



Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.

IPM Voice Update

September 27, 2011

IPM Funding Declines Despite Successes

Since the year 2000, USDA's overall competitive research budget has gone up 36%. In contrast, IPM funding in that budget has declined by 36%.

This analysis, completed for IPM Voice by Dr. Harold Coble, agronomist with the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, shows that compared to 2010 levels, the FY 2012 IPM budget has gone down by 29%. The NIFA budget has gone down only 8%. Thus IPM funding has been cut three times more than the NIFA budget. These cuts are in spite of the fact that IPM is only 1.6% of the USDA's competitive research budget.

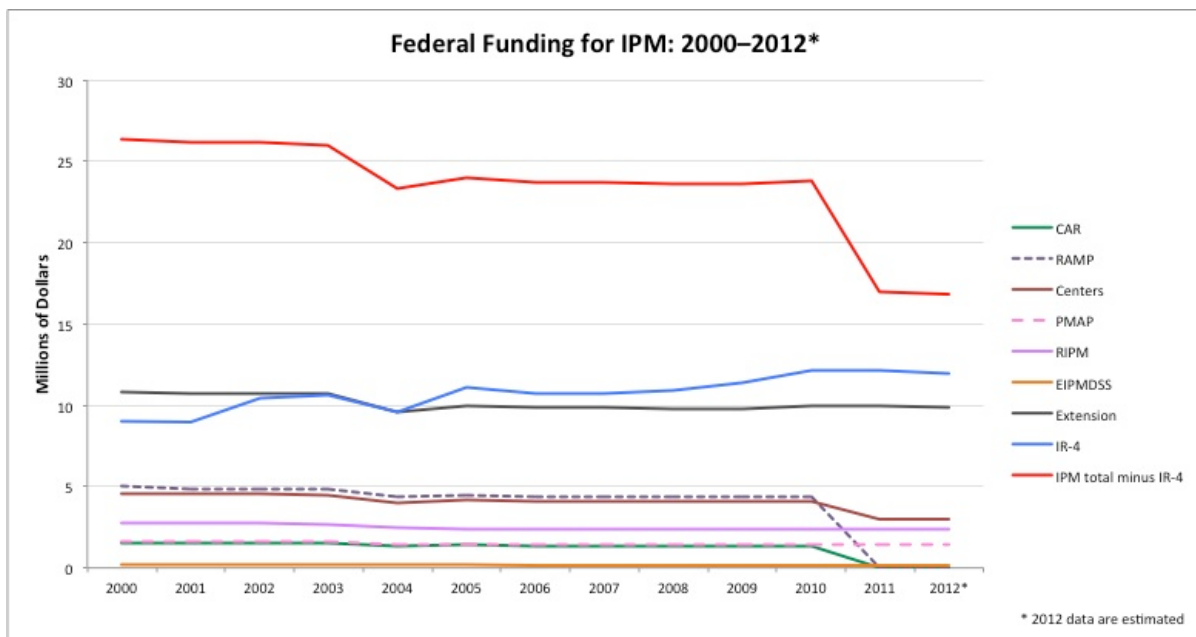
Another element of the IPM effort, the USDA NIFA Regional IPM Centers, have been cut 34% in in the FY 2011 budget.

These cuts continue despite a stellar track record for IPM and the IPM Centers. For example, a nationwide effort initiated with a USDA investment implemented an early warning system to protect soybeans from Asian Soybean Rust. This effort saved farmers \$299 million in 2005 alone, according to the Economic Research Service. The United Soybean Board currently provides ongoing funding for the system. In 2006, an independent review team found that the four regional IPM Centers have shown *an impressive use of limited resources to maximize output of projects*, and recommended that they be a model for additional USDA efforts.

IPM Voice is currently mounting an effort to educate policy makers about the need for continued and expanded support for IPM. Jim Cubie, former chief counsel for the US Senate Agriculture Committee, is heading up the effort to:

- 1) Fund the IPM programs at 2010 levels. This will restore the PMAP, CAR and RAMP programs.
- 2) Reestablish the position of a National IPM Coordinator, who will provide a voice for IPM in USDA and ensure that the various USDA IPM programs are coordinated with each other and with state and regional efforts.
- 3) Provide clear authority for federal commodity promotion programs to fund IPM activities. For example, the United Soybean Board has provided funding for a nationwide effort to develop a strategy to protect soybeans from Asian Soybean Rust. This effort has saved farmers \$299 million in 2005 alone, according to the Economic Research Service.

Please consider supporting this effort by joining IPM Voice as a member and contributor.



Changes in federal IPM program funding 2000-2012.

Why I Became a Member of IPM Voice, Harold Coble

To whom it may concern:

I became a member of IPM Voice because I believe that for IPM to survive as a strong, viable approach to pest management, we must have a champion - a champion willing to educate and provide documentation of our successes and needs to those in seats of authority. I believe IPM Voice can be that champion.

Those of us involved on a day-to-day basis understand the importance of IPM, but we mostly take for granted that the public and our elected representatives understand that also - WRONG! We have seen what can happen to support programs for IPM when no one is standing up for us. We lost over \$6 million in research and extension program support and could still lose another \$4 million in support for IPM Centers, and I personally believe we lost that because no one made the case for the importance of those programs. That has to change!

I have heard that some are concerned that they might have a conflict of interest belonging to an organization that advocates for IPM. While it is true many of us, me included, are prohibited from going directly to Congress to advocate for our own programs, there is no conflict in belonging to an organization that might seek to inform our legislators about our situation and advocate for our programs. I also belong to AAA, AARP, USGA, a national political party, and some other organizations that advocate for things I believe in.

If those of us who know IPM and have spent much of our professional lives trying to improve other people's lives through IPM cannot stand up for what we believe in, we should just find something else to do.

Harold D. Coble

Harold Coble is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University. He now coordinates the Federal IPM Coordinating Committee and is employed as an agronomist by USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy. Dr. Coble previously served as the USDA's National IPM Coordinator.

IPM Voice Preparing for 7th International IPM Symposium

The IPM Voice executive committee and board of directors are working to finalize details for an IPM Voice presence at the [7th International IPM Symposium](#). We are designing a session with an attention-grabbing title and speaker lineup to increase awareness of the current state of IPM funding and explore future funding opportunities. Got ideas? Jump in! Contact Leigh Presley: lpresley@ipminstitute.org.

[Join IPM Voice today](#), and support active advocacy for progressive IPM. Please forward this email to colleagues and ask for their support and participation.

IPM Voice is an independent, non-profit organization advocating for integrated pest management (IPM) that is genuinely progressive and seeks continuous improvement of environmental, social and economic conditions through application of accepted scientific principles. IPM Voice was formed in 2010 by more than 35 professionals working to expand the benefits IPM has provided to agriculture and communities for more than 40 years.

Visit the [IPM Voice website](#) for more information!

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