Grant awarded to implement professional development program on Pheromones

By Gadi V.P. Reddy, Montana State University,
Western Triangle Ag Research Center, Conrad, Montana

Dr. Gadi V.P. Reddy, Professor of Entomology/Insect Ecology received $73,510 to provide a training program for Agricultural professionals in the area of pheromones. The funded two year project titled “Pheromones as Tools for Monitoring the Insect Pests in the Northern Plains - Instructive Tools for Agricultural Professionals” and will be implemented in October 2018 and end September 2020.

The overall goal of this project is to enhance agriculture professionals’ knowledge and understanding on the role of pheromone-based pest monitoring programs and to assist them in transferring their gained knowledge or skills to agriculture farming communities. The project includes the development of a new regional pheromone based monitoring methods manual. Program participants will partake in demonstrations and field visits. The course will conclude with members assisting with hosting a field day for growers and the public. Two months after this program participants will meet and provide feedback on the effectiveness of the project and discuss long term gains in their knowledge and utilization of this subject. A user-friendly chart will also be created containing local user-friendly chart will also be created containing local

Agricultural professionals are a foremost source of information for farmers, ranchers and the general public. These point of contact professionals have the ability to effect broad changes through their understanding of sustainable agricultural practices. The Entomology/Insect Ecology program at The Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center, Conrad, MT is perfectly suited to train regional agricultural professionals in pheromone-based pest monitoring practices.

Agricultural professionals will learn effective pheromone-based pest monitoring practices through this training program. Participants will be provided with the tools and materials to spread this knowledge to the broader public through the print, web based material, and infiel experiences. Extension bulletins and videos on the use of pheromone-based pest monitoring programs will be prepared.

Mr. Jim Freeburn, Regional PDF Coordinator for Western Regional SARE mentioned, in his grant award letter, that this is an excellent proposal and showed a lot of work, is innovative and very specific.

For more information on this upcoming Professional Development course contact Dr. Reddy at 406-278-7707 or reddy@montana.edu. Program details and additional information about the research center are located by visiting this link, http://agresearch.montana.edu/wtarc/

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