



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

IPM Voice Update

October 27, 2011

IPM Voice Visits Congressional Offices

During the week of October 10th, Jim Cubie, former chief counsel for the US Senate Agriculture Committee, and Tom Green of the IPM Institute visited ten congressional offices on behalf of IPM Voice. A meeting was also held with Kathleen Merrigan, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Our goals for organizing these meetings included:

1) Make contact with key congressional staff.

The fact that we were able to schedule these meetings indicates that congressional offices appreciate the importance of IPM to US agriculture and communities. We met with all relevant staffers on the authorization and appropriations committees, including staffers responsible for IPM policy on the Agriculture Committees and those responsible for annual IPM spending levels on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. We were unable to meet with the ranking minority member on the Senate Agriculture Committee. Most of the staffers clearly understood IPM and the present funding situation.

2) Show Congress that there is a constituency for IPM.

These meetings demonstrated to congressional staff that constituents are concerned. Prior to the meetings, and with help from IPM coordinators and others, we identified and contacted key constituents in relevant congressional districts. These individuals included growers, crop consultants and others who provided us with specific information on the benefits of IPM to their business.

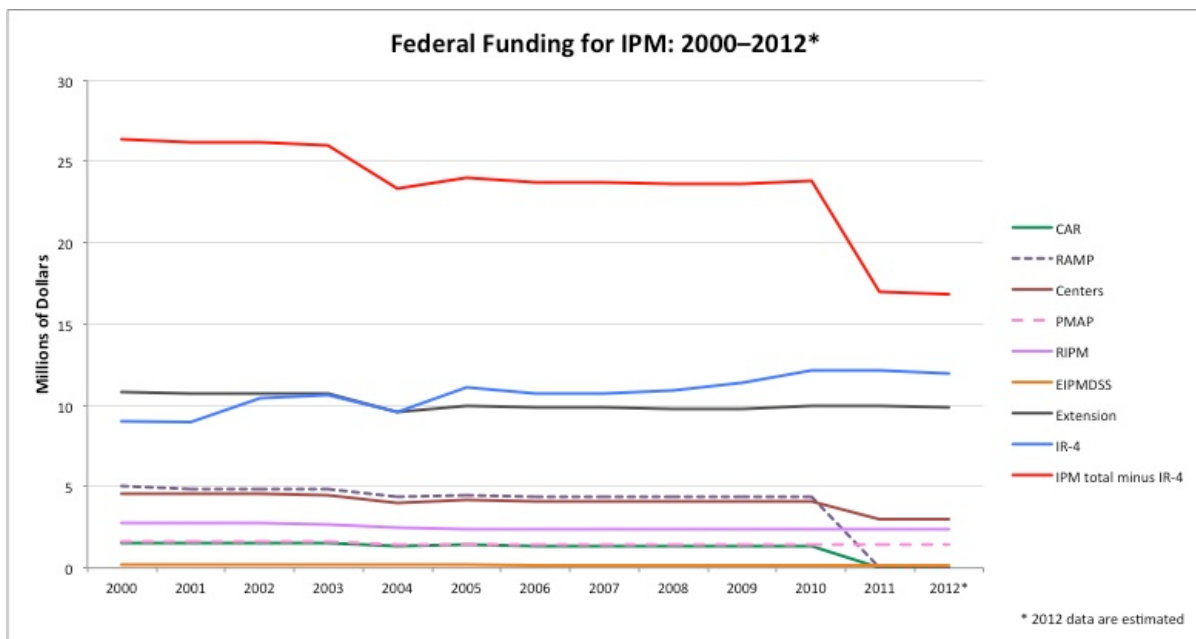
3) Inform staff of the consequences of the precipitous decline in funding for IPM.

Key staff now has a better understanding of the importance of IPM and the potential impacts on agriculture and communities should support for IPM continue to erode.

An indicator of the success of these meetings is that key staffers are continuing to respond to requests by IPM Voice for information. This is no small matter given the multitude of concerns that key staff must attend to.

Several documents were critical to the success of these meetings. One was the analysis of funding trends compiled by Harold Coble documenting the cuts in IPM while overall National Institute of Food and Agriculture funding increased. See analysis below. Another was the fact sheet developed by IPM Voice documenting selected outcomes from the USDA investment in IPM. In addition, fact sheets describing the importance of IPM to each of the congressional districts of the respective members were presented.

To view fact sheets, visit http://www.ipmvoice.org/resources_links.htm. We plan to continue the educational effort through the FY 2013 budget process over the coming months. Please consider supporting IPM Voice with your contributions and membership dues, which are critical to this effort.



IPM Voice Preparing for 7th International IPM Symposium

The IPM Voice executive committee and board of directors are working to finalize details for an IPM Voice presence at the [7th International IPM Symposium](#). We are designing a session with an attention-grabbing title and speaker lineup to increase awareness of the current state of IPM funding and explore future funding opportunities. Got ideas? Jump in! Contact Leigh Presley: lpresley@ipminstitute.org.

[Join IPM Voice today](#), and support active advocacy for progressive IPM. Please forward this email to colleagues and ask for their support and participation.

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.

Visit the [IPM Voice website](#) for more information!

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