These priorities resulted from the March 25, 2014 meeting of the SERA 003 members including the IPM coordinators from the southern region and invited members of other groups such as the IPM centers. The priorities are a consensus document of the SERA 003 IPM group.

Criteria for Selection of IPM Priorities

1. Strong stakeholder identified need
2. Addresses economic, environmental and/or human health issues
3. Priority is relevant in two or more states or territories in the Southern Region

Priority Listing

Projects that address critical IPM issues resulting from
- Changes in management systems,
- Pesticide resistance (chemical or GMO)
- Invasive pests
- Loss of management tools
- Environmental changes

Priority areas include, but are not limited to:

- New / important pests – domestic or introduced invasive pests
  - Brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)
  - Thousand canker disease (*Geosmithia morbida* and *Pityophthorus juglandis*)
  - Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
  - Spotted wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*)
  - Kudzu bug (*Megacopta cribraria*)
  - Sugarcane aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*)
  - Sugarcane orange rust (*Puccinia kuehnii*)
- Chronic / Established IPM Problems
  - Red imported fire ants
  - Bed bugs
  - Aflatoxin
  - Management of sucking insect pests of crops
  - Use of pesticides to correct unspecified “plant health problems” – without known pest presence or scientific validity
  - Community IPM (School, structural, home, and landscape)
  - Plant parasitic nematode management
- Emerging issues
  - Citrus Greening (*Candidatus liberibacter asiaticus*)
  - IPM practices protecting pollinators in crops
  - Glyphosate resistant Palmer amaranth
Projects that focus on development and implementation of IPM Systems. (e.g. Livestock, Agronomic and Horticultural Crops, Non-Cropland, Urban/Schools)

- Ecological approaches
  - Crop level approaches- These projects would focus on single crop IPM systems.
  - Farmscape approaches- These projects would focus on multi-cropping systems within a farmscape to address significant management issues (e.g. stinkbug management in a multi-crop landscape).

- Projects that develop IPM system components (e.g. least toxic options, novel management techniques).

- Projects that address long term cost/benefit of IPM implementation. Often, sound IPM practices are ignored as a result of perceived short-term economic gain without consideration of long term economic, environmental, or human health detriments. Projects are needed to bridge this disconnect.

- Projects that focus on education and demonstration of the value of scientific decision making in IPM to growers and producers. The most recent need for this is the use of pesticides to correct unspecified “plant health problems” without known pest presence. This specific problem undermines the foundation of IPM and opens the door for further problems.

- Projects that address the needs of Organic/Sustainable IPM systems and stakeholders.

IPM Evaluation

Projects that focus on implementation of evaluation tools for IPM programs to help produce outcomes with value to the public – (outcomes likely to produce positive economic, environmental and human health benefits). Projects may focus on increasing training and implementation of existing evaluation tools, or may develop new evaluation tools for IPM personnel. Ultimately, evaluation projects should be used to document the value of new and existing IPM projects and programs.

Projects that improve delivery of IPM information by:

- Creating new resources
  - Websites webinars and other online training tools
  - Smart phone and tablet apps
  - Decision support tools (in English and Spanish)

- Developing new or improving existing programs
  - Distance education
  - IPM pipe-like programs
IPM demonstrations

Sustainable Public IPM Infrastructure

The priorities listed are of major concern to south region IPM programs. These issues should be communicated to university administration, and state and federal government agencies.

- Financial support for permanent IPM Agents
- Train future IPM professionals
- Maintain Southern Region liaison through the Southern Region IPM Center
- Improve linkages and partnerships – commodity groups, pest control operators, crop advisors, and others (governmental agencies such as USDA NRCS and HUD, non-governmental organizations, and other groups.)