

August 28, 2016

TO: ECOP and ESCOP Budget and Legislative Committees

The National IPM Coordinating Committee (NIPMCC), an ECOP/ESCOP sanctioned committee from the ESCOP Science and Technology Committee, wishes to emphasize a continuing need for federal USDA NIFA funding to support state research and extension IPM programs. We support the maintenance and growth of capacity funds in state extension IPM programs serving every state and territory; complimented by competitive funds that contribute to the science and implementation of IPM. We also support efficient multistate integration of IPM programs through the Regional IPM Centers and multistate technical committees.

Within the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) funding line, NIPMCC supports - at a base level - a funding mechanism for IPM extension serving agricultural, urban and school IPM needs in each state. It is critical to note that not every state is participating under the current model, resulting in significant gaps in a national system. In addition, without funding for indirect costs (IDC), some institutions will not engage in submission of CPPM proposals and clientele in those states will not be served. Therefore, the NIPMCC supports increased funding to CPPM for national IPM capacity and to meet institutional IDC needs. NIPMCC also supports competitive extension and research programs in the CPPM line. It is critical to note that identified focus areas within CPPM have not been funded, including diversified IPM systems and the development of the next generation of IPM scientists. Accomplishing these goals will require CPPM funding of at least \$50 million.


The NIPMCC also supports integrated research, extension and education initiatives that are transdisciplinary and multistate to address national pest priorities within NIFA Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) funding. Pest-related issues in human health, the environment, and invasive and resistant pests, weeds and diseases are viewed as critically important concerns within AFRI. We support a model that provides "rapid response" funding for emerging issues. Examples of critical emerging issues include Zika virus, pollinator protection and emerging agricultural pests (sugarcane aphid, spotted-winged drosophila, and others). Rapid response funding would provide value nationally through programs addressing vector-born agricultural diseases such as citrus greening, zebra chip (potatoes) and the South American palm weevil/red ring nematode disease in palms. Accomplishing these goals will require an increase in AFRI funding targeted at least for \$50 million.

In summary, we support a 'both and' approach including:

- Increased CPPM funding for all authorized focus areas and capacity for a national network including IDCs
- Increased AFRI funding for integrated projects across all mission areas as well as rapid response to emerging issues

Thanks for integrating our voice into the upcoming Farm Bill discussion.

Sincerely,



Charles Allen
NIPMCC Chair

C: ECOP Farm Bill Committee
Committee on Legislation and Policy