

Demonstration of IPM Principles and Increasing Adoption in the Sacramento Valley

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Objectives:

- The overall objective is to increase adoption of IPM practices in almonds. The emphasis of this proposal is demonstration of IPM principles and practices in the Sacramento Valley, and extension of regionally-based information to growers and pest control advisers (PCAs).
- The current year objectives involve identifying grower and PCA cooperators and establishing demonstration blocks in the Sacramento Valley.

Background and Discussion:

The increased almond acreage throughout California has resulted in a greater number of growers, managers, and PCAs who may be unfamiliar with the implementation and success of well-researched IPM practices, or may be uncomfortable with their perceived efficacies and/or time involved. In recent almond workgroup meetings, it has been noted that certain pest management topics are not necessarily in need of additional applied research, but rather increased or improved extension of known effective IPM practices. Given the current state of pest management, now is an ideal time to provide this education via demonstration projects throughout the state.

Recently, David Haviland and Jhalendra Rijal were awarded a California Department of Pesticide Regulation Pest Management Alliance Grant "Demonstration and Implementation of IPM in Almonds" for the San Joaquin Valley. There was a need to add an IPM demonstration program for the Sacramento Valley and this project fills this need. In

the combined effort encompassing all almond growing regions, conventional versus IPM blocks will be used to demonstrate the efficacy of IPM practices in almond production, with the goal of improving adoption. These types of projects are invaluable not only to validate IPM principles and efficacy, but as an extension tool with which end-users can become more familiar with the practices.

Demonstration blocks will be established that employ "conventional" and "IPM" practices. While the "conventional" blocks are not entirely void of IPM activities, for simplicity, this is the terminology that will be used for purposes of this project.

Beginning post-harvest 2017, two separate orchard sites will be identified for demonstration in this Sacramento Valley effort. Each orchard will have a representative "Conventional" and "IPM" block in which comparative monitoring and management practices will be employed for the remainder of the dormant 2017 period and continue throughout the 2018 growing and harvest season. The activities that will be conducted are outlined in detail in the UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines and Year-Round Plan (ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.almonds.html).

A series of field workshops throughout 2018 will be held in the demonstration orchards. Summary information during and after completion of the project will be disseminated through a variety of outlets (i.e., research reports, newsletter and trade magazine articles, website posts, grower/PCA seminar-style meetings, social media, radio/web interviews, etc.).

Project Cooperators and Personnel: Dani Lightle (UCCE Glenn/Tehama Counties, Franz Niederholzer (UCCE Colusa/Sutter/Yuba Counties), David Haviland (UCCE Kern County), Jhalendra Rijal (UCCE IPM Stanislaus County).

For More Details, Visit

- Poster location 98, Exhibit Hall A + B during the Almond Conference; or on the web (after January 2018) at Almonds.com/ResearchDatabase