

Notes from the “IPM Centers and IR-4 Summit”

USDA Waterfront Center, 800 9th St., SW, Washington, D.C.,

Thursday, October 11, 2012, Room 4103-5

Facilitator: Rob Hedberg – USDA-NIFA

Introductions

Representatives from IR-4 Headquarters Program Managers and IR-4 Regional Field Coordinators met with representatives of the Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers to explore opportunities for cooperation, information sharing and coordinated use of public dollars to better manage pests. NIFA representatives also attended. The agenda is listed on page 5 and the attendees are listed on page 6.

After introductions, Rob Hedberg, the facilitator of the session, explained the goals of the “Summit.” This was followed by an overview of IR-4 by Jerry Baron (RIPM Summit-1.pdf) and the Regional IPM Centers by each of their respective Directors or designee. Finally, Becky Sisco and Kassim Al-Khatib gave a presentation on IR-4 and the Western IPM Center ‘Working Together’ (IPM Centers IR-4 DC meeting.pptx).

Brainstorming on Cooperation Opportunities

The facilitator used three techniques to solicit ideas from the group for opportunities for cooperation, information sharing and coordination of IR4 and IPM Center programs. These techniques were: (a) input on index cards from each participant, (b) small-group, regional breakout discussions; and (c) a whole-group discussion.

Synthesis of Index Card Comments/Top Opportunities

All in attendance submitted, on index cards, thoughts about “IPM Centers and IR-4 Working Together: Opportunities, Obstacles, and Areas of Overlap.” Small groups, by region, later discussed specific suggestions. The content from the index cards is summarized below.

Incorporate Cross-Representation:

1. In groups/working groups (e.g. invite IR-4 to participate in Small Farms Working Group).
2. At meetings (e.g., NC IPM Center will invite IR-4 to be a Stakeholder Panel member; other Centers already do this).
3. At shared, combined meetings (e.g., ornamental horticulture). An IPM speaker will be invited to the NC Regional IR-4 meeting.
4. In the RIPM grants process (e.g. invite IR-4 personnel to participate or provide input on RIPM grants)
5. On appropriate projects (e.g. IR-4 ask IPM Centers to facilitate “screening” potential IR-4 research projects for impact on new/existing IPM systems.

Identify and prioritize needs and problems:

1. Pest management voids. Registration requests. There are many places where IPM Centers could plug in. For example, Northeastern IPM Center and regional IR-4 leadership will plan ways to get Northeastern priorities forwarded to IR-4.
2. Explore lower-risk alternatives to pesticides.
3. PMSPs; consider a Wiki that many could use to contribute to PMSPs (this idea would need input from OPMP and EPA); better utilize IR-4 expertise.
 - a. IPM Center Directors need to define what constitutes an “update.”
 - b. Commodity groups need to be supportive.
4. Crop profiles

5. Comment coordinators. Share expertise with IR-4 and share IR-4 expertise with IPM Centers.

Share information and data:

1. Regulatory information network
2. Weather data
3. Pesticide fate information
4. Residue longevity
5. Human resource contacts
6. Urban IPM: IR-4 knows the products that exist for managing specific human health pests.
7. New technologies (GECs, for example, for wine grapes) - IR-4 work with IPM Centers in getting news on new technologies out.

Communicate and disseminate information

1. Newsletter articles in each other's publications
2. Publicity networks
3. Educational programs for growers/ end-users

Synthesis of Regional Breakout Discussions on Working Together at the Regional Level

The large group was divided into regional subgroups. Each group was given time to explore opportunities for tangible work between the respective Regional IR-4 field coordinator and the regional IPM Center. The high points of these regional breakout discussions are as follows:

North Central Region

- IR-4 representative to join NC IPM Center stakeholder panel.
- NC IPM Center representative join in IR-4 NC region priority setting process.
- Make PMSPs on-line living documents (like Wikipedia); get IR-4 ideas/knowledge into living PMSPs.
- Have regional IPM Centers triage potential project for IR-4 Food Use Program (e.g. Red/Yellow/Green codes for assessment of pesticide impacts on IPM systems).

Western Region

- Need to revisit protocol and process for PMSPs.

Southern Region

- SOR IR-4 Field Research Coordinator is more integrated into the IPM Network.

Northeast Region

NE IPM Center assist by getting requests for new uses into the IR-4 system.

Synthesis of Whole Group Discussion

The summary of areas for immediate action from the whole group discussion includes the following:

1. Work together on Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans with revised protocols, processes, and formats.
2. Get IPM "read" on IR-4 annual priorities using IPM Center expertise including using the Centers' comment coordinator system. One important consideration is the work load created by doing this work all at one time versus a regular, steady stream of requests.
3. Share new technologies. IR-4 is a vehicle for non-chemical approaches (e.g. sunflower varieties herbicide-resistant sorghum, and transgenic grapes for Pierce's disease).
4. Share appropriate new product information (with full compliance concerning Confidential Business Information) from IR-4 to IPM Centers.
5. Give appropriate positive recognition for the respective contributions made by each other's programs.

Index Card Responses

Opportunities	Obstacles	Common Ground
Involve more people in each other' activities; cross representation on groups and at meetings (3x). Appoint to Advisory Committee for each project/program	Securing funds in an era of diminishing federal support	Pest resistance is a constant and continuing issue
Help one another identify and prioritize needs and problems (pest, products) (3x); comment coordinators	Negative comments and mixed messages, such as "IR-4 doesn't belong with IPM"	Growers need solutions for pest management
Because most IR-4 stakeholders are also advocates of IPM, direct their support toward the WHOLE IPM toolbox	Buy-in from stakeholders	New pests will continue to appear and require management
Improve resistance management (prolong usefulness of new tools) by sharing information with Extension/State IPM coordinators about products in the IR-4 program so they can develop educational programs	Stereotypes: tree hugging, granola munching, nonsense spending, hippies, earth-killing, hummer driving, "nozzleheads"	We have to document stakeholder need to set priorities and take action
Partner in risk reduction	Lack of mutual trust	Solutions have to stay current and will require updating
Help each other fill pest control / management voids (2x).	Cultural differences (many common customers but approach them differently)	We've been collaborating for years
Disseminate information	Mixed reactions to chemical usage	
Support each other in our common goal	Regulatory vs. non-regulatory operations	Who are stakeholders?
Comment coordinators and IR-4 can set priorities, dialog, analyze.	Maintaining open, clear, regular lines of communication	Whom do we serve?
Share field and weather data (2x); pesticide fate info, residue longevity; needs assessment, stakeholder input	Does IR-4 want to be part of the IPM scene?	
Human resource contacts for efficacy testing	Financial uncertainty, sustainability, and limitations	
Set up working group for ornamental horticulture to Help offset travel to biennial workshop. (Workshop would have 2 goals: update greenhouse & field-grown PMSPs and identify research priorities. Priorities would be across tool needing registration and strategies not needing EPA or state registration.	IR-4 is focused on a tool (pesticides) that many "IPMers" are trying to minimize, not expand.	
Translate research funded by IPM Centers on microbial natural products and biotechnology into tools available to growers b facilitating EPA registration	Perception that in fighting consolidation some IR-4 voices have badmouthed other components	
IR-4 could interact with regulatory people affiliated with IPM Centers. Regulatory Network involvement of IR-4 coordinators	Unclear process for getting priorities to Food Use Workshop	

with IPM Centers.		
Help update PMSPs and Crop Profiles together (3x)	Perception of program elimination and loss of identity	
Regulatory Information Network	Perception that IR-4 is wasteful of funds or heavy on administrative staff	
Collaborating through Working Groups (2x); e.g., Small Farms Working Group (2x)	TERMS: Pest Management vs. IPM: Can we collaborate and not let terminology get in the way? “Crop protection” has become a euphemism for some chemical companies to describe synthetic pesticides	
IR-4 work with IPM coordinators on choosing tools	Overhead/ICR: Do we have a process in place to resolve this for long term? Reluctance or unwillingness of IR-4 to accept at least <i>some</i> indirect costs	
Work together on pesticide education of growers with IPM coordinator involvement	Key players not in the room: especially OPMP; how will they fit in any potential collaboration?	
Can IR-4 participate with RIPM grants?		
Collaborate on safe alternatives to pesticides		
Share outreach/extension; tap into each others’ publicity networks.	IR-4 has a well-defined mission. IPM Centers’ mission is much less well defined.	
Become a strong voice to represent both growers and consumers (versus the chemical industries that are focused on selling their products)	Efficacy testing performed by IR-4 and LG members of Centers not necessarily a problem but some coordination would be good	
IR-4 could ask commodity committees to support IPM Voice, possibly increasing the funding pie for all		
Share technological resources to help cut costs of crop production		
Get input on IR-4 proposal		
Provide opportunities for economic gain		
Reciprocate on reviews of relative publications		
Create recommendations to growers to increase production while minimizing impact on the environment and human health (2x).		
Up-to-date and integrated approaches to ensure/preserve efficacy		
Centers perform efficacy studies – help complete IR-4 data packages		
IR-4 participate in small farm working groups	IR-4 & centers need to <i>value</i> each other’s programs, or find value in them	
IPM center involvement during IR-4 projects to ensure coordinated efforts to educate users so they’re ready to go to registration		
Computer links – compatibility; FITT program; sharing newsletter articles; considerations when developing systems so		

they're widely acceptable		
sharing regulatory contacts, experts to answer stakeholder questions	All parties need to see value to themselves – better off together than apart (we're not yet there); need mechanisms for sustaining the shared value	
PMSPs as a source of priorities for IR-4		
Articles shared across newsletters (IR-4 & Centers)	Communication – need a platform to communicate better	
Resistance monitoring, baseline establishment, methods development [new activity for IR-4, i.e., contracting for this gap in Federal/registrant portfolio]	Can't take on any more projects...and better coordination between IR-4 and IPM Centers would require time, resource	
Shared stakeholder engagement – priority setting/needs assessment		
Organized measurement/assessment – crop losses		
Shared communication – IR-4 updates w/Center newsletters		
Shared joint planning for integrating pesticides into IPM systems		
Comments coordination – need IR-4 input into this regulatory framework; endorsement of their regulatory experts	Over-encumbered/under-funded people	

Agenda for Meeting

Time	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator
8:15	Introductions	<i>All</i>
8:30	Goals of this summit and review of the agenda Build trust; demonstrate collaboration and look for opportunities for further cooperation; have the programs complement each other on goals and objectives; share information and resources where appropriate; help one another with priority-setting and planning	<i>Rob Hedberg</i>
8:40	Explanation of IR-4 Structure, regions, staffing, links to USDA, stakeholder engagement, connections to commodity liaison groups (how these relationships form; how they develop; presence of, or lack of, private corporate support). Q & A.	<i>Jerry Baron</i>
9:10	Explanation of IPM Centers Overview of organizational structure Each Center's , specialization: links to USDA, regions, and staffing. Q&A	<i>Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, Northeastern IPM Center Jim VanKirk, Southern IPM Center Carla Thomas, Western IPM Center Sue Ratcliffe, North Central IPM Center</i>
9:40	IR-4 and the Western-IPM Center Working Together	<i>Becky Sisco & Kassim Al-</i>

		<i>Khatib</i>
10:00	Break	
10:15	IPM and IR-4 working together: What are the obstacles and opportunities? (Index cards). Brief discussion	<i>Rob Hedberg</i>
10:30	Expanding opportunities for cooperation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting grower needs • Meeting other stakeholder needs • Priority setting • Regionalization • Meeting EPA requests • Resistance management 	<i>All</i>
11:40	Small groups: How to work better together. Identify one step your group can take for further collaboration (pilot process)	<i>All</i>
12:15	Reconvene and share. Recommendations to NIFA.	<i>Rob Hedberg</i>
12:30	Adjourn. Safe travels	

Attendees

Last name	First Name	Title	Organization	Region	Email
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