

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION  
SERVICE**

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<p><b>Project Title:</b> <u>State Network Project: Maryland information Network for Pesticides &amp; Alternative Strategies</u></p>	<p align="center"><b>For Higher Education Program Proposals Only:</b></p> <p>Need Area: <u>                    </u></p> <p>Discipline: <u>                    </u></p>
<p><b>Key Words:</b> <u>IPM, pesticides, MINPAS, IPM Center, State Network Project</u></p>	

We propose a State Network Project to enhance the function, activities, and processes of the Northeastern IPM Center. The **Maryland Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (MINPAS)** will provide a structure to gather and transmit information on issues relevant to both current and transitional pest management strategies, including pesticides. MINPAS has been previously funded by USDA and is a self-standing cooperating subunit of the former Mid-Atlantic Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (MAINPAS, a collaborative effort between the land grant universities of Maryland, Delaware New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia. The collaborative relationship maximizes regional resources and communication, and assures Maryland's representation at the national level.

MINPAS aims to promote and enhance the adoption of integrated pest management, and to facilitate informed regulatory decisions on registered pesticides used on commodities grown in Maryland. To meet these goals, MINPAS will formally link (1) the IPM and (2) pesticide education units of the Maryland Cooperative Extension and (3) the Maryland Department of Agriculture; deliver pest management information and pesticide regulatory and policy information to Extension educators, growers, crop consultants, and pesticide users in the state; gather pest management data from researchers, Extension educators, growers, crop consultants, and pesticide users in response to requests from USDA, EPA, the Northeastern IPM Center, or other agencies; analyze these data to estimate the impacts of changes in pesticide regulations on agricultural productivity in Maryland; solicit input from other states in the mid-Atlantic region; and share this information with other states in the mid-Atlantic region, the Northeastern Integrated Pest Management Center, USDA, and the US EPA.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0524-0039. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .50 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

## **I. Project Description**

### **A. Problem, Background, and Justification**

Maryland has a diverse agricultural base requiring an array of pest management strategies to control a wide variety of pests. Pesticides and other pest management approaches have inherent risks and benefits. Both policy-makers and growers need information on the availability, reliability, advantages, and disadvantages of various approaches. It is essential that state and federal authorities be supplied with sound information in order to ensure that growers continue to have the safest and most effective tools and materials available to them. Increased public understanding of the real risks and benefits associated with pesticide use is critical to making informed decisions. Increasingly, EPA and USDA rely on State Network Projects (SNP) for fast, science-based input on pesticide-related decisions and other questions surrounding pest management.

The Maryland Pesticide Education and Assessment Program (MPEAP) serves as the primary source for information on pesticide policy at the state and federal levels, as well as on use, usage, economic and social benefits, and economic, environmental, and health risks. MPEAP maintains long-established connections throughout Extension, as well as with state, local, and federal authorities, growers, consultants, and other stakeholders. The Maryland Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (MINPAS) is based within MPEAP and has an especially close tie with the Maryland Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. Since 2002, MINPAS has functioned as the SNP, serving as the link between the Northeastern IPM Center, the land grant institution at large, Extension and state government programs on pesticides and on IPM, other key agencies such as the Maryland Farm Bureau, and the grower community.

### **B. Objectives and Anticipated Impacts**

1. Serve as the primary information source for federal and state regulatory agencies and other agencies regarding use and usage of all IPM tactics, including pesticides, in all IPM settings in the state.
2. Serve as a liaison among the NE IPMC, the land grant institution, and other key agencies in the state.
3. Enhance knowledge of IPM components, and promote informed decision-making by state clientele.

The expected impact for all three objectives of this project is encouragement of science-based pest management that safeguards human health and the environment.

### **C. Approach and Procedures**

MINPAS will serve as the primary information source for federal and state regulatory agencies and other agencies regarding use and usage of all IPM tactics, including pesticides, in

all IPM settings throughout the state. MINPAS will consistently respond in a timely fashion to requests for information from these agencies. MINPAS will coordinate the activities of the PEAP and IPM programs in the state through a formal linkage of the Project Director and two co-Directors, exponentially increasing networking and team-building potential between traditional and non-traditional IPM stakeholders. The membership of the existing MINPAS Advisory Committee will be reviewed and reappointed, if appropriate, and additional representatives may be added. The Advisory Committee will be kept apprized of new developments, and will be asked for comment at least once during the project year.

Particulars of how objectives will be accomplished are described below.

1. Serve as the primary information source on use and usage of all IPM tactics, including pesticides

- Upon receipt of a request for information from USDA or other state or federal agencies, MINPAS will direct the request to appropriate parties within the state. These parties may include Extension field and campus faculty, consultants, individual growers, grower cooperatives, personnel at other state agencies, and other appropriate individuals or groups. MINPAS will assist in gathering information necessary for informed decisions at the state and federal levels.
- MINPAS will continue to solicit cooperators for Crop Profile or Pest Management Strategic Plan projects being conducted in the mid-Atlantic states in 2007. The PD's will encourage other appropriate entities in Maryland to take the lead in these types of projects. Solicitation will be made through email and through a formal presentation during the 2007 In-Service Training.

2. Serve as a liaison

- The IPM and PEAP Program Directors have coordinated inter-agency IPM related activities and state reports for the previous five years. These activities will continue. Additionally, the IPM and PEAP Programs will combine efforts, thereby consolidating and maximizing organizational efforts to
  - represent IPM interests via increasing information transfer to and from the NE IPMC in regards to stakeholder involvement in IPM decision making thereby increasing the opportunities for successful IPM implementation;
  - identify and familiarize non-profit and consumer groups with the NE IPMC mission via direct contact, project development, and IPM listserv membership;
  - directly and/or indirectly inform and encourage Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE) personnel, state agencies, non-profit organizations and stakeholders regarding knowledge of and participation in the NE IPMC Working Groups, Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plan activities;

-- identify additional MCE resources to strengthen and expand existing stakeholder partnerships.

- One of the three co-PDs will attend the Northeastern IPMC meeting in 2007 to report on progress and discuss future developments.
- The PEAP Coordinator / MINPAS Project Director will serve as the principal liaison to federal and state agencies and to the land grant institution on pesticide issues.
- The Extension IPM Coordinator will serve as the principal liaison to federal and state agencies and to the land grant institution on IPM.
- IPM and pesticide issues will be brought to the attention of state regulators directly through presentation to the MDA Pesticide Advisory Committee.
- MINPAS principals will encourage and participate in the initiation of additional IPM networking/team building strategies among interested IPM entities within Maryland, to facilitate active engagement in NE IPMC partnership projects. Discussion of goals and possible strategies will be held during the 2007 In-Service Training.

### 3. Enhance knowledge of IPM and promote informed decision-making

- The existing MINPAS web site will be maintained and enhanced. Both the Maryland IPM and the PEAP web sites are integral parts of the site and are interlinked to the MINPAS site so that clientele can receive information seamlessly. Both sites are currently fully in compliance with required elements under the NEIPMC grant guidelines. The co-PDs will continue to work together to improve the web sites.
- A report of IPM programs in the state will be produced and posted on the IPM web site. Visitors to the site will continue to be able to access information on the use and usage of all IPM tactics in all IPM settings in the state. Maryland programs and reports, IPM Program events, special topics, links topical to general IPM tactics and strategies, and regional issues will be priorities.
- The PEAP web site will continue to provide information and links on pesticide use, policy and regulations, as well as safe use of pesticides, a component of many IPM programs. The newsletter *Pesticide Notes* will be posted on the PEAP web site.
- The Project Director and co-PDs will offer presentations during the year on a variety of topics related to IPM, pesticides, and initiatives of the NE IPMC. Campus and field faculty at the University of Maryland will provide information through plant clinics, pesticide certification and recertification meetings, short courses, and other venues.
- Extension specialists, pesticide applicators, pest management consultants, health care providers, and other clientele will be updated on pesticide regulations and policy

developments through electronic distribution of the newsletter, *Pesticide Notes*. MINPAS will review sources of information including federal resources, professional journals, and other states' newsletters in order to stay current and transmit the information to clientele within the state through *Pesticide Notes*.

- Clientele will be informed of opportunities for input into pesticide regulatory and policy decisions through implementation of *Just-In-Time Pesticide Info*, the electronic listserv-based information delivery system designed to inform interested parties within one to a few days. MINPAS will maintain a subscription to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's *OPP Update* and other electronic and print services in order to stay current and transmit the information to clientele within the state through *Just-In-Time Pesticide Info*.
- MINPAS will distribute the monthly newsletter *Agricultural Chemical News* to Extension personnel to assist them in making pest management recommendations.
- MINPAS will maintain an email list of appropriate State regulatory personnel, as well as the USDA-APHIS State Plant Health Director, to provide a direct conduit for information exchange from MINPAS and the NE IPMC to the regulatory community.
- In September 2007, the PEAP Coordinator will offer an In-Service Training session for Extension faculty on pesticide issues. Representatives from MDA will be included as presenters. Extension personnel will be updated on pesticide regulations and policies, new initiatives for the next growing season, and teaching materials so that Agents and Specialists can extend the information to their own clientele. A session devoted to MINPAS objectives will be included, and the session will serve as a leading forum for exchange of input between project co-PDs and field faculty within Maryland Extension.

#### **D. Evaluation Plan**

As the project develops, the MINPAS Advisory Committee will monitor progress and evaluate success. Benchmarks for success on each of the project's three objectives will be as follows:

1. Serve as the primary information source on use and usage of all IPM tactics, including pesticides:
  - availability of pest management information on-line;
  - use of the IPM and PEAP web sites;
  - timely transmission of requests for information through electronic or other formats;
  - successful provision of program information at in-service training and other venues.
2. Serve as a liaison –
  - successful transmission of information to stakeholders via newsletter and Just-In-Time subscriptions;
  - appropriate outreach to the MDA Pesticide Advisory Committee.

3. Enhance knowledge of IPM and promote informed decision-making –

- availability of pest management and pesticide information on-line;
- distribution of Agrichemical News and other appropriate resources to state experts.

## **II. Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved**

The PEAP, IPM, and pesticide regulatory units in Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE) and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will maintain the close cooperation developed under the restructuring of MINPAS in 2005. The MINPAS and Maryland IPM web sites will be linked more closely, and sections will be co-planned by the Project Director and co-Principal Directors (PDs). Dr. Amy Brown, PEAP Coordinator, will direct MINPAS, maintain the MINPAS web site, serve as liaison to the land grant institution and other key agencies in the state on pesticide issues, and maintain contact and coordination of the overall program with the other states in the mid-Atlantic region (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and West Virginia). Approximately 20% of Dr. Brown's time will be devoted to this project. Ms. Sandra Sardanelli, IPM Coordinator, MCE, will serve as liaison to the NE IPMC, the land grant institution, and other key agencies in the state on IPM issues. Ms. Carol Holko, IPM, MDA will be the principal liaison between branches of MDA and other state agencies dealing with IPM and pesticide issues. Although Ms. Sardanelli will have technical responsibility for maintaining the Maryland IPM web site, both Ms. Sardanelli and Ms. Holko will provide extensive input to the site from their respective agencies. Approximately 10% of Mss. Sardanelli's and Holko's time will be devoted to this project.

The three principals will meet at least twice during the funded year to assess progress and discuss possible improvements or enhancements to the web sites and to the overall program. In addition, the Advisory Committee now in existence for MINPAS will be expanded.

A graduate student will be hired to work on the MINPAS as Project Assistant. Approximately 50% of the Project Assistant's time during the academic year will be devoted to supporting MINPAS goals and objectives. The Project Assistant will be responsible for

- assisting in the development of the newsletter, *Pesticide Notes*
- expanding the subscription list for *Pesticide Notes*
- maintaining the listserv for "just-in-time" delivery of pesticide information
- facilitating meetings and correspondence with the MINPAS Advisory Committee
- maintaining and updating the PEAP web site
- preparing materials for posting on the PEAP web site
- checking and adding links on the PEAP web site

### III. Key Personnel

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