
Commodity Liaison Committee (CLC) News

**2002
IR-4 Budget
Increased \$1.515
million**

The most important news is the Congressional approval of a 2002 IR-4 Budget increase. The approved 2002 budget for the USDA/CSRESS/IR-4 Program is \$10.485 million (an increase of \$1.515 million). The approved 2002 budget for USDA/ARS/IR-4 is \$3.5 million (an increase of \$400,000). The CLC worked very hard and diligently throughout the entire year to accomplish this task in a year that will forever be shadowed by the tragedies and aftermath of September 11th. Accomplishing this objective during a time of national emergency and crisis politics makes this achievement even more distinguished and extraordinary. The budget increase would not have become a reality if not for the untiring efforts put forth by the CLC members and several IR-4 Headquarters staff. Unfortunately this “celebration of achievement” is as short-lived as an adult mayfly since the efforts needed to sustain and/or increase future IR-4 budgets is an ongoing and unending crusade. Preparations and plans for the 2003 IR-4 budget are already in progress. The CLC will hold its Annual Meeting on February 25th in Washington D.C. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual IR-4 Congressional Luncheon hosted by the CLC. The IR-4 Project Management Committee will also meet with the CLC and attend the luncheon. Minor crops in America are at critical crossroads with a wide array of numerous issues and concerns. The outcome of these matters will decide the future of minor crops in America. The IR-4 Program is a key element and can play a very significant role in developing and implementing the solutions to many of these problems if given a sufficient level of funding to do so. America’s minor crops needs the IR-4 Program- now more than ever. This message needs to be repeated over and over and again and again. I encourage everyone to continuously support the IR-4 Program in any and every way possible. Wishing Everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Article by Rocky Lundy

NOTE: IR-4 thanks our stakeholders on the CLC for their sincere support of the program.

IR-4 Welcomes a new Study Director

Dr. Hong Chen recently joined IR-4 Project Headquarters staff as an Associate Coordinator in Plant Pathology. Hong came to IR-4 from the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, in Aiea, HI. Hong’s primary responsibility was conducting research projects in pest management for tropical crops including sugarcane, fruits, vegetables and ornamentals. She had conducted pesticide efficacy studies on fruit and vegetable crops, and GLP residue studies with banana, sugarcane and papaya. Hong received her M.D. and M.S. degrees in China where she worked as a medical doctor and then as the director of the Honeybee Research Center at Beijing Academy of Agriculture & Forestry Sciences; and she received her Ph.D. in Entomology at the University of Hawaii. Hong was a member of the Entomological Advisory Subcommittee for the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, and a graduate of the Hawaii Agriculture Leadership Foundation. Hong has been awarded many honors for academic achievement, leadership and research. Her expertise in tropical plant pest management and chemical studies will be a valuable addition to IR-4. Please join us in welcoming Hong to IR-4 by contacting her at (732) 932-9575 ext. 627, e-mail hchen@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Article by Sandy Perry and
Hong Chen