



March 2013 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

TO: Project Management Committee/Administrative Advisors/CLC members

FROM: Sherrilynn Novack & Van Starner

DATE: May 20, 2013

SUBJECT: Spring 2013 Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting - Executive Summary & Minutes

Please find attached the spring 2013 PMC Executive Summary and Minutes from discussions March 12-14, 2013 in Washington, DC.

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.

March 2013 PMC Meeting - Executive Summary

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2013 meeting on March 12-14, in Washington, DC.

- A CLC meeting was held prior to the PMC meeting.
- USDA-NIFA Director, Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy joined the meeting and shared his vision for IR-4 and USDA-NIFA, which he summed up in three “C’s” 1) working Collectively 2) Capacity development and pipeline investment in infrastructure improvements 3) Competitive grants
- Northeast Region is doing well. E. Lurvey is involved in HQ international projects . A QA position is being filled; final interviews taking place in April.
- Southern Region low in field trials for 2012 but picked up in 2013. A proposal has been submitted for PMC discussion. Most issues focus around personnel.
- Western Region reported a good year with 183 trials. Lab is reporting the need for new equipment in near future.
- North Central Region, record year for lab. Field and Quality programs doing well
- ARS is under severe travel restrictions. Will have trouble committing the labs on propiconazole samples. Willing to do the first year of work on this chemical but cannot commit further.
- AAs put together the interim report for the NRSP grant-Ag Exp. Station Directors are very complimentary of IR-4. This will now be funded on a 5-year basis with a mid-term review to determine the final 2 years of grant.
- NIFA requested and received a two-week extension to submit grant proposals. Apply for full funding and then see what the cuts will entail.
- HQ was hit by a retro-active increase in fringe to 45% (about 7% more than previously budgeted)
- Future Outlook of IR-4 – Looks like IR-4 will be cut 7.2%. IR-4 will need to reexamine ways to absorb this cut in funding.
- Potential merger between IR-4 and NRSP-7 (Minor Uses Animal Drugs) was discussed. This needs to be a win-win for both programs in order to collaborate.
- New QA technology was well received at National Education Conference
- Discussed concerns about EPA funding cuts and limited GLP inspections. Europe regulatory authorities have rejected certain industry submissions because of lack of EPA GLP inspections.
- IR-4 submitted 70 data packages to JMPR in December 2012 to support US exports of specialty crops.
- Keith Dorschner has been appointed as the IR-4, IPM Liaison. There will be a meeting with EPA to help in determining IPM compatible products.
- A post meeting discussion to induct Marion Miller into the IR-4 Hall of Fame was unanimously approved.

Motions and Action Items

MOTION: To Approve minutes from October 2012 PMC meeting. Approved

MOTION: To induct Marion Miller into the IR-4 Hall of Fame. Approved via post meeting conference call.

ACTION ITEM: ACAC to discuss and manage propiconazole samples being directed to Tifton for study 11053

ACTION ITEM: QA to send a letter to EPA stating the closing date of the lab in Hawaii and requesting an inspection prior to this closure

ACTION ITEM: Jerry should redo budget numbers and send to the regions to reflect the possible budget cut scenarios

ACTION ITEM: IR-4 will change the PCR to capture IPM criteria



March 2013 PMC - Minutes

The IR-4 Project Management Committee (PMC) held its spring 2013 meeting March 12-14, in Washington, DC

Attendees:

- Tammy Barkalow - Assistant Director, Quality Assurance, IR-4 HQ
- Jerry Baron* - Executive Director, IR-4 Project
- Rich Bonanno* - Commodity Liaison Committee Chair
- Doug Buhler – North Central Region Administrative Advisor
- Debbie Carpenter - Assistant Director, Registrations, IR-4 HQ
- Mary Delany – Western Region Administrative Advisor
- Keith Dorschner – Entomology Program Manager and IR-4 IPM Liaison, IR-4 HQ
- Mary Duryea – Southern Region Administrative Advisor
- Bob Hollingworth* - North Central Region Director
- Monte Johnson - NIFA National Program Leader
- Dan Kunkel - Associate Director, Food & International Programs, IR-4 HQ
- Karl Malamud-Roam - Public Health Pesticides Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Marty Marshall* - Southern Region Director
- Sherri Nagahiro –IR-4 Business Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Sherrilynn Novack – Public Relations & Communications Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Cristi Palmer – Ornamental Horticulture Program Manager, IR-4 HQ
- Paul Schwartz* - ARS Regional Director
- Dave Soderlund* - Northeast Region Director and PMC Chair
- Van Starnier - Assistant Director, Research Planning & Outreach, IR-4 HQ
- Ron Tjeerdema* - Western Region Director

*Voting members

Also attending: Eric Young – Executive Director, Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, N. C. State

March 12, CLC Members

- Ann George – Washington Hop Commission
- Lin Schmale – Society of American Florists
- Ray Ratto – Ratto Brothers
- Rocky Lundy – Mint Industry Research Council
- Mike Bledsoe – Village Farms, L.P.
- Mike Aerts – FL Fruit and Vegetable Association
- Todd Scholz – USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council
- Berry Tanner – National Watermelon Promotion Board
- Marc Tefteau/Joe Bischoff – American Nursery and Landscape Association
- John Keeling – National Potato Council
- Terry Humfeld, Cranberry Institute
- Tyler Wegmeyer
- Ray Prewett
- Ray McAllister
- Ken Melban

March 14, NRSP-7 representatives:

- John G. Babish - National. Coordinator
- Ronald Griffith - Iowa State University
- John Baker – Michigan State University
- Lisa Tell - UC-Davis.
- Meg Oeller - FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine
- Gary Sherman - NIFA
- Amy Omer – FDA

Joint CLC/PMC meeting, March 12 p.m.

The joint CLC/PMC meeting was opened with remarks from Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy, Director, USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Sonny shared his vision for NIFA which he summed up as the three “C’s” 1) working Collectively, 2) Capacity development and pipeline investment in infrastructure improvements and 3) Competitive grants. He talked about his long-standing relationship with IR-4, when as a graduate student at Rutgers University; he conducted research on some IR-4 projects (at that time they were referred to Minor Use projects).

Dr. Ramaswamy has a true concern for the nation’s ability to conduct research. With facilities at many of the nation’s research institutes in a state of disrepair, he feels the investments in capital improvements, a personnel pipeline and agricultural competitiveness are key to a successful USDA-NIFA program. He is challenging USDA-NIFA and all those involved to take on the three “C’s” as their goal to help sustain American agriculture. Sonny spoke about the current federal budgetary situation (5% decrease for NIFA programs) and the sequestration of funds that had resulted in loss of 100-120 competitive NIFA grants (~\$60M). At that time the first 2014 budget proposal from the White House was expected in a couple weeks. Regarding the 2012 proposed consolidation of IR-4 funds with several IPM programs (which was curtailed for 2013 funding, and is not to be considered in 2014 budget proposals, Sonny provided several suggestions for consideration: 1) IR-4 should consider “thinking bigger,” as “being alone as a line item in the budget is easier to be picked off; 2) NIFA is okay with separate funding for the IR-4 Project for now, but he cautioned remaining this way; 3) he asked that everyone consider being passionate about all food and crop production agricultural enterprises, and look for ways to combine all plant/crop related activities.

IR-4 and the 2017 Farm Bill (>75% is food stamp related): J. Keeling spoke of past successes with specialty crop initiatives in the Farm Bill; there was encouragement for discussions with the Specialty Crops Farm Bill Alliance for consideration of gaining funding every 5 years thru the Farm bill, vs the current scenario of appropriations deliberations for annual funding

Joint CLC/Minor Crops Farmer Alliance (MCFA) topics from a.m. meeting:

- Jerry Baron, Dave Soderlund and Sherri Novack sat in this meeting
- There is now a vice-chair of the CLC, and Mike Bledsoe has accepted that responsibility;
- Replacements for CLC members at this annual meeting were approved to serve in a voting capacity, as needed
- Rich Bonanno We need 3-4 Focus Points are needed for discussions with Congress
 1. IR-4 gets 1:1 match with dollars from NIFA and (Basic Manufacturers, Exp Stations, PMC, EPA (no charge for registration reviews).
 2. 11.9 M = 7.2 B annual gross domestic product, 104,000 jobs 250x return on investment.
 3. Type of chemistry: 80% reduced risk products.

2013 budget and beyond: CLC members appreciated comments from Sonny Ramaswamy regarding the IR-4 budget, and there’s not much more for discussion now. Since the budget was not released, there is very little they can do right now regarding Hill visits. They are still concerned with grouping IR-4 into a one-line budget that has no obvious set-aside identified for IR-4. They need to be able to point to something definite when asking for budget issues concerning IR-4.

Public Interest Finding status at EPA: J. Baron updated the group that the agency has come a long way toward finalizing a document to address IR-4's exemption from paying PRIA registration fees; the current version of the PIF will not create undue burdens on IR-4 for >95% of projects conducted

Wed. March 13 - PMC Updates

MOTION: to accept minutes from October 2012 PMC meeting. APPROVED

North Central Region (NCR): Had a record year in the laboratory; Bob Kon, analyst, has retired and is not being replaced. The field program and QA are working well. The next NCR SLR meeting will be held August 19-20, 2013; this and all future SLR meetings will be held at MSU. The region's biggest challenges are the budget and aging lab equipment.

Northeast Region (NER): E. Lurvey has been asked to do capacity building work in Latin America (Costa Rica and Guatemala thus far), with funding from Foreign Ag Service, and so far this arrangement is working well. The NER is in the final stages of hiring a new QA, with a focus on NER field sites along with other work organized through HQ. The hope is to have the person on board by June 1. The plan is to have B. Anderson assisting till then, and to help train the new hire in field audits, etc.

Southern Region (SOR): Field trials were reduced in 2012 but that number will be increased in 2013. Most issues are concerning working arrangements with RFC and RLC. Both have submitted proposals for different working arrangements, one to work from Alabama year-round, the other to work from NY during the summer. These proposals were to be discussed further in Exec. session.

Western Region (WSR): Had a good year in 2012 with 183 trials. Biggest challenge: the lab reports the need to replace outdated equipment in the near future. M. McChesney has retired, and B. Hong has taken on his duties. The WSR has a very good relationship with their IPM counterparts at US Davis that could be a good model for the other regions.

USDA-ARS: Severe travel restrictions have been imposed; will not experience furloughs; held a couple webinars instead of face-to-face liaisons meeting. P. Schwartz raised concerns about the propiconazole/avocado study in 2013 (PR# 11053) due to the significant increase in sample numbers as the protocol was developed. He would commit T. Hendricks to the first year of samples from FL for parent only analyses, but would not commit further time and lab capacity to this study. This project is to provide a tool to fight Laurel Wilt on avocado that could wipe out the entire industry, thus the urgency and need to complete this project. Through a meeting of the IR-4 ACAC, which Paul should attend, a plan needs to be implemented to bring this project to completion. The Tifton lab has lost 2 analysts, and although replacement has been requested, the positions are not likely to be re-filled.

ACTION ITEM: Study 11053 should be put on the agenda for the next ACAC meeting to discuss the best alternatives to complete this project

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA): The RFA has been issued and a two week extension has been granted. Submit proposals asking for full amount and go from there if there are cuts.

Administrative Advisors: The AAs have put together an interim report on IR-4 to Ag Exp Station directors, and it was very complimentary, with an "A" grade. This is a new process because the NRSP grant will now be approved for a 5-year period with an interim report half-way through the 5-years to determine the final 2 years of funding. The concept of the "Minor Use Animal Drugs Program, the NRSP-7 which will expire in 2014, joining ranks with IR-4 was raised. NRSP-7 was originally started as part of IR-4 (1992 they split from IR-4 and went on their own); they lost their special research funding and are left with \$325k a year of NRSP funds. IR-4 needs to be cautious about a "cooperative set-up", but at the same time consider the needs of NRSP-7

collegially. A certain % of their work is with aquatic species, and there could be some synergy with the IR-4 Public Health Program. The NRSP-7 funding ends Sept. 2014; if it looks like there could be a synergy with IR-4, they will request a one year extension on their grant so they could fall in line with IR-4's grant renewal in 2015. Unlike IR-4 they receive no (or limited) industry or stakeholder support. If there is to be a combined effort, the IR-4 CLC will have to be supportive and there will need to be a win-win for both programs. The Exp. Station Directors would like to keep this program afloat.

HQ: Was blindsided with a 7% fringe increase retroactive to July 2012; will need to make some hard decisions to reduce spending and meet the shortfall.

Food Use Program: in 2012 there were 1087 new uses on 31 chemicals vs. 15 in 2011, >60% of the new 2012 uses are already on labels, and by the 2013 use season expect nearly 100% of the new uses will be on labels. Regarding crop group revisions, IR-4 is ahead of the agency on submissions and their reviews. Final rule was posted on for revised Stone Fruit and Tree Nut crop groups last year. Tropical fruit groups and herb and spice group have been submitted to EPA. Also submitted are: Leafy vegetable crop group 4; a new stalk, stem, leaf petiole crop group; brassica head and stem group 5; root and tuber vegetable crop group 1; and leaves of root and tuber vegetables group 2.

The lab backlog is around 30 Analytical Summary Reports and has remained steady the past year.

Budget and 2013 Research Plan: Due to anticipated budget cuts, the regions will build a bottom up calculation to fund core infrastructure. They will pick up some of the analytical trials that ARS is losing due to capacity issues. With remaining uncertainty about what the final budget will be, consensus was to submit budget proposals from the regions/HQ based on 2012 funding levels, and any excess funds would go to HQ for eventual distribution to the regions, as appropriate.

ACTION ITEM: Jerry should redo the numbers and send to the regions to reflect the possible budget cut scenario

International Activities: D. Kunkel reported: 1) as one result of the GMUS-2, an International Steering Committee has been formed to coordinate and communicate: capacity developments, communication, and global data needs. The committee will also manage the 5-year action plan that was developed at the GMUS-2; 2) a non-legal MOU with Brazil was signed Nov. 2012; 3) there is potential for a 2015 global minor use priority setting workshop, with Canada/Australia/Germany being the leads to organize; 4) updates of the NAFTA Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC); 5) 70 IR-4 data packages were submitted to JMPR in December; 6) the global BYI-02960/blueberry study (PR#10637) residue study was submitted, the results were run thru the OECD calculator, and showed a tolerance of 4 ppm, both when using all data points and when using just the NAFTA trial data points; this project along with the global tomato study is being considered for a journal publication (the data was already submitted Oct. 2012 by the mfg. as part of the very first review for this new AI [global review]).

M. Hengel is working with Canada to harmonize Analytical Summary Reports.

M. Duryea encouraged IR-4 to broadcast far and wide the story about the IR-4 aflatoxin (AF36) work in Africa.

Quality Assurance: There is a major concern with U.S. data being rejected by the EU due to labs not being inspected by EPA. The IR-4 Hawaii lab is being decommissioned, and has never been inspected. IR-4 will request the EPA compliance office to conduct an inspection before lab closure, and if no response is received, IR-4 has done its due diligence to achieve certification.

ACTION ITEM: QA to send a letter to EPA stating the closing date of the lab in Hawaii and requesting an inspection prior to this closure

HQ QA is losing two FTEs due to retirements before the beginning of June. Diane D'Angelo was brought on-board in the QA group in Feb. 2012, and has hit the ground running due to significant prior QA experiences.

IPM: Keith Dorschner has been appointed as the official IR-4/HQ IPM Liaison. He reported on the IPM Summit, held in Washington in October that was very useful as a first step in determining the compatible components within the IPM and IR-4 programs. He also noted a meeting with EPA to discuss possible criteria that IR-4 can use for our Food Use Workshop. He gave kudos to IR-4 Western Region which is already been working closely with Regional IPM Centers, and encouraged continued cooperative activities.

ACTION ITEM: IR-4 will change the online Project Clearance Request form (PCR) to have stakeholder requestors capture IPM compatibility of requested projects

Ornamental Horticulture Program: C. Palmer reported on the activities of the Ornamental Horticulture (OH) program and the industry as a whole. IR-4 OH still has tremendous support from the industry and many supporters were instrumental in helping IR-4 through the "SAVE IR-4" Campaign. C. Palmer is also giving a number of presentations throughout 2012-2013 providing information about IR-4's 50-year history and the OH program.

Challenges: In 2012, growers were met with new exotic species that provide significant challenges. Some of these include boxwood blight and impatiens downy mildew, which has virtually eliminated the crop for the 2013 growing season.

Opportunities: IR-4 collaborated with several U.S. researchers to study fungicide and sanitation mitigation strategies for boxwood blight. IR-4 also contributed to three new products registered through EPA: Marengo, Orvego and RootShield Plus. In 2012, the OH program conducted 772 trials that will contribute to future registrations.

Public Health Pesticide Program: K. Malamud-Roam (KMR) reported that the IR-4 Public Health Pesticides (PHP) program has been given a 5-year continuation of funding through an ARS co-op agreement. Research Assistant, L. Schermerhorn, has been accepted into The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and will leave IR-4 in mid-August. He was a tremendous asset to the program and helped with the PHP Inventory and Database. The second edition of the PHP Inventory is expected to be completed by the summer of 2013. The PHP program has completed focused reports on Volatile Mosquitocides/Repellents, Larvicides for Malaria Control and Tick Control Agents. Updates were also provided for Military PHP needs, the Etofenprox project, attractive bait products and other new products in the pipeline. KMR also gave an update on the status of old PHPs and International process improvements.

Biopesticide and Organic Support Program: Recommendations of the Grant review panel were approved by the PMC via email vote, prior to the meeting. If there are significant budget cuts, the program will withdraw one or two biopesticide projects already approved for 2013 funding.

Communication: A new brochure celebrating the 50th anniversary of IR-4 was created focusing on milestones throughout the years. The design of the brochure was continued in the 2012 Year End Summary, and other 50th Year Anniversary marketing materials and event programs for celebrations being held in Washington, DC, and at Rutgers University. Many banners were created as well as posters to display at the celebrations. The first newsletter of 2013 also had a focus on celebrating the IR-4 50 year milestone.

Training and Education Committee: V. Starnier reported that the National Education Conference (NEC) was held on February 27-28, 2013 in San Antonio, TX, with 128 attendees. The conference included joint field, lab and regional breakout sessions, optional field focused topics, lab focused topics and eQA training. An email

survey was distributed with results pending. A follow up conference call of NEC committee organizers was planned in April for NEC follow-up and discussion of what documents/notes to capture on the IR-4 website.

Agreeing that conferences such as this are very effective for providing opportunities for communication and cooperation, the PMC is committed to maintaining a budget for future NECs, starting with the next one in 2016.

2012 Priority setting review: V. Starnier provided a brief review of the 2012 priority setting processes resulting in the 2013 research plan. A few highlights: 1) for the second year at the St. Louis FUW there were no quotas of “A” priorities per discipline, and survey respondents again were overwhelmingly in favor of continuing in this manner; 2) project nominations in August reduced to 222 the projects discussed at the FUW, and the target 46 “A” priorities were chosen; 3) a new priority setting option, organized per CLC member suggestions, resulted in 11 project requests (+upgrade proposals) received after the Aug. new PCR deadline and prior to an early Oct. deadline – 7 of these late requests were included in the 2013 research plan

2013 Preview of FUW and NRPM: V. Starnier gave a quick preview of plans for the 2013 FUW and NRPM, with these key points: 1) Aug. 14 – last day for receipt of new PCRs for possible discussion in Albuquerque; 2) Aug. 16–Sept. 4 – on-line project nominations; 3) FUW Sept. 17-18; 4) Oct. 15 – HQ/RFC conference call to confirm carryover trials and upgrade additional priorities for the 2014 research plan; 5) NRPM at U. C. Davis Nov. 5-6

ACAC and lab backlog update: D. Carpenter gave an update of progress in the IR-4 labs, with these key points: 1) Due to budget issues within USDA/ARS, T. Wixson at the Wapato lab may have to forfeit the lease on his mass spec in June – this could seriously impact sample analyses pending from his lab; 2) there are no current “homeless” projects waiting for a lab to take-on analyses; 3) ACAC to discuss ASAP the ARS/Tifton concerns with the volume of samples expected from the propiconazole/avocado study, and help determine the best path forward, including possibly moving sample analyses to a contract lab (Morse/ABC?) 4) Backlog dropped over previous months. Still some backlog studies, and labs are working together to address.

NRSP-7- The representatives from NRSP-7 joined the meeting to discuss possible collaboration/alliance of the program with IR-4. Their funding is \$325 thousand a year and their program renewal year is 2014. Their mission has been focused on gaining pest control registrations through FDA for minor species (sheep, goats, honey bees, pheasants, aquaculture, etc.) and some minor uses on major species (ivermectin/tick project on cattle in TX along the border with MX, etc.). J. Babich presented an introduction as to possible areas of synergy with IR-4 (such as the PHP work on cattle fever tick and varroa mites on honey bee). The largest part of their funding is spent on food safety (for the consumer and for “animal safety” and efficacy), <15% on aquaculture projects, a companion ARS program on cattle, and 2 bee projects with USDA; they currently have 13 active projects, but with their current funding situation, the program is barely sustainable.

There is little to no apparent support of NRSP-7 from their own stakeholders, raising the question if there is a need or market for their research? The animal industry support is quite fragmented, very independent and not organized. Typical projects commonly they take 6-7 years or more, and stakeholders groups tend to “wear-out” from lack of success. The IR-4 CLC would need to be convinced that IR-4 is not straying too far from its core mission in order to support such a collaboration/alliance.

IR-4’s stance is...it must be a win-win situation for both programs, and NRSP-7 agrees. The next step was decided as follows: consensus was reached that a small group should be convened to determine what the best next steps in this discussion should be, and E. Young from NC State offered to serve as coordinator of this group.

NIFA awards review group: A group of NIFA reviewers, led by Janet Smith and Bruce Mertz, joined the meeting briefly to answer any questions PMC might have regarding completing/submitting funding proposals for the 2013 budget. They commented that the IR-4 submissions are generally in very good shape. This was a

good opportunity for raising questions and getting face-to-face feedback from those who actually review and decide on acceptability of proposals.

Upcoming Meetings:

Western Region Training

This year training webinars are being held the second Tuesday of select months, from 11AM-12:15 PM Pacific Time, and continue to be a huge success! The schedule can be found here:

<http://wrir4.ucdavis.edu/events/default.html>

Summer PMC meeting via conference call

July dates TBD (there was a motion approved that if Canada did not serve as host for this year, PMC will hold a “virtual” meeting this summer)

North Central Region Meeting

August 19-20, 2013

MSU

Southern Region Meeting

August 20-21, 2013

Orlando, FL

Northeast Region Meeting

August 20, 2013

Albany, NY

2013 Food Use Workshop

Sept. 17-18, 2013

Albuquerque, NM

2013 IR-4 Ornamental Workshop

October 8-10, 2013

Coral Gables, FL

2013 NRPM/Fall PMC meeting

11/5-6 NRPM, 11/6-7 PMC

Davis, CA

Additional IR-4 celebration possibilities in 2013:

1. AAFC-PMC meeting in March 18- 21 , 2013, Ottawa, CN
2. The Pacific Branch ESA meeting April 7-10, 2013, Lake Tahoe, NV
3. APS Aug. 10-14, Austin, TX
4. At IR-4 Food Use Workshop, Sept. 17-18, Albuquerque, NM
5. Florida Nursery and Landscape Show September 19 - 21, 2013 Orlando, FL
6. IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop October 8-10, 2013, Coral Gables, FL
7. ESA – Nov. 17-20, Austin, TX

[Materials for the Spring 2013 PMC meeting including reports can be found here.](#)