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## IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

**Editor's Note: IR-4 Highlights by the Executive Director is an outreach feature of the Newsletter, focused primarily on articles in this issue.**

By the time you receive this Newsletter issue, we will be well into the fall season and the summer's long hours and hard work will have become a memory, hopefully a positive one. At IR-4, our summer has been busy with keeping in touch with our customers and partners through numerous meetings and tours. I have listed on page 3 the tours and special visits our staff members have made and their trip reports in order to share their experiences with others at Headquarters and the regions so we can better understand our customer's needs when requests are proposed for research projects. Anyone wishing a trip report (via e-mail or hard copy) may contact the author directly (refer to directory on page 38) or Cheryl Ferrazoli.

Inputs through Project Clearance Requests (PCR's) for potential 2001 research projects were thoroughly discussed at an outstanding Food Use Workshop held in Orlando, Florida from September 12th to 14th. Many people deserve credit for making this Workshop such a success including Pat Sarica for all of the hotel arrangements, Jerry Baron for organizing the sessions including the excellent crop protection industry (both chemical and biopesticide) product updates, the Study Directors (Keith Dorschner/Entomology, Dave Thompson/Plant Pathology and Fred Salzman/Weed Science) who chaired the project prioritization and the record number of stakeholders who provided the prioritization decisions. See Jerry's article on page 14 for more Workshop details. The active participation from several of our Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) partners (Phil Korson/Cherry Marketing Institute, Rich Bonanno/grower, Ray Ratto/grower and Dave Trinka/Michigan Blueberry) was also important in the prioritization process. Read more about the CLC's activities in Rocky Lundy's (Chairperson) report on page 23. Also, having guests from Canada, Mexico and Germany as well as our EPA partners helped give the meeting a NAFTA and EU flavor. Of course, it goes without saying that the USDA-ARS and CSREES and our land grant university partners and stakeholders complete and compliment the entire process.

We were also pleased to sponsor, along with the EPA's Biopesticide and Pollution Prevention Division (BPPD) and Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), a Biopesticide US/Canadian Regulatory Harmonization Workshop on September 11th prior to our Food Use Workshop. Many thanks to Janet Andersen, BPPD Director, and Wendy

Sexsmith, PMRA Director for Alternate Strategies and Regulatory Affairs, and their staffs for helping to organize the meeting and make presentations. We had excellent participation from the biopesticide industry whose member companies gave attendees their experiences in working with BPPD and PMRA on joint biopesticide petition reviews which were overwhelmingly positive. Note that Jerry served as IR-4's program committee member and chaired the Workshop. We are encouraged that BPPD and PMRA wish to sponsor with IR-4 a more detailed Biopesticide Workshop next year to help registrants with more specific regulatory questions. Those efforts are a logical extension of our ongoing Biopesticide Program which has received over \$1,500,000 in IR-4 competitive grants funding since 1995 and holds a prominent place in our 2001 to 2005 Strategic Plan. We are further partnering with biopesticide companies through the recently organized Biopesticide Industry Alliance (BPIA) formed this summer with over 20 member companies (I am serving as an ad-hoc member). BPIA's goal is to improve the global perception of biopesticides as effective products and to facilitate the successful registration of their products with emphasis on biochemical and microbial products. BPIA also plans to develop industry standards for product quality, effectiveness, and regulatory processes. It was encouraging to have many biopesticide companies actively participate in our Food Use Workshop by providing product updates and encouraging use of their products in pest/crop management strategies for minor crops. Several products received prioritization for additional efficacy trials to support minor crop label additions during the Workshop. Messenger/Harpin protein from Eden Biosciences received registration this summer and had sold over \$5,000,000 of product by September. Considering that the entire U.S. market for biopesticides is slightly over \$100,000,000, this market introduction is quite an accomplishment! IR-4 feels that many of the biopesticides funded by our Biopesticide Grant Program over the last 6 years can have similar impacts and we urge our university researchers and minor crop growers to use them in integrated pest/crop management programs not only for pest control but also for resistance management.

Our EPA partnership through the EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group is well into its second year with a growing list of accomplishments. We held four meetings this year (the last for 2000 on September 27th) and also had four meetings in 1999. This does not count the numerous informal meetings and almost daily phone calls held between individual staff members to discuss issues and work on process improvements. Just to refresh your memories, some of the key accomplishments the past two years include the following: 1) [Herndon Summary Tables](#) which have saved the Agency one to two months review time and contract

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research dollars on IR-4 petitions. 2) Super Crop Groups which saved IR-4 over \$1,000,000 in laboratory and field trial costs in 1999 for spinosad and azoxystrobin. This initiative resulted in 162 spinosad clearances in January 2000. Recently, we received 207 new uses for glyphosate in orchard crop production (site preparation, chemical mowing, strips and row middles) and other crops for fallow, pre-plant, pre-emergence, post-harvest and post-directed hooded uses in mulched or unmulched row middles. This was a joint effort between the glyphosate registrant, Monsanto, IR-4 under the leadership of Michael Braverman, and the EPA (many folks, but special thanks to Will Donovan and Bernie Schneider in the Health Effects Division) which saved IR-4 significant dollars in field research and laboratory costs. 3) Other Efficiencies. We appreciate the Agency's review of our proposed research projects prior to finalization in order to select the compounds/projects with the highest level of potential regulatory success. The Agency also has our rolling three year Workplan available to work with IR-4 on the most important priorities due to FQPA concerns and bundling our petitions with an active ingredient in order to most efficiently use the Agency's resources for risk assessments. 4) Successes. Pre-FQPA from 1984 and 1996, IR-4

obtained an average of 100 clearances per year. In 1999, IR-4 received 313 (255 chemical and 58 biopesticide) clearances and is on track to receive between 400 and 500 clearances in 2000. The numbers speak for themselves!

The skies may be bright with our accomplishments, but there are a few clouds on the horizon. As outlined in our 2001 to 2005 Strategic Plan, without additional funding increases to IR-4 from USDA through Congress, our program will start to lose momentum. The last increase our ARS partners received was in 1992 while our last CSREES funding increase was in 1997. It is critical that our growers, Commodity Liaison Committee and other stakeholders interested in our continual contributions to U.S. agriculture make their feelings known to the new Congress so they can consider our needs in the FY 2002 budget. Your support, as always, is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to finalizing our 2001 program at the National Research Planning Meeting to be held at Headquarters in New Jersey on October 24th and 25th. There will be a lot to tell you about this and other interesting topics in our next Newsletter.

Article by Bob Holm

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### Trip/Meeting Reports by HQ Staff

- Visit to Texas A&M Laboratory (Dr. Scott Senseman) by Johannes Corley.
- Symposium on Atrazine and Simazine by Marija Arsenovic
- CARAT Meeting by Bob Holm
- ARS Weed Science Workshop by Bob Holm and Dan Kunkel
- Pacific Branch, Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting by Ken Samoil
- Study Director Visits in Ohio/Michigan by Van Starner
- Biopesticide Industry Alliance by Bob Holm
- Gerber Trip Report by Bob Holm
- NAFTA Meeting Report by Jerry Baron
- Monterey Bay Area Visit with Field Researchers by Ken Samoil
- Cornell University - Weed Science Field Days by Fred Salzman and Marija Arsenovic
- 2000 Washington State Pest Control Tour by Keith Dorschner and Marija Arsenovic
- Study Director Visit to Plateau Experiment Station/University of Tennessee by Marija Arsenovic
- Trip to North Carolina State University by Ken Samoil
- Visit to Field Facilities in Maine and New York and the IR-4 Northeast Region Laboratory at Cornell University/Geneva by Johannes Corley and Michael Braverman
- Northwest Minor Crop Field Symposium by Dan Kunkel and Fred Salzman
- California Tour by Fred Salzman
- 27th Plant Growth Regulation Society of America (PGRSA) Meeting Report by Ray Frank
- American Phytopathological Society of America Meeting Report by Dave Thompson and Van Starner

#### Presentations

Bob Holm "New Perspectives for the Future of the IR-4 Program" to North Central Region Agricultural Experiment Station Directors Meeting in Ames, IA on 7/13, Biopesticide Industry Alliance in Washington, D.C. (7/18) and Ecogen, Inc. in Langhorne, PA on 9/19. "IR-4's Role in Biopesticides at U.S./Canadian Joint Registration Workshops" (9/11) and "IR-4 in Action" at Food Use Workshop in Orlando, FL (9/12, 13 and 14).