
ipm notes

The NPS Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program participated in a World Bank seminar on IPM and Biological Controls in Agriculture on Nov. 19, 1987 in Washington, DC. Participants included environmental and agricultural specialists from the World Bank, the EPA, the USFWS, AID, the UN, and a contingent of farmers, scientists and business representatives from Massachusetts. The objective was to introduce some IPM strategies to farmers in developing nations, where the use of agricultural chemicals often is heavier than needed.

Highlights included a panel led by Massachusetts Food and Agriculture Commissioner August Schumacher, Jr., U/Mass biological control and IPM researchers William Coli, Roy Van Driesche and David Ferro, and three farmers who have substantially reduced their use of pesticides by turning to safer, cheaper and more effective IPM control strategies.

To illustrate the use of IPM to save money, Coli cited the following example: Based on the 1986 dollar, a series of case studies of 9 crops in 15 states showed a \$579 million total change per annum in net returns for IPM users over non users. Interestingly, the total USDA IPM outlay at the time of the study was only \$7.5 million for all crops in the entire U.S. ... a healthy return on investment!

NPS's Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Servicewide IPM program is in the early stages of preparation, and a notice soliciting public comments on the scope of the EA has been sent to the Federal Register. The Service last published an EA on this subject in 1977. New data and changes in regulations and techniques concerning NPS pesticide uses necessitate a program reassessment.

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