

# GRITS

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Goals Reached in IPM in the South

The Southern Region IPM Center  
Annual Report 2006

Southern  
IPM  
Center



*"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 "why's and how-to's" behind pest management problems. These specialists spend days in the field observing insect populations and developing methods to control them, visit schools to train maintenance personnel about preventing pest problems to reduce the need for chemical treatments, or study plant diseases to learn how they strike.

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 support for a honey bee program, Virginia Extension needs financial assistance to produce 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 sources of support available to them.

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 passes along information about new funding opportunities and shares news about pest threats and upcoming events.

Some of the Center's activities include:

- Management of the IPM Pest Information Platform for Education and Extension (PIPE)
- State Contact projects
- Pink Hibiscus Mealybug workshop
- Pest Management Strategic Plans and Crop Profiles



- Methyl bromide alternatives workshops
- EPA BEAD staff training
- Collaboration meeting for 1862 and 1890 land grant universities
- Grant writing workshop
- Emergency needs funding
- Southern Region IPM grants for research, extension and evaluation projects

### 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 articulated goals for IPM programs in the US. The IPM Road Map ensures that IPM programs improve economic benefits and protect human health and the environment (National IPM Road Map, 2004). To follow the goals of the IPM Road Map, the Southern Region IPM Center supports research, education and extension programs seeking integrated pest management systems. Since the IPM Road Map includes IPM in homes, institutional facilities and natural wild land areas, the Center responds by addressing new issues, whether they involve collaborating with partners to battle new invasive species, providing resources to states to hold grantwriting workshops, or joining in new partnerships to support IPM in agriculture, schools or natural wild areas.

The states and territories in the southern region follow the IPM Road Map as well, responding to the needs of their agricultural, urban, and industrial communities. The Southern Region IPM Center works with each state's IPM Coordinator and State Contact 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 regional boundaries.

### Advisory Council and Steering Committee

The SRIPMC relies heavily on input and suggestions from its Steering Committee and Advisory Council.

#### 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. Advisory Council membership rotation broadens input.

#### 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.

Representation on SRIPMC's Advisory Council and Steering Committee includes:

- State IPM Coordinators
- State Contacts
- Southern Plant Diagnostic Network
- U.S. Government Agencies such as EPA and USDA
- Commodity / Grower Organizations
- Environmental Organizations
- Food Industry
- Agricultural Chemical Industry



## Southern Region IPM Center Accomplishments

- **Management of the IPM Pest Information Platform for Education and Extension (PIPE)**  
In 2004, a national effort began to provide near real-time IPM information about soybean rust (SBR), a new (to the US) disease pest of soybean and other legumes. Now named the IPM PIPE, the system has added components addressing disease pests of other legume crops and soybean aphid on soybeans.
- **State Contact projects**  
The primary contact for regulatory questions from federal agencies related to pesticide regulation and other pest management issues, a state contact covers almost every state in the South, with two states added to the state contact network in 2006: Louisiana and South Carolina.
- **Pink Hibiscus Mealybug workshop**  
At the request of CSREES, in 2005 SRIPMC assumed leadership and management responsibility for the project “Early Detection and Rapid Response System for the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug through Education, Training, and Implementation of Integrated Pest Management” to train first responders.
- **Pest Management Strategic Plans and Crop Profiles**  
In 2006, SRIPMC’s Enhancement Grants funded the development of several crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSP). States receiving awards for crop profiles included Virginia (swine, greens, collard, turnip and sweet corn), Florida (aquatics, sugarcane, radish), and Oklahoma (spinach, winter canola). A 2006 IPM Enhancement Grant also funded a national PMSP for greenhouse tomatoes.
- **Methyl bromide alternatives workshops**  
In response to the methyl bromide phase-out mandated by the Federal Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, SRIPMC hosted workshops in Raleigh in February 2005 and March 2006 to provide training for county Extension agents in methyl bromide alternatives and their application in a number of southeastern states. Another workshop in December 2005 helped representatives of the country ham industry prepare research plans for pest management alternatives.
- **EPA Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD) staff training**  
With support from an EPA grant, Dr. Jeanine Davis, NC State, and SRIPMC Associate Director Steve Toth conducted a training for EPA Biological and Economic Analysis Division staff on production and pest management in specialty vegetable and herb crops.
- **Collaboration meeting for 1862 and 1890 land grant universities**  
Acting on a suggestion by the SRIPMC Advisory Council, Center staff coordinated and facilitated a meeting in Indianapolis in September 2006 for representatives from each 1890 and 1862 land grant university to enhance collaboration between the two institutions in each state. Although some attendees expressed a concern about finding funding, most lauded the effort. In fact, Oklahoma’s 1862 land grant institution and 1890 institution have begun a project together—a collaboration that directly resulted from that meeting.
- **Grant writing workshop**  
SRIPMC and Clemson University collaborated on a grantsmanship in IPM workshop for faculty of Clemson and the University of Georgia. The 30 participants rated the workshop as a 4.7 on a scale of 0 (worthless) to 5 (great), the workshop successfully explained the selection process and gave useful tips.
- **Emergency needs**  
SRIPMC provides modest funding and occasional staff support through our “Critical Issues” program. Projects are funded if they are deemed worthwhile by SRIPMC staff and the Steering Committee, and if funds are available at the time of the request. For example, in 2006, SRIPMC gave staff support to a research project on woolly adelgids in the Appalachian mountains, the Partnership for Saving Threatened Forests.
- **Southern Region IPM grants for research, extension and evaluation projects**  
In 2006, Southern Region IPM grants funded a total of nine research and extension projects, for a total of \$804,590. A total of 42 proposals were submitted, with total funds requested of \$4,849,269.



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