

IRAC Working Group Checklist

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1. Introduction

The primary objective of a IRAC Work Group (WG) is to provide sufficient information and guidance material, so that crop protection bodies (regulators, growers, crop advisors, etc) can make informed choices that enable economic pest control combined with effective insecticide resistance management.

The following guide is designed as an aid for the IRAC Core Activity Teams (Crop, Biotechnology and Public Health) and their working groups. It outlines areas they may want investigate as part of their role and function. The needs and requirements will clearly vary from group to group but it is recommend that this guide is used as a checklist when planning work and setting the group's goals and objectives. Ideally the groups would hold at least 4 conference calls and one face-to-face meeting during the year where the team's activities, goals and objectives would be reviewed.



2. Team Activities

- Identify key pests & geographies
 - Determining the key pest is relevant for general pest groups (e.g. Sucking Pest) and chemistry based groups (e.g. Diatomides).
 - Resistance issues relating to one country only would typically be handled by a local IRAC Country/Regional Group where this exists rather than an IRAC International WG. These are typically formed when the issue exists in a number of countries and therefore it is important for the WG to determine the range and extent of the geographies to be covered.

- Investigate Resistance Status
 - Along with the previous activity this is often best determined through the use of a questionnaire or survey.
 - Data obtained may be based on assumptions or anecdotal reports and therefore it is essential to validate the information by assessing if there are changes in the susceptibility of the target pest to the toxicant.

- Identify, develop, validate methods
 - Many susceptible test methods have been developed and/or validated by IRAC covering a range of pest species, life stages and chemistries.
 - Where methods are not available a key task for the WG is to develop these in conjunction with the Methods WG so that baselines can be established and monitoring carried out.

- Conduct or coordinate resistance monitoring
 - Using a standardised method comparable monitoring can be carried out by different personnel in different regions and countries to establish the extent of resistance and changes in susceptibilities.

- Identify & contact key experts
 - It is clearly beneficial to work with established experts in the area of interest. These can be simply contacts, advisors to the WG or ad hoc members

- Identify & contact local groups
 - In a similar way if there are already groups working in the field of interest it makes sense to establish links and develop cooperation.

- Develop global & local IRM Guidelines
 - One of the key roles for IRAC is to develop practical IRM guidelines if this has not already been carried out. These need to be in line with the general IRAC principles but can be specifically tailored to the agronomic situation depending on pests, chemistries, crops and geographies involved.
 - Ideally the International WG would establish general principles in global guidelines which local groups and experts can adapt to the local or national situation.

- Develop posters, presentations & educational material
 - Another key role for IRAC is communication and education on the importance of IRM and how this is best put into practice. This can be done through the development of posters, brochures and various handouts etc
- Represent the group at key meetings & conferences
 - Having developed the educational and communication material it is obviously important that the WG seeks out appropriate meetings and conferences in good time so that abstracts, presentations and posters can be submitted.
- Develop content for the IRAC website and eConnection
 - The IRAC website is recognised as the main communication vehicle for IRAC information both internal IRAC WG documents (e.g.minutes) and external communications such as copies of presentations, guidelines, posters and, methods etc.
 - The IRAC newsletter, eConnection, which is distributed to around 700 - 800 people interested and involved in IRM, is a useful tool for the WG to keep the IRM community up to date with the activities of the group.

3. Participation in IRAC WGs

IRAC as an organisation can only be successful with proactive participation and contributions from the member company representatives volunteering their time and energies to achieve the agreed goals and objectives. It is important that the workload of leading and contributing to the activities of the various teams and working groups is shared among the member companies and we would encourage all members to consider where they feel they are best able to contribute and to take an active role within IRAC.