

Farm Bill Section 10201
Pest Identification and Technology Enhancement

In Riverdale, Maryland on June 8- 9, 2009, stakeholders provided input for the various strategies of the Farm Bill Section 10201 Implementation Plan. The stakeholders, representing a broad perspective of interested groups, participated through six breakout sessions. All sessions supported full funding at the \$45 million level for FY2010.

The following themes/ recommendations emerged from participant discussion concerning strategies for Pest Identification and Technology Enhancement:

1. **Expand the Pest Detection Network**- develop a plan to more effectively include industry and the public in early pest detection activities, including who to contact.
2. **Expand Taxonomic Capacity**- implement multiple tactics to counteract the diminishing capacity to screen, identify, and confirm survey samples. This would include directly addressing the shortage of taxonomists as well as enlisting other public and private institutions and improving tools and technologies to promote pest identification in the field, e.g. an online tool with images and electronic identification aides. Leverage biosecurity curriculum courses to bring new talent into systematics.
3. **Traps and Lures Management**- develop a one stop shop for survey programs to manage the supply of traps/ lures for field deployment. Include a quality management component for the entire system from manufacture to field survey.
4. **Traps and Lures Methods Development**- where lacking, develop survey methods for high risk pests including sampling strategies, field kits for pathogen detection, and development of traps and lures to improve survey technology.
5. **Offshore Initiatives**- prevent or delay pests pre-border. With cooperators and industry, study pests abroad to better understand their biology, survey, and control to prepare for potential quick response to detections in the US. Continue efforts in the Caribbean and look for similar opportunities elsewhere.
6. **Increase Interaction with Industry/ Trade Associations**- the biosecurity of economically important commodities should involve a partnership of federal, state, and grower groups. Roles and responsibilities should be clarified. Lines of communication need to be established and information resources shared.
7. **Information Management**- take full advantage of databases and information sources to more clearly understand pest behavior; deploy detection resources based upon improved understanding of risk.
8. **Outreach and Education**- develop training materials to target growers, extension, and consultants for high consequence pests.
9. **Intelligence Gathering**- develop a pilot program for exchanging pest information with other countries (a pest Interpol).
10. **Molecular Diagnostics**- to improve and speed the process for making identification through molecular techniques, encourage collaboration between PPQ and partners with other agencies in the US and internationally (avoid duplication of effort for methods validation; develop surge capacity with the NPDN and beyond).