Background

The Industry / University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) program was launched by the National Science Foundation more than thirty years ago as an initiative to stimulate non-federal support of research and development, speed the delivery of technologies, and improve the industrial competitiveness of the United States. There are approximately 60 active I/UCRCs with more than 1,000 industrial firms and government labs as members. With funding from NSF, Iowa State University and University of Kentucky established the Center for Arthropod Management Technologies (CAMTech) in 2013. CAMTech is now led by the University of Florida, with University of Kentucky as a sister site.

Vision

CAMTech links the efforts of industry, government and academia toward effective management of arthropod and nematode pests. Through pre-competitive research, we develop new tools and provide the knowledge necessary to effectively translate and apply novel pest management strategies to the field.
Center for Arthropod Management Technologies (CAMTech)

The University of Florida and University of Kentucky have partnered with industry to acquire fundamental knowledge to facilitate the development of arthropod management technologies within the industrial sector. CAMTech will augment the basic research foundation necessary for the applied goals of industry. Research within the center leads to significant commercial benefits in areas such as:

- Management of arthropod resistance to current control strategies
- Deployment of pest-tolerant transgenic plants
- Application of RNA interference for pest management
- Identification of novel targets for new pest control measures
- Development of new and optimized methods associated with pest management

Both universities have mature and nationally competitive entomology research programs and a track record of achievement in both fundamental and translational research. The University of Florida and University of Kentucky are renowned for their biotechnological and plant science infrastructure, research and educational programs.

Benefits of I/UCRC Membership

While the I/UCRC is largely supported by membership fees, the benefits to industry membership far outweigh the annual fee of $55,000. I/UCRC member benefits include:

- **Leverage research funds from other center members and NSF.** The consolidated funding allows for more than 7 times the individual investment to address pressing research needs.
- **Get research results early.** Industry members have pre-publication research results available for review.
- **Influence research directions.** Representatives from each member company serve on the Industry Advisory Board which prioritizes center research.
- **Meet prospective employees.** A primary goal of the I/UCRC is to provide a pipeline of well-qualified scientists (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows) to industry.
- **Interact with others in the field.** The I/UCRC provides the opportunity for a company to engage on a pre-competitive basis with a diverse group of university and industry peers.
- **Jump start on research leads.** Industry members have the ability to utilize information gained from center research to competitive advantage.
- **Licensing rights.** Members have the option to a royalty-free / non-exclusive license or in the situation where only one member desires a license an option to an exclusive / royalty bearing license.
- **Opportunities to establish partnerships** to pursue major federal funding,