



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

IPM Voice Update

February 22, 2012

Administration Proposes Major Reorganization of IPM Programs: Level Funding Requested

The 2013 National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) budget submitted by USDA is the most significant change in IPM programs in many years. The 2013 USDA request builds on successful efforts by IPM Voice and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) to protect IPM funding. Last year IPM Voice and NAICC successfully secured \$3.6 million more than USDA requested. The 2013 USDA budget includes almost all of these increases.

Proposed Program Changes

The base NIFA IPM research program, Extension IPM funding, Regional Pest Management Centers and the Minor Crop Program (IR-4) are combined in a new program called the "Crop Protection Program." Expert IPM Decision Support System, IPM & Biological Control, Pest Management Alternatives and Smith-lever 3(d) Pest Management are merged into the consolidated budget as well.

In recent USDA NIFA budgets, the typical text related to many IPM line items has been "this program will now be funded by the NIFA budget as a whole." The proposed 2013 budget is the clearest affirmation of the importance of IPM in many years. For the fullest description available of what USDA envisions go to <http://www.obpa.usda.gov/17nifa2013notes.pdf>, page 17-81.

Budget Changes

About 70% of the funds in the new Crop Protection Program come from the IR-4 and the IPM Extension programs. The balance is from the Regional Centers and the base IPM research program budget.

Here's a summary:

- The request for 2013 for the combined program is \$29.056 million.
- The request is about 11% (\$2.9 million) more than the Administration requested in 2012.
- The request is about 2.6% (\$700,000) less than Congress provided to IPM and IR-4 last year. Overall, the proposed NIFA budget is down 6%.
- The Methyl Bromide Alternatives program is merged into the new Crop Protection Program. If Methyl Bromide Alternatives continues to be funded at last year's level of \$1.996 million, funds for the other IPM items will be cut 9% compared to last year's Congressional budget. (USDA did not request funds for Methyl Bromide research in 2012.)
- USDA's 2013 request for IPM is 25% less than in 2010. Since 2000, NIFA's budget overall has gone up 16% while IPM has gone down 35%. These disturbing trends are why IPM Voice was founded.
- There are no funds for the IPM PIPE program in spite of the fact that the USDA budget document reports it has saved farmers \$1 billion (p. 17-100). IPM PIPE was last funded in the 2010 budget.

IPM Voice will continue to work with its allies for the highest possible level of IPM funding. Your support is

needed. Please join today and add your voice to those advocating for IPM.

Weigh In on the New Crop Protection Program

NIFA will hold the first in a series of listening sessions on the new Crop Protection Program in Memphis on March 29, from 2 to 5 PM, immediately following the IPM Symposium. Listening session webinars will be held during the afternoon (EST) of April 11th and May 1st. An in-person session will be held in Washington on April 16th.

IPM? What's That?

If you ask the average consumer or taxpayer what IPM is, there is a good chance you'll get a blank stare. That's according to Cornell Survey Research Institute polls taken between 1989 and 2006. The awareness needle has barely budged over that interval. In 2006, only 17% of 800 New Yorkers polled reported having heard of IPM, vs. 12% in 1989.

Who cares? Does low awareness matter? Yes! For one, it makes it difficult to organize taxpayers to advocate for IPM support from state and federal decision makers. For another, low awareness makes it challenging for an IPM grower to answer questions from, or market to, customers concerned about the impacts of production practices on health and environment. More than [375 million acres worldwide](#) are now certified for using IPM practices, up from 246 million acres in [2008](#). These producers and many others could benefit from greater consumer appreciation for IPM and its benefits.

So what's an IPM advocate to do? Should we focus on IPM adoption by users and potential users? Certainly we have fertile ground to cover in that arena. Recent USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service [reports](#) show that only 6% to 10% of cropland acres in the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River regions are managed at relatively high level of IPM. The steering committee for the National School IPM Working Group estimates that less than 8% of our school systems nationally are achieving high-level IPM.

Can we point to any successes? Yes. Many! Asian soybean rust has been tamed with minimal fungicide use through an innovative monitoring network called the [ipmPIPE](#). Conventional field corn insecticide use has been greatly reduced through host plant resistance. The cotton boll weevil has been essentially eradicated in the US cotton belt by using a combination of genetic, cultural and chemical tactics. And much of urban pest control for cockroaches and ants has moved to a safer baiting paradigm versus indoor use of broad-spectrum insecticides. But we have much further to go.

Perhaps we should focus on increasing awareness and appreciation by the general public? That strategy could "pull" more IPM from agricultural producers, and structural and lawn and landscape pest control service providers. Seventy-eight percent of US families now purchase organic products and 72% of parents are familiar with the USDA Organic seal. The organic industry grew by 8% in 2010. That is an impressive lead to follow.

IPM Voice's advocacy committee is currently working to create goals, strategies and action steps to\\

increase IPM adoption, awareness and appreciation. We'd like to hear your suggestions. Whom should we target? Messages? What low-cost, high-impact strategies might be effective in reaching that audience? Would you like to participate on the committee? Send your comments to info@ipmvoice.org or join our session at the [IPM Symposium, March 27-29, in Memphis](#). We look forward to your input, and to seeing you in Memphis!

IPM Voice Needs Your Support in 2012!

Thanks to strong support from our members, IPM Voice accomplished several significant goals in 2011. IPM Voice needs continued support from members to reach our goals for 2012.

Please join or renew your IPM Voice membership for 2012 by visiting <http://www.ipmvoice.org/join.htm>.

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.

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