Goal 2: Rapid and Safe Introductions

Facilitator: Eva Ring
Participants: Kerry Britton, Mark Chien, Brian Correiar, Wayne Dixon, Ken Eastwell, Joseph Foster, Wanda Heuser-Gale, Bob Martin, Barbara Petersen, Marc Teffneau, Richard Zink
2. The NCPN will provide rapid and safe introduction of selections from foreign and domestic sources for testing and commercial development.
   2.1. The NCPN will establish and maintain facilities and expertise for testing and providing therapy for clones of specialty crops based on climatic suitability, current infrastructure and expertise, regional needs, and disease and pest safety standards.
   2.2. The NCPN will use the best available methods to provide pathogen and pest tested planting material in a timely fashion.
   2.3. The NCPN will use reasonable methods to identify, from within and without the network, alternative reliable sources of desired accessions that are pathogen and pest tested.
Concerns and Issues Raised:

We discussed the definition of “safe” introduction
• Discussed the potential weediness of some introductions, but felt it was important that Q37 address this issue.

Expressed concern about hobbyist importations
• Outreach

Important to add in “national network” concept as well as to discuss regional centers (e.g. NPDN)
• Private website to distribute information among the network would be a very efficient way to share info.
Records of accessions and testing results need to be archived by network members.

- Every effort should be made to assure the provenance of the germplasm.
- Varietal purity, true to type, pathogen free.

Competitiveness/patent rights/royalty issues will be a concern to industry; needs to be addressed and built in from the beginning. (But existing programs have successfully addressed this issue.)
Could have rapid screening process for known pathogens, with additional ability to have “conditional” release
  • Biological indicators could be used, but at least nurseries would be able to get started.

“National plant passport” concept to allow inter-state transfer of germplasm with only certain additional tests needed by recipient states
  • Similar to citrus germplasm system
  • Existing programs agreed to basic standards to meet mutual goals
Decisions on “best” detection methods:

• Meet business and phytosanitary demands
• But for export markets, the trading partners need to be involved in developing the consensus that is necessary
• RSPM provisions will need to be met, so better to shape it now
• Export markets would like export nurseries to be certified under same standard, if possible
  • Harmonization facilitates export and inter-state movement
• Developed by crop advisory committees
  • What powers will the crop advisory committees have?
  • How much will they be able to influence how one does business?
NCPN only dealing with ornamental species of commodities we have identified.
  • Capacity building needed to deal with other ornamentals

Will there be ranking of needs by specialty crop? How will hierarchy be established?

At higher level, we need to decide on which pathogens to focus in the certification programs of various states.
2. The NCPN will provide rapid and safe introduction release of selections from foreign and domestic sources for commercial development.
2.1. The NCPN will establish, maintain, and enhance a network of facilities and expertise for testing and providing therapy for clones of specialty crops based on climatic suitability, current infrastructure and expertise, regional needs, and disease and pest safety standards.

2.1.1. Conduct a review of existing facilities to assess strengths and weaknesses
2.1.2. Review governing regulations (some originated 50 yrs ago)
2.2. The NCPN will use the best available methods to provide pathogen and pest tested planting material in a safe and timely fashion.

2.2.1. Advisory commodity committees will:
- Develop risk assessment and risk management protocols
- Agree on diagnostic protocols and pests being screened for in facilities

2.2.2. Develop a sharing system for positive controls

2.2.3. Develop an audit process
2.3 The NCPN will use reasonable methods to identify and obtain desired accessions from reliable sources within and without the network.

2.4 Develop secure intranet sharing system.
Performance Measures

- Profitability of industry
- Number of species serviced by the program
- Number of facilities and/or increase in industries that have a facility; better national coverage
- Number of disease free cultivars released
- Increase in acreage planted
- Markets opened up
- Assessment of health at nursery level and in the field
What benefits will the proposed goal/strategies have on the way you do business?

- Industry able to respond to changing markets and consumer demands on a more timely basis (worldwide)
- Improve the health and quality of plant materials, thus enhancing profitability and sustainability of producers
- Better networking
- Improve development and sharing of scientific information
- Improving quality and consistency of certification programs, thus increasing utilization
- Industry will have high level of confidence in sustainability of the nursery industry
- Common nomenclature, tests, protocols increases confidence in the program
What benefits will the proposed goal/strategies have on the way you do business?

• Facilitate international trade of plant material
• $50 billion or more in specialty crops
• Provide a holistic national strategy to releasing clean nursery stock which will attract funding support
• Specific regional needs will be addressed
What benefits will the NCPN have on the way you do business?

• Having a long term, stable funding source
• Partnerships between all stakeholders
• Eradication costs reduced
• Pesticide use reduction; reduced costs for landscape maintenance and replacements
• Initiate the development of an organizational structure to implement the NAPPO standards and meet obligations of revised Q37.