



IR-4's Impacts on U.S. Agriculture

The mission of the IR-4 Project is to facilitate regulatory approval of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and specialty uses to promote public well-being. A trusted ally of U.S. specialty crop agriculture for more than 60 years, IR-4's work serves growers, consumers, and the American economy. Let's take a look at some of IR-4's impacts:

INCREASING PEST MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR GROWERS

Since its founding in 1963 by USDA and land-grant universities, IR-4 has facilitated the registration of **over 23,000** pest management products for use on food crops, and many more for ornamental crops.

Putting farmers' needs first, IR-4 assesses products of all kinds for both conventional and organic growers— including reduced-risk chemical and bio-based pesticides, as well as emerging technologies. IR-4 also helps remove barriers to agricultural trade for U.S. growers.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY HARVESTS AND NUTRITIOUS DIETS

Protecting crops also protects nutrition. When growers can safely, effectively manage pests, they can bring **healthier, more abundant harvests** to market. As such, IR-4's work is vital to keeping fresh, U.S.-grown produce on our tables, and helping consumers **enjoy nutritious, affordable diets**.



GENERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH

\$8.97B contributed annually to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product by IR-4

\$4.3B increase in specialty crop food sales attributed to IR-4's work

7 jobs today can be attributed to every \$1,000 of public investment in IR-4

Source: 2022 Economic Impact of the IR-4 Project and Programs, Michigan State University Center for Economic Analysis. Flip this page for more findings.



WHAT IS A SPECIALTY CROP?

Fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, spices, mushrooms, pulses, flowers and more are considered specialty crops. They may be called "specialty," but they're essential to our health and wellbeing. IR-4 is proud to serve the unique needs of specialty crop producers, helping fill the gaps where the private sector often cannot justify spending resources.





Economic Impact of the IR-4 Project and its Programs

IR-4 is an impactful and prudent use of public funds, as well as an essential service to U.S. specialty crop growers. According to a 2022 economic impact analysis conducted by the Michigan State University Center for Economic Analysis, the IR-4 Project has supported **111,470 domestic jobs** with a total annual payroll of **\$5.34 billion** in 2021 dollars, while contributing **\$8.97 billion** to the annual gross domestic product. **Seven jobs** today can be attributed to **every \$1,000 in public investment** in the IR-4 Project.

Additionally, the study found the following economic impacts that can be attributed to the IR-4 Project's programs and efforts:

Expenditure Impacts

- 260 total jobs supported (directly and indirectly) to carry out the program
- \$18.7 million in annual labor income
- \$27 million contributed to the annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Food Crop Program

- 75,300 total jobs supported (directly and indirectly)
- \$3.59 billion in annual labor income
- \$6 billion contributed to the annual GDP
- \$4.31 billion increase in specialty food crop sales

Environmental Horticulture Program

- 9,700 total jobs supported (directly and indirectly)
- 4,900 more workers employed due to increased productivity
- \$456 million in annual labor income
- \$725.5 million contributed to the annual GDP
- Annual crop losses mitigated valued at \$506 million

Biopesticide Regulatory Support

- 25,700 total jobs supported (directly and indirectly)
- \$1.25 billion annual income
- \$2.14 billion contributed to the annual GDP
- \$1.58 billion net contribution to organic crop production through productivity enhancements and crop damage avoidance

Section 18 Emergency Exemptions

- 510 jobs retained annually (directly and indirectly)
- \$25 million annual income
- \$42.9 million contributed to the annual GDP
- \$29.7 million in crop loss aversion per year



This work is supported by project award nos. 2025-79111-45234 and 2022-79111-38469, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, with substantial cooperation and support from the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, USDA-ARS and USDA-FAS. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.