

# The Impact of Proposed Consolidation of IR-4

## The Problem

The President's budget is proposing that the IR-4 Project (*Public Law 89-106/7 U.S.C. 450i(e)*) be consolidated with several IPM Programs to form a new Crop Protection Program. **This consolidation as proposed would severely impact IR-4 and its ability to deliver pest management tools to US growers of specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, flowers, trees).** US grown specialty crops are a vibrant economic force in domestic and international markets.

## The Solution

Congress is urged to maintain dedicated funding of at least \$12 million for Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4) in FY 2013 within the USDA-NIFA Research and Education Activities.

## Background

Developing pest control tools has high regulatory costs, and public support has always been needed to ensure that safe and effective agrichemicals and biopesticides are available for small, orphan markets. For almost 50 years, the IR-4 Project has served the agriculture community and all Americans by facilitating EPA registration of safe and effective pest management technologies where the private sector is unable to cover regulatory cost.

## What is IR-4 and what does it provide?

- IR-4 brings together and effectively coordinates the financial resources and scientific expertise of the federal government, state land grant universities, growers, and chemical/biopesticide companies to accomplish its mission of registering products to manage destructive pests that threaten food security, consumer prices, and public health.
- Since its inception, IR-4 has facilitated the registration of over 25,000 crop uses.
- Investment in IR-4 has yielded a huge return on investment. The Michigan State University Center for Economic Analysis (Dec. 2011) determined that for a total budget of \$18 million (USDA-NIFA and other public/private sources):
  - IR-4 Project efforts contribute over **\$7.2 BILLION** to annual US Gross Domestic Product.
  - IR-4 Project efforts support **104,650 JOBS** throughout the United States.

## What are the impacts of the proposed consolidation?

- The proposed consolidated Crop Protection Program does not specifically support IR-4's primary mission – registration of pest management materials for small markets.
- IR-4 work extends beyond facilitating the registration of pest control tools. For example:
  - IR-4 data and research expertise helps remove trade barriers to US exports of specialty crops.
  - IR-4's work with EPA has been identified as a critical project by OMB and the Department of Commerce in supporting the US-Canada agreement to establish the Regulatory Cooperation Council.
  - IR-4 collaborates with USDA-APHIS for research to combat invasive pests and diseases.
  - IR-4 helps protect deployed US military forces from insect pests which transmit diseases to humans.
- Consolidating IR-4 with the proposed Crop Protection program will substantially increase costs:
  - Congress would need to provide \$3.6 million additional dollars just to maintain IR-4 research activities at current levels to account for the loss of the indirect cost waiver to host universities.
  - EPA has granted over \$8 million fee waivers specifically for IR-4-submitted data.
  - It would be extremely expensive and a waste of already appropriated taxpayer money to restructure IR-4 and interrupt the numerous ongoing studies which can take 3 to 5 years to complete.

*The IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee is a consortium of more than 25 grower groups and others that support IR-4. For further information contact Rich Bonanno at [rich@mfbf.net](mailto:rich@mfbf.net) (978-361-5650)*