Survey Results from USDA/APHIS genetically engineered tree meeting held July 8-9, 2003 in Riverdale, MD

Attendance at this meeting was 76 people with representatives from USDA/APHIS, US EPA, USDA/ARS, industry, universities, environmental organizations, trade groups and the media. Two surveys were part of the packet of materials that participants received. Thirty-one (31) participants returned the survey requesting feedback on meeting purpose, speakers, breakout sessions, and meeting outcome. Twenty-three (23) participants returned surveys addressing the value of a range of plant characteristics that APHIS requests from applicants submitting petitions for non-regulated status.

Meeting survey 1: On a scale of 1-5

1. How well did the meeting achieve its purpose?
   Mean response 4.3 $\pm$ 1.0

2. How useful were the speakers?
   Mean response 4.5 $\pm$ 1.0

3. How useful were the breakout sessions?
   Mean response 4.3 $\pm$ 1.1

4. How useful were the group reports?
   Mean response 3.5 $\pm$ 1.4

5. How satisfied were you with the outcome of the meeting?
   Mean response 4.1 $\pm$ 1.1 (3 not applicable)

Meeting survey 2: On a scale of 0-4

This survey was fashioned after Appendix II of the Canadian/ U.S. bilateral agreement on Environmental Characterization Data for Transgenic Plants Intended for Unconfined Release (http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/pbo/int/appenannex2e.shtml).

USDA/APHIS Tree meeting Participant Survey

Please score the following characteristics based upon the usefulness of the character in evaluating the safety of a genetically engineered tree for release into the environment.

0 = not useful
1 = minimally useful
2 = moderately useful
3 = very useful

4 = critical for evaluation

Results: Means (averages) are shown for each only--- response range was from 0-4 for each category. The top 6 high scores are noted with **.

Characteristic	Need for forest/timber species	Need for fruit/nut tree species
Growth habit/ morphology	2.6	2.0
Life span/ overall fitness	3.3**	2.5
Vegetative vigor	3.3**	2.6
Hardiness (cold/heat tolerance)	2.8	2.1
Number of years to maturity/ flowering	3.1	2.1
Disease/insect resistance and susceptibility	3.5**	3.3**
Fruit yield	1.9	2.0
Fruit quality	0.9	1.8
Wood quality/chemistry	2.0	0.6
Fruit maturity and ripening	1.5	2.0
Seed production, dormancy, viability	3.2	2.7**
Outcrossing with compatible species	3.8**	3.5**
Self compatibility/ fertility	3.0	2.8
Pollen viability/ amount/ physical attributes	3.7**	3.3**
Impacts on pollinator or other associated species	3.2	3.3**
Seed dispersal (e.g., shattering, splitting, etc.)	3.5**	2.7**
Symbiont (e.g., mycorhizae or others) interactions	2.8	1.8
Adaptations to biotic and abiotic factors (living and environmental stresses)	2.8	2.6
Surveys received	n = 20	n = 23