

Executive Summary

Objectives: To increase adoption of verifiable IPM in K-12 schools, and reduce pest complaints, and pesticide use and risk, by implementing a comprehensive, national training and certification program for pesticide applicators and school staff in other key roles. Our national consortia, including professionals from land-grant universities, non-governmental organizations, school districts and others, will create a sustainable mechanism to increase the IPM proficiency of pesticide applicators, administrators, facility managers, custodians, teachers, and food service, maintenance, school health and grounds management staff. Our effort follows the StopPest.org curriculum developed through the Northeast IPM Center with funding from Housing and Urban Development and USDA-NIFA. It has been used throughout the U.S. to train managers and residents of affordable housing to implement IPM. The success of this standardized curriculum taught by a growing team of instructors demonstrates the value of a national curriculum and training effort. The resources developed will provide the same benefits to public, tribal, and private schools.

Outputs

1. A development workshop tentatively planned for Dallas in March 2014 including the principal investigators, support staff, EPA regional and EPA School IPM Center of Expertise staff, and others to finalize performance objectives, training curricula and certification/certificate mechanics.
2. Detailed and comprehensive performance objectives for each key IPM role in K-12 schools.
3. Standardized curricula to train individuals in each key role to achieve the performance objectives, available online and through training workshops offered by proficient instructors.
4. Sustainable program offering IPM certification and certificates for each key role.
5. A train-the-trainer workshop to teach and qualify proficient trainers.
6. A series of four pilot trainings to test, evaluate and refine the curricula and certification/certificate mechanics.
7. Active involvement of EPA regional and Center staff.

Outcomes

1. A minimum of 1200 individuals with increased knowledge and ability to competently perform IPM roles.
2. A minimum of 1.8 million students and 60,000 non-teaching staff in 200 districts and eight states benefiting from improved IPM programs.
3. A sustainable consortia of professionals to maintain, promote, implement, evaluate and continuously improve the program.