but requests continue. This Bulletin has been valuable in the preparation of IR-4 category one petitions and in publicizing the IR-4 Project.

4. USEFULNESS OF FINDINGS:

IR-4 clearances for pesticide uses on minor crops are completed when industry registers labels with EPA or with individual states as provided for by Section 24(c) of FIFRA. Also states and grower organizations register uses under 24(c) with IR-4 support. Registered labels permit producers of agricultural commodities to protect their crops from pests. The relatively large number of small farmers benefit directly in the production of a variety of minor crops. The public is assured of a variety of safe and wholesome foods.

5. WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR:

IR-4 will continue to obtain the required data for preparation of pesticide tolerance petitions to EPA for minor uses and minor crops (foods, feeds and fibers) as well as developing data to support registrations of pesticides for non-food uses including ornamentals. We are working, along with industry, under severe handicaps engendered by new regulations and interpretations of FIFRA as amended.

IR-4 is primarily involved with pesticides for which industry has obtained tolerances and registered labels covering pesticide uses on major crops. We shall rely on industry meeting all new requirements for major pesticides and our contacts with industry are such that we can largely avoid pesticides subject to label cancellations and suspensions. In the meantime we shall put a greater amount of effort into clearing pesticides for use on ornamentals, which do not require pesticide tolerances.
6. PUBLICATIONS ISSUED:

IR-4 Newsletter, Quarterly

December 31, 1977

C.C. Compton, IR-4 Coordinator

Approved:

March 7, 1978

Date

W.W. Kilgore, Chairman—Technical Representative

March 10, 1978

Date

J.P. Mahlstedt, Administrative Advisor