IR-4’s National Education Conference

What’s Happening

Jerry Baron
Executive Director
The IR-4 Project
IR-4’s National Education Conference
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Van Starner, Chair
John Wise
Roger Batts
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Matt Hengel
Will Meeks
Sherri Novack
Marylee Ross
Ken Samoil
Peter Sturman
Overview

- People
- Successes
- Challenges & Threats
- Path Forward
- CLC Activity
Dick Guest (1931-2017)
Robin Bellinder Graduate Student Fund.
The fund will be established “to provide financial support for graduate students working on vegetables crops, with a preference given to projects with a weed science emphasis.”
Retirements

- Bob Hollingworth-NCR Regional Director
- Diane Infante-IR-4 Data Manager
- Marty Marshall-SOR Regional Director
- Edith Lurvey-NER Reg. Field Coordinator
- Dan Rossi-NE Region Admin. Advisor
- Joe DeFrancesco-OR State Liaison & FRD
- Paul Schwartz-ARS Program Manager
- Becky Sisco-WSR Reg. Field Coordinator
Recent Success - Food Prog.

- 1000 new uses approved in 2016,
  - Following record number of approvals (1175) in 2015
  - Registrations that are critically important to specialty crops under challenging regulatory conditions
- Expansion of EPA crop groupings, domestically & internationally
2016 Field Program

- Significant changes from last year’s FUW
  - Flubendiamide
  - Specific PPD requirements
  - Emerging regulatory concerns
  - Overcommitted on tropical crops
Success

- Over 40,000 uses registered for specialty crops and minor uses since 1963
- Majority are reduced/lower risk technology and registered in the last 15 years
Benefits

• **Growers**
  – Legal access to safe & effective pest management technology …… grow high quality crops

• **Food Processors & Food Retailers**
  – Consistent supply of materials

• **Public**
  – Plentiful supply of fruits & vegetables that contribute to a healthy diet & plants/flowers that enhance the environment

• **Economy**
  – IR-4 contributes $7.2 Billion to annual US GDP/supports 104,650 jobs
Global Efforts

- Domestic growers want access to international markets
- Lack of MRL harmonization is a trade barrier
- Funds from FAS to “enhance” domestic data development to support harmonized MRLs
  - More field trials/more decline samples/additional metabolites
- Mentor international “IR-4s”; cooperate in joint data development
Other International Success

- IR-4’s Global Residue Studies
  - Tomato - key part of EPA global “exchangeability” proposal
  - Blueberry - registered
- Global Partners
  - Capacity building efforts
  - EU Coordination Facility
- Global Minor Use Summits/Workshops
- Dan Kunkel - IUPAC Award
In the middle of a difficulty lies opportunity.

~Albert Einstein
Challenges/Threats

Product Performance Data (PPD) Development
- IR-4 being asked to develop more PPD – why?
  - Higher “bar”/California registration
  - Liability
  - Lack of research scientists
- More $ for PPD (from IR-4 & Industry)
- PPD Team
  - Appropriate focus
  - Process improvements
  - Integration of biopesticides and conventional for R² approach
University Service Fees (indirect costs/overhead)

- IR-4’s Federal authorizing language does not allow universities to charge overhead
- Universities under intense fiscal challenges; some can no longer absorb these costs
  - Cornell ended IR-4 involvement
  - Others (e.g. Univ. of FL, UCD) to follow?
- USDA believes they can modify agreement, allow Universities to collect 10% overhead
- Without new funds – A Devastating Outcome
**EPA**
IR-4 & Specialty Crop Community are significantly concerned b/c:

- FQPA fears coming true – wholesale cancellations of chemical classes (OP’s)
- Reliance on non-core studies, such as epidemiology studies
- Use of conservative models that overestimate risk
- Latest challenge - funding cuts at EPA; threaten specialty crops more than major crops
Challenges/Threats

Mergers in Industry

- $1 + 1 < 2$
- Paralysis by Analysis
- Higher economic bar for new uses
- Less investment in new technology
- Opportunities for smaller companies & emerging technology
US Government Funding

• IR-4 funding flat for last five years, lower $ than in 2009
• Expenses continue to rise
• IR-4 has had to reduce research to balance budget
• Future funding – the new abnormal
Path Forward Process

Started October 2015

Components

- Assess indirect cost issue
- Perform an Organizational Assessment
- Analyze the impact of a 10% reduction in funding
- Explore potential sources of new revenue
- Communication with specialty crop/pest management community
Need for IR-4 Continues to Increase

• EPA regulatory requirements are increasing while industry consolidates → more minor uses with higher development costs

• Specialty crop community needs access to international markets → increased size & complexity of IR-4 studies

• The crop protection industry is requiring more robust crop safety and product performance testing on specialty crops → increased IR-4 research costs
What have we learned:

• Universities will continue aggressive indirect cost recovery
• Organizational Assessment → recommendation to maintain existing network of research centers; seek savings from process improvements
• Focus on increased revenue, aggressively seek new funds:
  – Solicit new funding partners from the produce supply chain
  – Embrace contract research
  – New grants from public and philanthropic sources
  – Coordinated effort by specialty crop community to have Congress upwardly adjust IR-4 funding
**What can you do:**

- Become an active participant in efforts by commodity associations/food processors and other organizations to educate and advocate for increased funding for IR-4 from the US Congress; **Current request is to increase IR-4 funding from $11.9 million to $19 million**

- Private sector - establish or increase an annual unrestricted contribution to IR-4

- Educate others in your networks about the contributions of IR-4 to crop protection and food production; let them know of the critical fiscal challenges IR-4 is facing; please help us make connections with others who can help
New and expanding membership

• Twelve new members in the last 3 years
  • Mike Bledsoe, Chair
  • Todd Scholz, Vice Chair

• A new sense of organized “activism”

• Congressional Liaison Sub-Committee:
  Lori Berger, Allen Mize, Laura Phelps, Keith Pitts,
  Steve Salisbury, Bob Simerly, Dennis Tristao.

• Appropriation process vs. Farm Bill
Where will we find enough food for 9 billion?
Thank you!