



THE IR-4 PROJECT

Pest Management Solutions for
Specialty Crops and Specialty Uses

We have come a long way!

1963...beg, borrow and steal

2023...highly efficient, national research program that has unique expertise to develop data to support registration of various types of crop protection technology on specially crops/minor uses



Why IR-4 Work (still) Matters



Specialty crops have limited arsenal of crop protection products

- **Pests don't discriminate between major and specialty crops**
- **Resistance to existing tools continues to increase**
- **New and more difficult regulatory challenges**
- **Non-Tariff Trade Barriers**



Deliverables

Food Crop Program

- **Since the Start - 23,000 uses supported**
- **2022 – 694 new tolerances/ 750 registrations**
- **To date 2023 – 188 new tolerances/1276 registrations**

Environmental (Ornamental) Horticulture Program

- **Since the Start – Over 55,000 impacted uses**



Other Deliverables

- **Crop groups**
- **Data requirements for new crops (e.g. hemp)**
 - **Speaking about hemp...ethalfluralin success**
- **International harmonization of MRLs**



Other Recent Accomplishments

- **Rebuild teams at IR-4 HQ and Regions**
- **Improve efficiencies**
 - **Consolidation of analytical services**
 - **Modernization of systems-eFDB**
- **Enhanced Communications/Outreach**
- **Tamed analytical laboratory backlog**
- **Funding**



Challenges-E³

- **Endangered Species and pesticide use mitigations**
- **Endocrine Disruption**
- **Europe**



EPA Public Interest Finding

- **Associated with waiver of EPA PRIA fees for IR-4 actions**
- **Most cases, cut and dry-EPA considers IR-4 work in Public Interest because work on specialty crop or meets other criteria**
- **In a small number of instances, IR-4 must develop a “Weight of Evidence” to show the PRIA fee waiver is in the public interest**
- **Traditionally, we waited until near submission to develop Weight of Evidence.**
- **Going forward-We will start gathering Weight of Evidence documentation before starting study**
 - May request assistance from interested parties.**
 - Without a strong case, we may tap brakes on doing study**



International Update

- **20 years of partnership with Canada's PMC on joint projects**
- **Minor Use Foundation**
- **Borlaug Fellows**
- **Global Minor Use Summit**
Feb 4-9, 2024 in Madrid, Spain



Future

- **Pest management will remain critically important to feed 10 billion people**
- **Health benefits of specialty crops will continually expand**
- **Pest management technology will evolve**
 - **Less dependence of traditional chemicals, greater focus with Biopesticides, Biotechnology & Emerging Technologies**



Future

IR-4 will also evolve

“If the rate of change on the outside exceeds the rate of change on the inside, the end is near.”

- **Pay attention to what is happening**
- **Think differently; e.g. Integrated Solutions**
- **Do what is needed to get grower access to solutions**
- **Assist in other areas e.g. Bio-stimulants**
- **Expand on partnerships**



It Takes a Village...

- IR-4 HQ Staff
(Operations Team/Biologists/Registration Team/Bill Torres)
- IR-4 Regional Field Coordinators
- Research Community (IR-4/LGU/USDA/Private & CROs)
- IR-4 Project Management Committee
- Commodity Liaison Committee/Friends of IR-4
- Crop Protection Industry
- Mgt. Partners (NIFA, ARS, NC State & other institutions)
- EPA
- International Partners
- YOU



THANK YOU

