

GRITS

Goals Reached in the South

Draft

The Southern Region IPM Center
Annual Report 2006





"The goal of the National IPM Program is to improve the economic benefits of adopting IPM practices and to reduce potential risks to human health and the environment caused by the pests themselves or by the use of pest management practices."

The National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management, 2004.

Farmers, school systems, homeowners and many industries

face a battle every day. As insects, diseases and weeds invade land resources, those who fight them seek support. Often fighting alongside them are research and extension specialists who continue to delve into the "whys and how-tos" behind pest management problems. These specialists spend days in growers' fields observing insect populations and developing methods to control them, visit schools to train maintenance personnel how to manage pest problems without toxic chemicals, or study the inner workings of mosquitoes or ticks to discover more efficient ways to control them. And their studies often cry for funding.

Behind the scenes, the Southern Region IPM Center helps to provide the armor those specialists need to continue fighting their battles. Whether Georgia researchers need funding to help fund a honeybee research program, Virginia needs help funding the production of a new insect guide, or 1862 land grant representatives want a way to springboard collaboration with their 1890 land grant counterparts, the Southern Region IPM Center provides an avenue between those directly facing pest management issues and the dollars the federal government can provide.

With dwindling resources and growing needs in the mid 1990s, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) conceived a network of regional centers that would serve as a focal point for team building, information exchange and stakeholder involvement. These centers were to serve as a liaison between USDA and stakeholders in each region. In addition, the centers would streamline and manage funding sources from USDA and other grant agencies to encourage research and education activities addressing each region's priorities. These centers, in the northeastern, southern, north central and western regions, began operating in September 2000.

The Southern Region IPM Center serves thirteen states, from Virginia to Texas, and two territories, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The Center collects information about the needs in the region and works with IPM program coordinators to facilitate projects or funding for projects to meet those needs. In addition, the Center informs each state and territory about new funding opportunities and shares news from other states about pest threats and upcoming events.

Some of the Center's activities include:

- Funding and management of the IPM PIPE project
- Funding for State Contact projects



- Pink Hibiscus Mealybug training
- Funding for Pest Management Strategic Plans and Crop Profiles
- Facilitating training for methyl bromide critical use exemption applications
- Facilitating training for EPA BEAD staff
- Coordinating a collaboration meeting for 1862 and 1890 land grant universities
- Leading a grant writing workshop
- Funding for emergency needs
- Funding for education, outreach and research projects through the Southern Region IPM grants



Following the National IPM Road Map

In 2004, as a result of two years of development by IPM experts, practitioners and stakeholders, a document called the National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management began steering goals for IPM programs. The Road Map ensures that IPM programs improve economic benefits and protect human health and the environment (National Road Map, 2004). To follow the goals of the IPM Road Map, the Southern Region IPM Center supports research, education and extension programs seeking alternatives to risky pest management practices. As the Road Map has expanded to include IPM in residential, institutional facilities and natural wild land areas, so has the Center responded to meet new issues that must be addressed, whether they involve collaborating with partners to battle new invasive species, providing resources to states to hold grantwriting workshops, or joined in new partnerships to support IPM in schools or natural wild areas.

The states and territories in the southern region follow the Road Map as well, responding to the needs of their agricultural, urban, and industrial communities. The Southern Region IPM Center works with IPM Coordinators and State Contacts in each state to support new IPM initiatives as they emerge.

The pages of this report contain stories of successful IPM projects in southern region states—stories that detail their efforts and highlight collaborations that often cross state lines, and sometimes even regional boundaries.

Advisory Council and Steering Committee

The SRIPMC relies heavily on input and suggestions from the Steering Committee and Advisory Council. Both meet semi-annually. The Advisory Council suggests and comments on priorities and general activity direction of the Center, whereas the smaller Steering Committee establishes policies for the Center. Committee members were selected in a manner that provides equitable representation for the diverse stakeholder groups, states and disciplinary areas involved in pest management.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council determines needs and suggests general priorities for programs based on surveys and other data based on stakeholder opinion; suggests new/innovative focus areas for center activities; and helps develop and promote interaction with stakeholder organizations. The Council consists of 25-30 members and meets twice a year. The Advisory Council develops a prioritized list of regional needs and recommendations for research/extension programs to meet these needs. Where appropriate, the Advisory Council recommends specific needs for funding with core SRIPMC funds. On a routine basis, members are encouraged to rotate on and off of the Advisory Council to continuously promote new ideas.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of approximately sixteen members that meet semi-annually. The Steering Committee sets policy for the Center, provides guidance for executive decisions and administrative management, determines how to implement suggestions from the Advisory Council, and determines the application of priorities to Center efforts through the selection of activities that promote the focus areas recommended by the Advisory Council.



Advisory Council Members:

Mike Aerts

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

John Aselage

Gerber Products Co.

Robert Beach

Center for Reg Policy & Econ Res., RTI International

Bob Bellinger

Pesticide Information Program, Clemson University

David Boethel

Southern Research Directors -

Louisiana State University

Fitzroy Bullock

Tennessee State Cooperative Extension Program,

Tennessee State University

Amber Davis

Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division,

U.S. EPA Region 4

Jonathan Edelson

Entomology and Plant Pathology,

Oklahoma State University

Larry Elworth

Center for Ag Partnerships

Henry Fadamiro

Auburn University IPM

Tom Fuchs

Texas A&M University IPM

Debbie Hamrick

NC Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

Carrie Harmon

Southern Plant Diagnostic Network,

University of Florida

Ames Herbert

Virginia Tech IPM

Sarah Hoffman

Statistics Division, National Agriculture Statistics

Service, USDA

Clayton Hollier

Louisiana State University IPM Coordinator

Stephen Hopkins

Headquarters, EPA

Harold Lambert

National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants

Norm Leppla

University of Florida IPM

Steve Muench

United Soybean Board

Johnny Parker

Commonwealth Gin

James Parkman

University of Tennessee IPM

Lane Price

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Carol Somody

Syngenta

Earl Tryon

National AG Consulting Services, Inc.

Mike Weaver

Virginia Tech State Contact

Debbie Wechsler

NC Strawberry Association

Steering Committee Members

Mike Fitzner

USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and

Extension Service

Pat O'Leary

Cotton Incorporated

Johnny Parker

Commonwealth Gin

Venkat Pedibhotla

BASF, Insecticide Resistance Action Committee

Geoff Zehnder

Clemson University IPM

Fitzroy Bullock

Tennessee State Cooperative Extension Program,

Tennessee State University

John Aselage

Gerber Products Co.

Stephen Hopkins

Headquarters, EPA

John Anderson

Monsanto

Jimo Ibrahim

Cooperative Extension Program, Agriculture & Natu-

ral Resources, NC A&T University

Eric Young

Regional Experiment Station Committee on Organi-

zation and Policy/Extension Committee on Organi-

zation and Policy, NC State University

Carrie Harmon

Southern Plant Diagnostic Network,

University of Florida

Norm Leppla

University of Florida IPM

J. Ples Spradley

University of Arkansas State Contact

Charles Meister

USDA/IR-4, University of Florida

Harold Coble

USDA Office of Pest Management Policy

Ames Herbert

Virginia Tech IPM

