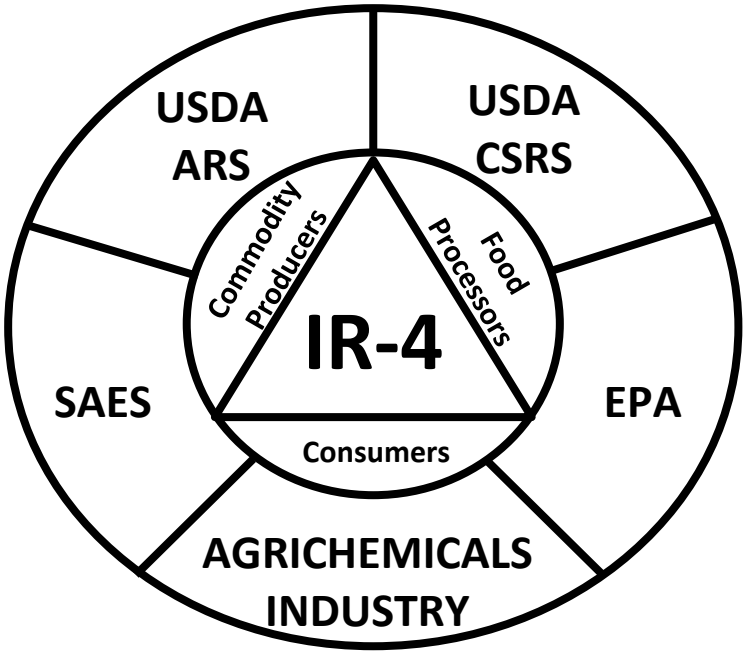
The IR-4 Project

What's New?

The IR-4 Project

Established in 1963 by USDA to facilitate the registration of pest management technology on specialty crops/uses.



IR-4 Project Objectives

- ✓Food Crop Program
- Environmental Horticulture Program
- ✓Biopesticide Regulatory Support
- ✓Integrated Solutions
- Public Health Pesticides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Sustained Success

- Over 18,500 food uses registered for specialty crops and minor uses since 1963
- Expansion of crop groupings (US/Canada & Codex)
- Nearly 2500 new uses approved in last 36 months, accomplished under challenging regulatory conditions

Modern Minor Use Problem

Registrations are plentiful but ability to use approved pest management products can be limited:

- Export issues
- Efficacy data needs
- Pest resistance
- Government use restrictions
- Public acceptance

Recent Success

- 2017 – EPA approved 65 tolerances that supports 534 new uses
- 2018 - Already exceeded 2017 levels, > 550 potential new use registrations
- EPA published “Notice of Filing “ in July- Approval of these tolerance will exceed 1000 new uses

International

- WTO Recognition
- Crop Groups
- Harmonized MRLs
- GMUS-3
- Expanded Cooperative Work
  - Phase 2 of capacity building
  - Potential bilateral research with Canada, Australia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil

Food Program Research

- 68 residue studies in 2018
  - The number of studies continues to drop
  - Studies more complex, more data needed
  - More “competition” to do product performance work
  - Flat resources and higher expenses
- Similar to slightly less work planned in 2019

Reorganization 2018

Biopesticide Research will be consolidated into Food and Environmental Hort Programs

- Minimal impact on Environmental Hort Program
- Impacts Food Product Performance activities
  - Specific projects
  - Integrated Solutions (formally PPWS & majority of Biopesticide Projects)
- 2019 will be transition year, some traditional biopesticide projects, some Integrated Solutions

Integrated Solutions

Integration of biopesticide and/or chemical products into conventional ag to assist with mitigation of pesticide residues, management of pest resistance to pesticides as well as identifying solutions to important pests.

- Residue mitigation will extend PHI to reduce residues to support trade or risk concerns.
- Replacement products will be screened to manage key pests
- Five projects in 2019

Process Improvements

- Various steps to eliminate backlog and achieve timelines
- Focus data development on what is necessary vs. what is nice
- Closer integration of Product Performance research with pesticides and biopesticides
- 2019 Week of Workshops
- On-line Priority Setting Tool

New People/New Roles

HQ

- Thomas Pike
- New Study Director

Regions Field Coordinators

- Michael Horak (Western Region)
- Janine Spies (Southern Region)
- Anthony VanWoerkom (NC Region)

EPA – Nancy Fitz (MUTL)

Funding

- IR-4 funding less today than in 2010; expenses continue to rise → less research
- Continued pressure to pay indirect costs
- In 2019, Commodity Groups/stakeholders stepped up their game
- At the end of the process → another year of flat funding
- Newest issue, problem with TASC Funds

Benefits

- Growers
  - Legal access to safe & effective pest management technology……grow high quality crops
- Food Processors & Food Retailers
  - Consistent supply of raw materials
- Economy
  - ***IR-4 contributes $9.4 Billion to annual US GDP/supports >95,200 jobs***
- Public
  - Plentiful supply of specialty crops that contribute to a healthy diet & plants that enhance the environment.