



The Policy and Procedures Advisory Board of the US National Seed Health System

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Chair of the PPAB, on behalf of ASTA
Bayer Crop Science

National Seed Health System

- The NSHS is a cooperative government and industry consortium formed to address seed health and trade problems in an orderly, scientific, and systematic manner. The goals are promoting trade while protecting agriculture, the environment, and the economic wellbeing of the interested and affected parties.
- The three main objectives of the NSHS are as follows:
 1. To develop standardized seed health laboratory test procedures, seed sampling procedures for laboratory seed health testing, visual inspections procedures, and phytosanitary field inspection procedures;
 2. To develop a process to accredit private and public entities to carry out the above mentioned activities (see seed health accreditation program); and
 3. To leverage this initiative as well as other international initiatives to promote international phytosanitary reform and foster fair equitable trade.

Policy and Procedures Advisory Board (PPAB)

- The PPAB acts as the primary body giving direction to the NSHS.
- The PPAB contains one member each from the
 - The National Plant Board (NPB)
 - The American Association of Seed Control Officials (AASCO)
 - The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)
- Three members from the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
- The director(s) of the Administration Units (AU) and the Administrator of APHIS (or his designee) participate as ex-officio members of the PPAB.

PPAB Members = Comprehensive knowledge

- The National Plant Board (NPB): field, sampling, testing procedures at state level
- The American Association of Seed Control Officials (AASCO): state seed regulatory officials, seed law enforcement, RUSSL
- The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA): production, identification, distribution and promotion of certified classes of seed and other crop propagation materials
- The American Seed Trade Association: knowledge of seed crops (field, veg), seed trade lanes, and industry practices in field, sampling, seed testing
- The PPAB provides technical expertise and information deemed necessary for the Accreditation Manager and Administration Unit (USDA, ISU) to effectively administer the system

Activities of the PPAB

- The PPAB determines specific host/pathogen combinations for which test methods are developed, with recommendations from groups such as the ASTA Veg-Tech Subcommittee, etc.
- They assist in setting the agenda for the Administration Unit's (AU) activities and priorities.
- The PPAB reviews the results and recommendations of the Technical Panels, *makes recommendations based on their review, and forwards them to the Administrator for approval.*
 - Following USDA-APHIS approval, these results are included in Reference Manual B for official use in phytosanitary certification.
- The PPAB also approves checklists of equipment and facilities that can be used to evaluate accreditation candidates

Recent Outcomes of the partnership

- Updated funding structure to ensure effective administration of the program (2020)
- Updated validation criteria (2018)
- Updated Field inspection protocols (2019)
- Updated Visual inspection protocol (2019)
- New methods
 - Pospiviroids
 - Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV)

Working together to solve trade challenges

- Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus (ToBRFV): EU emergency action requiring a seed test for tomato and pepper seed import
 - Tens of thousands of tomato and pepper lines are moved from US to EU
 - Commercial lots moved from US to EU
 - Impact was \$Millions in value needing testing to reach next phase or a customer
- The standard target timeline for a method to be reviewed by the AU and a technical panel then submitted to the PPAB approval is 120 days.
- Industry had transparent communications with the AU (ISU) about the method submission date, ISU pre-arranged the external review and asked for this to be expedited (3 weeks); then to PPAB.
- The AU (ISU) prioritized lab audits within 2 weeks to permit labs to begin official testing
- **Communication, transparency, collaboration, and hard work by the team at ISU who administers the system, the EU regulation had a relative small impact on tomato and pepper seed movement (which enables growers and food supply)**



Thank you!

Contact Information

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