

Integrated Pest Management Collaborative Research Support Program (IPM CRSP)  
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The overall purpose of the IPM CRSP is to develop and implement a replicable approach to IPM in developing countries that will help reduce agricultural losses due to pests, damage to natural ecosystems including loss of biodiversity, and pollution and contamination of food and water supplies. The IPM CRSP combines seven regional IPM programs working through strong host country partner institutions to five cross-cutting programs on globally important pest management themes. The goals of the IPM CRSP are to measurably reduce crop and animal losses due to pests, increase farmer income, reduce pesticide use, reduce pesticide residues, improve IPM research and education program capabilities, improve ability to monitor pests, and increase the access by women to IPM decision making and program design.

IPM is a management philosophy and decision support system that emphasizes using information to make pest control decisions compatible with sustainable, ecologically-based farming. Components of IPM systems include biological control, host plant resistance, and habitat management through crop rotations, intercropping, antagonistic plants or other organisms, trap crops, refugia, cover crops, and sanitation, among other practices. Ecologically-based IPM involves various combinations of these management tools, with chemical inputs applied only when absolutely needed to restrict pests from reaching economically damaging densities. Economic, biological, and environmental monitoring research leads to the development of simple decision criteria farmers can use to increase income and minimize input costs. Educational programming, policies, and regulations can be used to provide an environment conducive to IPM adoption.

The IPM CRSP wedes the IPM management philosophy to a participatory implementation process requiring each regional program to select its activities based on the priorities of smallholder farmers. Women are the majority of farmers in the world, and the IPM CRSP takes gender considerations into account when selecting farmer priorities thereby ensuring that women are beneficiaries.