

IR-4 BIOPESTICIDE PROGRAM

Call For Biopesticide Grant Proposals

The IR-4 Biopesticide Research Program announces a request for proposals (RFP) for funding in year 2001. Early stage biopesticide proposals are due on 15 November 2000. Advanced stage biopesticide proposals are due on 15 December 2000. Instructions for proposal content, format, and submission can be obtained from IR-4 Headquarters or the Regional Offices.

For additional information contact:

**Early Stage
Biopesticide
Proposals due
15 NOV 00**
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**Advanced
Stage due
15 DEC 00**

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Article by Bill Biehn

Biopesticide Industry Organizes to Raise Awareness, Facilitate Registration and Develop Industry Standards

The Biopesticide Industry Alliance (BPIA) was organized in April, 2000. Twenty-four companies, including AgraQuest, Auxein, Becker Microbial, Bedoukian Research, Inc., Bioscape, Inc., Biosafe Systems, Biotepp, Bioworks, Consep, Ecogen, EcoScience, EcoSoils Systems, Eden Bioscience, Encore Technologies, KHH Biosciences, 3M, MGK, MicroBio, Mycotech, Pherotec, Inc., Summus, Taensa, Thermo Trilogy and Valent Biosciences, are currently participating in the Alliance. The mission is to improve the global market perception of biopesticides as effective products and to facilitate the successful registration process of biopesticides. Additionally, the Alliance intends to develop industry standards focusing on product quality, product effectiveness and the regulatory process.

Biopesticides are products derived from such natural materials as animals, plants, bacteria, and certain minerals. In 1999 there were 175 registered biopesticide active ingredients and 700 products. BPIA is focusing on two classes of biopesticides, microbial products and biochemicals. The most widely used microbial pesticides are various types of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Biochemical pesticides include insect pheromones and selected plant growth regulators that

increase the productivity of many crops. Currently biopesticides make up less than 1% of the crop protection market. That number is expected to increase, in part, due to the 3-year, \$3-6 million development time/cost for biopesticides compared to 7-10 years and \$70 - \$100 million for conventional pesticides and genetically engineered plants.

EPA's Biopesticide and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD) regulates biopesticides. A primary goal of BPIA is to develop a strong and smooth working relationship with BPPD. To that end, a biopesticide registration workshop jointly sponsored by BPIA, BPPD and IR-4 is in the planning stages for late 2001. The goal of the workshop is to help biopesticide registrants improve the quality of registration packages and improve the review process.

Pam Marrone, chair of BPIA and also President and CEO of AgraQuest, says, "There is tremendous opportunity for biopesticides that approach or equal the efficacy, ease of use, reliability, and economy of chemical pesticides. Biopesticides have a bright future as components of IPM systems that provide value and benefit to the grower."

Article by Sandy Perry