

K009607-WA5
WASH4

Interim Progress Report

"2006 PNW Work Group on Agricultural IPM Issues"

Research Agreement Number K009607-WA5

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PI: Catherine H. Daniels
Washington State University

Summary

Funds were requested to continue regularly scheduled meetings to allow for: timely prioritization of regional issues and PMSPs (*Obj. 1*); attendance at IPM symposia and other meetings where interaction with other IPM professionals would take place (*Obj. 2*); linkage establishment between PNW Work Group members and other groups that could influence adoption of IPM.

Background

During the last five years the state information network contacts in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) states of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, and the neighboring states of Alaska, Montana, and Utah have formed a functional and highly productive work group. The function of this work group is to focus on regional collaborations that enhance adoption, measurement, and/or creation of methods that promote integrated pest management (IPM) in agricultural settings.

Formation of this regional Work Group has allowed member states to maximize expertise and leverage resources over a wide geographic area as well as across project types. Based on the premise that networks successfully function when they are actively engaged, the overall goal of this proposal was to maintain a flexible and functional Work Group through structured meetings that promoted successful collaborations and identification and prioritization of regional issues.

Results

Objective 1- Continue a regularly scheduled meeting format which allows for timely prioritization of regional issues and PMSPs, group discussion on joint projects of interest, and methods through which to further the IPM Roadmap among PNW member states. The grant proposal planned for three teleconferences and one face-to-face meeting during CY06. The first teleconference took place in February 2006 and the face-to-face meeting took place at the National IPM Symposium in St. Louis in April 2006. At that time, a decision was made to substitute a second face-to-face meeting in Portland, OR for the third quarter teleconference. Funds were offered by the WIPMC to accomplish this goal. The fourth quarter teleconference is scheduled to take place November 1, 2006. In these meetings state members have actively discussed methods by which to further advance the IPM Roadmap in our respective regions. PMSPs efforts (planning, hosting, participating, document drafting, reviewing and editing) for

2006 workshops (rangeland beef cattle, sweet cherry, organic potatoes, revision of potato, forages, revision of pulses) and 2007 workshops (hazelnuts and grass grown for seed) were also prioritized.

Objective 2- Interact with other states engaged in IPM programming. The purpose of the meeting format is to identify areas of common interest (e.g. water quality) with other states or regions so as to increase synergy. It would also serve to decrease duplication if we could springboard off other state's experiences. The quickest method to accomplish this is attendance at IPM symposia or meetings for the purpose of professional development, organized discussion or projects with other IPM professionals, and active group planning of IPM projects we propose to submit to funding agencies. A poster describing PNW Work group efforts was presented at the April 2006 National IPM Symposium held in St. Louis. All states had members in attendance and all members participated in organized discussions about IPM projects with representatives from other states as well as Canada. See attached minutes of the April 5 meeting for further details. Subsequent to the meeting we had two separate inquiries from other states requesting information about the PNW Work group structure, which they hoped to emulate in their areas.

Member states are currently working on a project to enhance the PNW Pest Management Handbooks (Insect, Weed, and Disease). These handbooks are widely used throughout a multi-state region and are an excellent vehicle for improving IPM educational efforts. Preliminary efforts include draft of a white paper on the status of the handbooks, recruitment of letters of support from the grower community and the state departments of agriculture, with a goal of obtaining more funding for production of the handbooks. See attached minutes of the June 19 meeting for further details.

Objective 3- Establish linkages between PNW Work Group members and other groups that can influence IPM adoption. Member states Washington and Idaho, as well as the Director and Assistant Director of the WIPMC, attended a joint meeting with the Regional 406 Water Quality Team, based in EPA Region 10, on January 18, 2006. The outcome of the meeting was that a joint ad hoc committee was formed to further investigate programming efforts between WQ and IPM. See attached minutes of Feb 7 teleconference for further details. The ad hoc committee is currently assisting the Water Quality Team in planning a county agent training opportunity in October 2006. The approach is through water quality, but the emphasis is on IPM efforts. Another meeting of the ad hoc committee and the full WQ Team is planned for November 15, 2006 at which time we will investigate the utility of forming a more permanent regional WQ-IPM Work Group. Information on these efforts have been closely shared with the WIPMC leadership and members of the PNW Work Group so as to demonstrate to those states in the PNW Work Group, who are in other WQ regions, how to emulate these efforts.

In May 2006 a similar approach was explored with the 406 Food Safety (FS) staff in Washington D.C. The grant PI requested a meeting with the FS National Program Leader in order to obtain information for the PNW Workgroup on the likeliness of fit of an IPM-FS project. The information that was received indicated any joint efforts were unlikely so the PNW Work group decided to table the Food Safety effort. See attached minutes of June 19 meeting for further details.

Outcomes

Through funding this Work Group the WIPM Center has provided a focal point in the PNW for interactive communication among IPM professionals which results in regional prioritization of issues and increased IPM educational efforts, promotes multi-organizational collaborations (including governmental agencies), and minimizes duplication of effort.