National Clean Plant Network (NCPN)

General Meeting of the Stakeholders

University of California at Davis

May 11-13, 2010
National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) 
Farm Bill 2008 and Program Funding 2009-2012
The USDA Secretary shall establish “National Clean Plant Network” of clean plant centers for pathogen diagnosis and elimination to (1) produce clean propagative material and (2) maintain blocks of pathogen-tested plant material throughout USA.

Clean plant material made available to: (1) a State for certification programs; and (2) private nurseries and producers.

The Secretary shall consult with State Departments of Agriculture and Universities; to extent practicable and with input from State officials and industry representatives, use existing Federal or State facilities to serve as clean plant centers.

Funding – Commodity Credit Corporation - $ 5,000,000 annually for each of 4 years (2009 - 2012); available until expended.
The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008
NCPN - Sec. 10202 – USDA Funding Mechanism

- Apportionment/Availability – To USDA/APHIS on behalf of the NCPN
  - Yearly funding availability in late 1st Quarter of the FY

- Request for Proposals
  - Published >>> April of the FY
  - Funds to Cooperators >>> Anticipated in July/August

- Program Proposal Decisions
  - Developed by Individual Institutions
  - Pre-Proposals Submitted to NCPN Commodity Groups for initial consideration and planning
  - Final Proposals to NCPN Nat’l Body for Final Decision-Making

- Funding Decisions – Made by the NCPN Tier 1 Governing Body; CWG ‘veto’ right.

- Funding Mechanism – Cooperative Agreements issued directly to recipients >>> 1 year duration
NCPN Request for Applications (RFA) and Cooperative Agreements Program 2009 - 2012
NCPN Farm Bill Funding – RFA / Cooperative Agreements Logistics

- When will NCPN funding be available to the program?
  - Likely sometime Late in 1st Qtr of the FY – available to USDA

- Will there be a competitive call for proposals?
  - Yes; NCPN Uses a Competitive ‘Request for Applications (RFA)’ Process

- When will the RFA be published?
  - Likely sometime in April of the FY
  - Open for 8 weeks for proposals submissions

- By what mechanisms will funding be distributed?
  - Generally as one-year cooperative agreements
  - Funding renewal based on annual review of individual programs
NCPN Farm Bill Funding – RFA / Cooperative Agreements Logistics

• How will NCPN Funding Decisions be made?
  - Pre-proposals >>> Submitted by Applicants to their respective NCPN Specialty Crop (Tier 2) Governing Bodies for Coordination, Harmonization, and Support
  - Proposals >>> Submitted by Applicants to USDA for review by the NCPN National (Tier 1) Governing Body

• Will the RFA have NCPN Focused Criteria?
  - Yes. The NCPN Cooperative Agreements program will provide for reasonable focus based on Congressional intent for program.
    - e.g. Specialty Crops, Existing Facilities, Network Ready

• What will NCPN Program Generally Fund?
  - Program operations; including staffing, materials, diagnostics, therapy, foundation establishment, information/communications, and administration needed to produce and deliver clean plant material to nurseries and growers

May 2010
NCPN Farm Bill Funding – RFA / Cooperative Agreements Logistics

- Will the NCPN fund activities associated with the organization and management of Tier 2 / Tier 3 Governing Bodies?
  - Yes; including support staff, meeting logistics, and requested travel support.

- Will facility improvements, rentals, or equipment be ‘allowed’?
  - Generally allowable on a case-by-case basis.

- When might funding begin to flow to NCPN Recipients?
  - Likely beginning in July of the FY

- Will the NCPN Program fund ‘New’ Construction?
  - No. It is the intent of Congress that, to extent practicable, existing facilities (or cooperator developed facilities) shall be primary focus.
USDA Approach to Funding NCPN Proposals

• Stakeholder Specialty Crop Governing Bodies (Tier 2)
  – Proposals Coordinated, Harmonized, and Prioritized

• Governing Body Pre-Proposal Process
  – Industry Driven

• Established Publically Focused Facilities
  – Diagnosis, Therapy, Foundation Plantings

• Plant Material Sources
  – Foreign or in US Collections

• Research and Development
  – Methods and Technologies
USDA Approach to Funding NCPN Proposals

• Education / Outreach / Extension
  – What is NCPN?
  – Importance of NCPN and Products? Importance of Using Clean Plants?

• Performance Benchmarks and Timelines
  – Deliverables = Products to Industry

• Cost Sharing and Matching
  – Ultimate Program Sustainability

• Other Program Support
  – Other Contributions Enumerated
Meeting USDA Goals and Objectives

Some Key Points

• In addition to traditional Pest Management Goals how does NCPN:
  
• Increase US Exports and Trade Competitiveness;
• Expand Agricultural Sustainability, incl. becoming ‘Green’;
• Modernize Systems that Deliver Products to Industry;
• Increase Prosperity in Rural Communities;
• Pursue Programs with Small and Mid-Sized Producers

Good News

• One USDA/APHIS/PPQ Strategic Program Goal Highlights NCPN

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NCPN Program Criteria and Priorities

**Program Criteria:**

- Applicant Eligibility
- Specialty Crop Focused
- Program Mission Oriented
  - Networking
  - Diagnostics and Therapy
  - Foundation Planting
  - Education / Outreach
- Regulatory Requirements
- Program Goals

**Program Priorities:**

- Quarantine / Restricted Crops
- Nursery Certification Programs
- Propagatively Transmitted Pathogens
- Existing Facilities
- Forming or Established Networks
- Cooperator Collaboration
- Immediate Industry Goals
- Extension / Outreach
- Cost Sharing
- Self Sufficiency
- Benefits to Small / Medium Producers

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

What Is NCPN Unable To Support

- ‘New’ Facilities Construction
- DNA Fingerprinting for Trueness-to-Type
- Plant Improvement / Breeding Programs
- Plant Increase Blocks (G-2 or beyond)
- Clean-Up of Large Volume ‘Post-Entry’ Material
- Nursery Certification Programs
What’s Changed in the RFA for 2010?

• Expansion of Possible Funding Recipients to Include Select Federal Centers Upon Stakeholder Support

• Detailed Suggestion of Industry Supported Pre-Proposal Review Process
The Novel NCPN Pre-Proposal Review Process

- A Function of Individual NCPN Specialty Crop Governing Bodies
- Collaboratively Reviewed, Harmonized, and Prioritized by Applicant ‘Peers’ via the Own Governing Bodies
- Review ‘Working Group’ Composed of At Least 50% Industry Stakeholders (Suggestion)
- Prioritization Not Necessarily Between Proposals but Rather Among Components Across all Submitted Work Plans
NCPN Program Contact Information
NCPN Federal Website – ‘On-Line’

Launched: June 17, 2009

Location: APHIS website


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For more information about NCPN:

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Thank You