Keeping the Good Food, Good.
The Role of the IR-4 Project in Preventing Pest Damage and Food Waste

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The IR-4 Project

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The Hope

• Grow more food, and

• Reduce food waste
“Growers also need crop protection tools. Without the ability to defend our crops from pests and diseases, the volume of produce waste would quickly stack up.”

John Oxford, President & CEO L&M Companies, Chairman-Elect Produce Marketing Association, testifies before House Ag Committee
Benefits of Pest Management
Minor Use Problem
Established in 1963 by the Land Grant Universities & USDA to provide a solution to the “Minor Use Problem”.
IR-4 Mission

Facilitating the regulatory approval of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and specialty uses to promote public well-being
IR-4 Project’s Role

Develop data that support EPA approval of conventional “Reduced Risk” pesticides and biopesticides in fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs and ornamental crops:

✓ Resistance management
✓ Invasive pests
✓ Pollinator protection
✓ Facilitates exports by removing international trade barriers
Over the past 55 years, IR-4 Project data has supported the approval of nearly 50,000 specialty crop/specialty uses of crop protection products
Benefits

• **Growers/Farmers**
  – Legal access to safe & effective pest management technology……grow high quality crops

• **Food Processors & Food Retailers**
  – Consistent supply of materials

• **Public**
  – Plentiful supply of fruits & vegetables that contribute to a healthy diet & plants/flowers that enhance the environment.

• **Economy**
  – IR-4 contributes $9.4 Billion to annual US GDP/supports >90,000 jobs
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Mushroom Institute
Biopesticide Industry Alliance
Brooks Tropicals LLC
Buurma Farms
California Citrus Quality Council
Cherry Marketing Institute
Cranberry Institute
Croplife America
Driscoll’s
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Del Monte USA
Ginseng Board of Wisconsin
J.G. Boswell Company

MBG Marketing
Mint Industry Research Council
National Onion Association
National Potato Council
National Watermelon Board
Northwest Hort
Ratto Bros Farms
Village Farms LLC
United Fresh
US Dry Pea and Lentil Council
US Hops
Western Growers
What Can WE Do?
What Can WE Do?

1. Reduce Food Waste
What Can WE Do?

1. Help Reduce Food Waste

2. Back Scientific Solutions
Rejection of Technology
What Can You Do?

1. Help Reduce Food Waste
2. Back Scientific Solutions
3. Support Additional Resources for IR-4 Food Protection activities
   - $19 million in USDA-NIFA’s “Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4) line
     - Hovering at >$12 million 10 years
     - ARS involvement is endangered