

USDA Agricultural Research Service

National Program 104 Veterinary, Medical, and Urban Entomology

Executive Summary

The overall impact of National Program 104 is assessed high, but with considerable variation.

National Program 104 includes a mixture of elements that correspond with the three levels of research recognized in the *Accomplishment Report*: Fundamental, translational and applied. The overall portfolio of research is a reasonably balanced one, although the problem statements comprise divergent proportions of each level.

Most of the research is innovative and of a commendable high quality, with an appropriate range of scientific outputs that address and meet the problem statements.

Much of the work has clear potential impact, but is at a relatively early stage so achieved impact is difficult to demonstrate. A small but appreciable element of the work appears relatively limited in its scope and technical innovation, with little prospect of impact evident. In particular, some work is limited to laboratory trials, using established technology, and without any follow-up studies on field application or economic viability. In these cases, more information on the plans for translation of the research would have been useful, for example presenting details of the technology transfer strategy intended.

The panel notes the challenge of assessing research impact that has been achieved within the lifespan of a project. We suggest that it is more useful, therefore, to comment on the likely potential for impact. Alternatively, assessment of impact could be associated with the work carried out under previous rounds of related programs, where there are overlapping personnel and projects. It is notable that many of the outputs referenced in the *Accomplishment Report* date from 2017, which are likely to be legacies from previous programs. This suggests a degree of continuity of projects that would allow for this approach.