

# THE IR-4 PROJECT

## PEST MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS FOR SPECIALTY CROPS AND SPECIALTY USES



### What is The IR-4 Project?

The USDA sponsored IR-4 Project was established by Congress to help the specialty crop industry gain EPA approval of safe and effective biological and chemical pesticides needed to grow their crops. Specialty crops include most vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, and ornamental crops.

Over time, IR-4's mission has expanded to include pest management products for organic agriculture and management of mosquitoes, ticks and other public health pests that vector disease.



### Benefits from IR-4 activities

- Enables specialty crop farmers to produce high-quality, reasonably priced, horticultural crops.
- Manages pests that contribute to food waste.
- Removes pesticide residues as a barrier of trade of US grown specialty crops.
- Allows farmers opportunities to transition to reduced/lower risk crop protection products, used in Integrated Pest Management and organic production systems.
- Reduces the threat of contracting Zika virus, Malaria, Dengue fever, Lyme disease, etc., through the registrations of effective pesticides to control public health pests.



### This leads to:

- A strong and profitable domestic specialty crop agriculture sector, estimated at nearly \$60 billion annually\*.
- Enhanced public well-being through reasonably priced foods that are central to a healthy diet, abundant plants that enrich our environments, and avoidance of mosquitoes, ticks, etc., that vector disease.
- US specialty crop farmers have access to lucrative international markets.
- Jobs, jobs, and more jobs through urban and rural community economic development.



\* 2012 Census of Agriculture (Table 2, Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold).



A PROVEN PROGRAM WITH PROVEN RESULTS!

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# HELPING PEOPLE

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***"Everyone who eats has an interest in the IR-4 Project whether they know it or not. The IR-4 Project is a vital part of the country's food security system and should be considered a national strategic imperative."***

***- Bob Simerly, CPAg, Agronomist, McCain Foods USA, Inc.***

## How IR-4 Helps People

- > There is a drastic need for new pest management tools to fight the ever-increasing number of invasive pests that attack specialty crops, as well as an urgent need to provide alternatives to manage the increased problem of resistance to pesticides. IR-4's network of researchers has the ability to respond to emergency needs that arise from these invasive pests.
- > Opportunities for exports of US produced specialty crops are expected to double by 2025. Enhanced activities by IR-4 help remove pesticides as trade barriers.
- > Consolidation within the crop protection sector (e.g. Dow/DuPont, Bayer/Monsanto, etc.) will reduce company investment in specialty crops. Mega-companies will focus on major crops resulting in less interest in specialty crops/minor uses. IR-4 continues to provide the research needed when the crop protection sector will not.
- > It takes many years to complete projects. Public institutions and small businesses often depend on IR-4 for regulatory support through the EPA approval process. There has been a doubling of demand for IR-4 regulatory support services.



- > IR-4 is a critical component of our nation's food security research infrastructure. IR-4 helps the agriculture sector meet the demands for high-quality food now and into the future. IR-4 remains a sound public investment\* that produces significant, tangible results.

\* Center for Economic Analysis at Michigan State University concluded in 2012 that the IR-4 Project supports 104,650 US jobs and bumps annual gross domestic product by \$7.3 billion.



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