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## **SYSCO Assists Suppliers with IPM Implementation**

In 1977 SYSCO, Systems and Services Company, became the leading supplier of “meals prepared away from home” operations in North America. Today, SYSCO’s sales and service customer relationships exceed 400,000



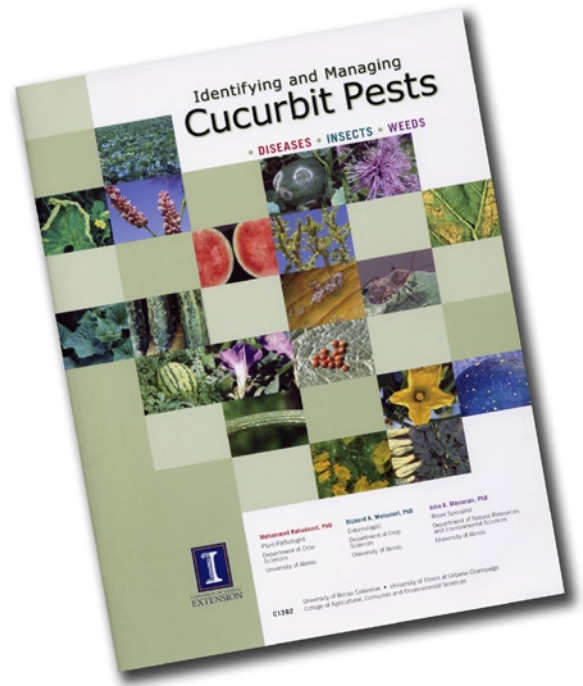
people. SYSCO remains committed to helping their clients succeed in today’s food service industry by initiating a new Sustainable/Integrated Pest Management Training Program. Implementation of this program will begin with SYSCO’s suppliers of frozen and canned fruits and vegetables. Suppliers and growers will document current environmentally friendly production practices based on SYSCO’s evaluation standards as part of the program. Tom Green, President of the IPM Institute; Shane Sampels, SYSCO Sr. Manager of Quality Assurance; and Georgiann Miller, SYSCO Program Quality Manager, developed the program and conducted training sessions in Sacramento, California and Chicago, Illinois for suppliers in February, 2005. For more information on SYSCO’s Sustainable/Integrated Pest Management Training Program, please contact:

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## New Publication on Cucurbit Pests

Did you know more than 100,000 acres of cucurbits are grown annually in the North Central Region? A new publication “Identifying and Managing Cucurbit Pests: Diseases, Insects, and Weeds” stresses sustainable cucurbit production by focusing on life cycles and management strategies for pests associated with these crops. In addition to more than 100 excellent color images of insects, weeds and diseases associated with cucurbit production, the publication contains crop timelines that indicate the plant growth stage when a pest is most likely to occur. The publication was developed by University of Illinois Extension Specialists Mohammad Babadoost (Plant Pathologist), and Rick Weinzierl (Entomologist) from the Department of Crop Sciences, and John Masiunas (Weed Scientist) from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. The 48 page publication is available for \$10.00 by contacting the University of Illinois Extension Publications Office by phone at (800) 345-6087 or via the web at [www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu](http://www.PublicationsPlus.uiuc.edu).



## Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension Committee Annual Meeting

Representatives from the Integrated Pest Management Multistate Research Coordinating Committee and Information Exchange Group from the twelve North Central states will participate in the upcoming IPM Research and Extension Committee meeting that will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri on April 12–13, 2005. The role of members of this NCR committee is to serve in an advisory capacity in multiple areas including prioritizing North Central Regional IPM research and extension needs and providing coordination and collaboration with the North Central Regional IPM Center and to the pest management staff at USDA-CSREES.



Numerous topics involving regional IPM themes will be discussed at the meeting including North Central IPM Center Advisory Committee Membership, the role of Extension IPM Coordinators in the NC IPM Center, increasing IPM implementation through grower participation in a USDA conservation program, and the SYSCO Sustainable/Integrated Pest Management Training Program.

## **New Grant Review Process for the Pest Management Alternatives Program**

As part of the proposal review process for the USDA-CSREES sponsored Pest Management Alternatives Program (PMAP) Grants Program, CSREES plans to utilize a new set of review procedures for the current round of proposals that have been submitted for consideration. On April 26-28, a technical review panel will consider the merits of all proposals submitted from each of four regions across the United States. This technical review will constitute 60% of a given proposal's merit. A separate "relevancy" review also will be conducted and count for the remaining 40% of a proposal's merit. The relevancy review will be conducted on a regional basis. This will be the first time a two-step review has been conducted for this specific program.

**National objectives for the PMAP Grants Program continue to remain in place, as in previous years. Objectives outlined in the FY05 Request for Applications include:**

1. Develop or adapt IPM tactics and technologies to address specific pest problems in both pre-and post-harvest systems (e.g., modify existing tactics and practices or create different pest management approaches or tactics, and demonstrate their effectiveness);
2. Adapt, evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of IPM modified or alternative tactics and technologies, including products of genetic engineering, biological organisms, biological pesticides, new chemical pesticides, and cultural practices; and
3. Describe and field demonstrate how tactics can be economically and practically integrated into production systems for individual crops.

**Priorities have been established on a regional basis. Applicants from each region should address that region's priorities within the context of the PMAP goals and objectives. North Central regional priorities include:**

1. Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified by stakeholder input into the North Central Region IPM Center via Pest Management Strategic Plans and Crop Profiles (<http://www.ncipmc.org/CropProfiles/index.html>);
2. Provide research and outreach programs for alternative management technologies for (a) insect pests in tree fruits, including codling moth and Oriental fruit moth; (b) insect pests in vegetables such as corn earworms in sweet corn, tomato fruitworms and stink bugs in tomatoes, squash bugs, cucumber beetles, and aphids (as virus vectors) in cucurbits; and (d) the lepidopteran insect complex in cole crops;
3. Provide research and outreach programs for alternative management technologies for key disease, vertebrate and weed pests of agricultural, nursery and greenhouse production systems. In addition to applications addressing pesticide loss due to FQPA, those addressing production systems in which pesticides have been lost due to resistance are encouraged. This includes herbicides and insecticides used in the production of fruit, vegetable, greenhouse, and field crops;
4. Assess, develop, and disseminate new pest monitoring tools that can be incorporated into an overall IPM system; and
5. Develop new and innovative IPM strategies and tactics that can be implemented by growers, farmers, crop consultants or agribusiness personnel to reduce pesticide inputs, while maintaining crop production and quality standards.