
IR-4 Highlights (Partner Outreach)

Our partnership meetings with the crop protection industry have gone very well this year. My hat is off to the management teams at Aventis (AgrEvo plus Rhone-Poulenc), BASF (BASF plus American Cyanamid) and Syngenta (Novartis plus Zeneca) for putting together excellent staff in a short period. IR-4 has worked hard during these transitions to reestablish contacts with senior technical, R&D and regulatory management as well as with the company IR-4 liaisons, registration groups, business units and product development staffs to maintain ongoing minor crop projects and encourage them to consider minor crop opportunities for their new commercial products. We have been given a peek at the new product pipelines of these and other companies and are quite excited by the prospects we see. Please come to our Food Use Workshop scheduled on September 11th to 13th in Fort Collins, Colorado to learn directly from the IR-4 company contacts about what new technologies they are developing with minor crop potential. Also keep an eye out for an update of Jerry Baron's IR-4 New Products/Transitional Solution List which should be posted on our web site in July and will be provided to Food Use Workshop attendees. The March 2001 copy which was an insert in the IR-4 Newsletter 32:1 is also on the Web. In the past few months, we also have had very productive meetings with AgraQuest, Uniroyal, DuPont, Tomen, Makteshim Agan, Valent, Emerald BioAgriculture, Gowan and FMC, and have meetings scheduled with Bayer and Dow AgroSciences (after the Rohm & Haas, agrochemical business acquisition has settled).

I also want to highlight our partnership with the Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) and the excellent support we have received from this group and especially from Rocky Lundy, CLC Chair. Rocky organized an IR-4 briefing for House staff members on February 26th which was strongly supported by Wally Ewart, Rich Bonanno, Ann George, Phil Korson and Rocky who all gave great IR-4 testimonials. Rocky also organized a Senate staff briefing given by me on April 30th. Unfortunately, the new President's budget proposal omits the \$2.5 million increase proposed in the 2001 budget but not funded. However, recent House Committee activities has restored \$2.0 million in the CSREES Budget for IR-4 programs and \$500,000 in the ARS Budget for related support programs. We are hopeful that Rocky and the CLC

along with other minor crop growers will be successful in convincing their House and Senate representatives to support the \$2.0 million increase back in the USDA-CSREES Special Research Grants/Minor Crop Pest Management, IR-4 budget line item for the FY 2002 budget to support our minor crop initiatives. Since our last CSREES increase was in 1997, the flat budget for the past 5 years has started to take a toll on the number of residue projects conducted (163 in 1998 versus 107 in 2001).

Finally, our regulatory partnership with the EPA, California's Department of Pesticide Regulation (Cal-DPR) and Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) continues to exceed even the most optimistic expectations. Our third this year (and 11th in the series) EPA/IR-4 Technical Working Group Meeting in 2001 held on June 19th was very productive. In addition, our fourth educational tour entitled "Beyond the Battlefield" featuring minor crops and challenges facing minor crop growers was held on June 20th with record participation and a high degree of interest. Van Starner did an excellent job of organizing and implementing the tour and set a high standard for future tours. Ken Samoil, Van Starner and Sandy Perry provide a summary of the TWG meeting and field trip on page 18. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the EPA team, especially Jim Jones who made the nomination for including IR-4 (as well as DPR and PMRA) as part of the Minor Use Technical Working Group which received the OPP Award for Excellence in Teamwork at a ceremony on June 5th. I understand this is the first time non-EPA organizations have been included in this award. It is a great honor and again is an example of the excellent regulatory partnerships forged between the EPA, IR-4, Cal-DPR and PMRA.

This summer promises to be a busy one for all Headquarters staff with completion of data packages for submission to EPA, PMRA and California DPR to address the 2002 workplan, study updates, numerous tours, company meetings and other special events. We hope you have a productive summer and plan to attend and actively participate in our September Food Use and Ornamentals Workshops to focus our programs for 2002.

Article by Bob Holm