

***IR-4 Project Strategic Planning Session at Week of Workshop  
September 25, 2019  
1:15 PM to 5:00 PM***

**Agenda**

Opening comments (Wise)

Culture of IR-4 / Status of existing strategic plan (Baron)

Importance of strategic planning (Bledsoe)

Purpose & Overview of Process (Horak)

Vision, Mission and Value Statements

Considerations and Limitations

Gap Analysis process

Gap Analysis Session 1 (Areas 1 to 4)

Discussion

Report to group

Break

Gap Analysis Session 2 (Areas 5 to 8)

Discussion

Report to group

Gap Analysis Session 3 (Areas 9 to 12)

Discussion

Report to group

Final comments and consensus development

# ***Background Information***

## **Overview**

### **Vision**

A world where farmers/growers of specialty crops and specialty uses have legal access to safe and effective pest management technology that promote plant health

### **Mission**

Facilitate the regulatory approval of pest management products for specialty crops and specialty uses to promote plant health and public wellbeing

### **Values**

- Exceptional service to stakeholders
- Inclusiveness
- Effective collaboration
- Transparency, accountability and stewardship of use of resources
- Willingness to change

## **Considerations & Limitations**

### **Considerations:**

- New chemical pesticides
  - Will industry continue to invest significant resources to develop new pesticides in uncertain international regulatory environment?
  - Will new products fill key voids for specialty crops?
    - Broadleaf weed management in broadleaf vegetable crops
    - Bacteria pests
    - The “invasive species of the year”
  - Consumer demands for zero risk products
- Deregistration/Use limitations of existing chemical pesticides
  - EPA Registration Review
  - EU Hazard Assessment-elimination of MRLs
  - Class Action lawsuits
  - Consumer demands
- Biopesticides
  - Can they adequately fill all existing and future pest management voids?
  - Will international trading partners accept produce treated with biopesticides?
- Biostimulants
  - Uncertain regulatory scheme/data requirements
- Integrated Solutions (IS)

- Because IS usually involves chemical pesticides, will this be a useful approach to find solutions for growers?
- IS projects typically involve difficult pests/difficult situations-can we find “the needle in the haystack”?
- Agriculture Biotech (RNAi, Gene Editing, etc.)
  - What are the data requirements for this technology?
  - What is IR-4’s role?
    - Resources to develop necessary data
- Drones/ Precision Agriculture
  - Potential for higher residues-Will new residue studies be required to allow applications on specialty crops?
- New Crops
  - Hemp/Data requirements
- New Regulations/new data requirements
- Capacity building with potential international research partners
- Reducing technical trade barriers
- Tactical Sciences
- Regulatory Support for USDA-REE programs
- Climate change and impact on crops and pests

**Potential Limitations**

- Adequate funding
  - Expenses, including cost associated with salaries, employee benefits, materials/supplies, travel, etc., continue to rise
  - IR-4 will be facing an effective 10% budget reduction in 2021 associated with conversion of USDA grant to Specific Cooperative Agreement
  - Research equipment in need of replacement
- Erosion of the Land Grant University Partnership
- Significant number of retirements of experienced IR-4 staff and plant health scientists

## Gap Analysis – Areas of Focus

### Existing

- 1) Registrations of chemical pesticide products for specialty food crops and minor uses on major crops
  - Annual priority setting workshop to identify priorities/Priority Upgrade Proposals
  - Perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
  - Perform product performance field trials when necessary
- 2) Propose crop extrapolation models (crop groups) to EPA and international regulatory authorities that extends data developed on a few representative crops to many similar crops
  - Almost done, now what?
  - Add additional new crops?
  - Food and Feed Crops (IR-4 Green Book)
- 3) Harmonize global regulations and registrations of pest management products to eliminate barriers and enhance trade of domestic grown specialty crops
  - Jointly develop data with Canada and other countries
  - Coordinate with USDA-Foreign Agriculture Service, World Trade Organization, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Minor Use Foundation and other organizations in training international partners how to perform residue studies
  - Develop policy guidelines for consideration by Codex, OECD or other international authority
- 4) Develop data supporting new and expanded use directions on registrations of pest management products for environmental horticulture crops
  - Priority setting process/surveys
  - Perform product performance field trials
- 5) Facilitate registrations of pest management products that are approved for use on organic crops
  - Priority setting process
  - When required, perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
  - Perform product performance field trials
  - Obtain organic certification approval through appropriate bodies
- 6) Regulatory Support/Assistance to facilitate approval of technology/products developed/discovered by the public sector and small business
  - Conventional chemical pesticides
  - Biopesticides
  - Biotechnology
- 7) Integrated Solutions - establish systems that utilize multiple products to manage pests, pesticide resistance and mitigate residues in food crops
  - Priority setting process
  - Areas of concentration
    - Residue Mitigation
      - Perform “Decline” study to determine when residues drop to acceptable level

- Perform product performance field trials to identify acceptable replacement chemical or bio-based pesticide to fill void
- If necessary, EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
- Resistance Management
  - Perform product performance field trials with conventional chemical and/or bio-based pesticides
  - If necessary, perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
- Difficult to manage pests
  - Perform product performance field trials with conventional chemical and/or bio-based pesticides
  - If necessary, perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies

### **Opportunities**

#### 8) Arthropod vectors of human health concerns-Public Health Pests

- Perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
- Perform product performance field trials
- Perform other required studies
- Provide regulatory support for public sector/small business developed technology

#### 9) Aquatic weed management in irrigation canals and water reservoirs

- Perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
- Perform product performance field trials
- Perform other required studies

#### 10) Invasive Species

- Perform EPA “Magnitude of the Residue” studies
- Perform product performance field trials

#### 11) Develop necessary data to support biostimulants for use approvals as regulated by EPA and/or USDA

#### 12) Manage special projects that assist specialty crop growers/farmers to have plant health/pest management options (e.g. Invasive Species Research & Pollinator Protection)