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*Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.*

## IPM Voice Action Alert

May 23, 2012

### **Your Action Required Now - The Future of IPM at Stake in the Farm Bill**

The future of IPM for the next five years will be decided in Congress very soon. We must make Congress understand how important IPM is to our nation. We need you to speak up to help stop the deep cuts IPM has been suffering. We have two requests for your immediate action:

#### **Action #1**

**IPM Voice has won a major victory in Congress.** For the first time since the mid-1990's Congress has endorsed IPM. Three weeks ago, the Senate Agriculture Committee released its version of the 2012 Farm Bill. Section 7308 of the Senate bill includes explicit authorization for the USDA Regional IPM Centers, ensuring ongoing support for the Centers. The authorization language can be found in the [IPM Voice Farm Bill Initiatives](#).

Please contact Senate Ag Committee [Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow](#), 202-224-4822, and [Senator Patrick Leahy](#), 202- 224-4242, to thank them for their leadership in supporting authorization of the IPM Centers!

#### **Action #2**

**We must finish the job.** Getting an authorization for the Centers in the Senate Farm Bill was a very big accomplishment; scores of groups were pushing for items that were not included. But the House of Representatives is now developing its own version of the Farm Bill. IPM language must be in both bills. The House Farm Bill should:

1. Include the same Regional IPM Centers authorization language that was included in the Senate version of the Farm Bill.
2. Include one other key item -- the creation of a National IPM Coordinator. A National Coordinator will make IPM more effective. The coordinator will be a voice for IPM in USDA.

**Please Contact Your Congressional Representatives!** If your Representative is a Republican, ask them to request that Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas and Research Subcommittee Chairman Timothy Johnson include Regional IPM Centers authorization and the appointment of a National IPM Coordinator in the upcoming Farm Bill. Point out that neither provision requires any additional spending. Add a comment of your own about why IPM is important. If your Representative is a Democrat, ask them to make the same request of House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member, Collin Peterson, and the House Research Subcommittee Ranking Member Jim Costa.

These are the key leaders on the House Agriculture Committee working on the Farm Bill. If you do not know who your Congressional Representative is, visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>.

When you receive a response from your Representative, email Jim Cubie, [jimcubie@gmail.com](mailto:jimcubie@gmail.com). Cubie represents IPM Voice in Washington and will use the information to ensure that these IPM initiatives are

included in the Farm Bill.

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## **Background on IPM Farm Bill Initiatives**

### **1. Provide legislative authorization for the Regional IPM Centers**

Four regional IPM centers were established in 2000 by administrative action. An independent review team found that the four regional IPM Centers have shown an "impressive use of limited resources" to maximize output of projects. In 2006 the review team advised USDA to use IPM Centers as a "model for future programs." IPM Centers serve as a hub where farmers, regulators, scientists, consumers, government agencies, pest control companies, and environmental organizations can share information and work together toward common goals. The Centers complement and strengthen state IPM programs by promoting communication among programs and encouraging states to collaborate and build on each others' successes. The IPM Centers also coordinate the ipmPIPE systems which have proven to be very successful for farmers.

The IPM Centers:

- \* organize responses to regional and national pest problems
- \* create information networks that promote good pest management decisions
- \* manage funds to ensure the greatest possible benefit from public support of IPM
- \* communicate successes so that the benefits of IPM are fully understood and valued

### **2. Establish the Position of National IPM Coordinator**

An excellent example of the importance of an IPM Coordinator is the program developed against Asian Soybean Rust. This program has saved soybean farmers over \$1 billion, according to USDA (2013 Budget Submission, 17-100). In 2004, Asian Soybean Rust (ASR) first threatened soybean production. A multi-organization, multi-state effort was developed that has successfully protected soybeans against ASR. The effort involved RMA, NIFA, APHIS, ARS and the IPM Regional Centers at the Federal level. In time, over 100 experts from universities, producer associations, State departments of agriculture and federal agencies participated. The group developed an ipmPIPE -- a strategic protection plan. Soybean farmers, co-ops and dealers have accessed the Soybean ipmPIPE website thousands of times for real-time pest information: <http://sbr.ipmPIPE.org/cgi-bin/sbr/public.cgi>. At present no person or entity in USDA has the responsibility to bring together this type of broad-scale effort which has proven to be so successful. The National IPM Coordinator would play this and other coordination roles. See <http://www.ipmPIPE.org/> for other examples of interagency coordination involving specialty crops such as onions, pecans and cucumbers.

The Coordinator position needs to be outside an existing agency so that cross-agency IPM initiatives can be developed.

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## **IPM Voice Needs Your Support!**

Please join or renew your IPM Voice membership for 2012 by visiting <http://www.ipmvoice.org/join.htm>.

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*IPM Voice is an independent, non-profit organization advocating for integrated pest management (IPM) that is genuinely progressive and seeks continuous improvement of environmental, social and economic conditions through application of accepted scientific principles. IPM Voice was formed in 2010 by more than 35 professionals working to expand the benefits IPM has provided to agriculture and communities for more than 40 years.*

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