



THE CENTRAL PLANT BOARD

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CENTRAL PLANT BOARD 2009 Annual Meeting Resolution No. 6 The National Seed Health System

The National Seed Health System (NSHS) provides specific standards for laboratory seed health tests and seed crop field inspections used for the issuance of phytosanitary certificates to meet international regulations regarding export of seed from the United States.

Established in 2001, the main function of the NSHS is to provide an accreditation system for non-government entities to perform laboratory seed health tests and phytosanitary inspections to meet international import regulations. The accreditation process requires that applicants meet defined standards for facilities, equipment, methods and training of personnel. Employees of an accredited entity, such as a seed company, can sample their own seed, inspect mother plants during the growing season and conduct laboratory analyses. An accredited entity may save money, but more importantly, time during shipping season by conducting these tasks in-house, rather than waiting for governmental officials to handle the tasks.

The Central Plant Board recognizes the value of NSHS, as the growing demand for phytosanitary certificates has outpaced the ability of many agencies to provide all inspections and analyses in a timely manner.

The NSHS has been in operation for nearly a decade and no systematic review of its processes, successes and challenges has been performed. The Central Plant Board believes it is time to conduct a program review to ensure that the NSHS is collecting feedback and running an efficient, accurate program that is evolving as needed.

RESOLVED, by the Central Plant Board at its 85th annual meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, March 5, 2009, request USDA, APHIS to fund and implement a program review of the National Seed Health System. The review should involve collaboration with National Plant Board, American Seed Trade Association, Association of American Seed Control Officials, Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, current NSHS-accredited entities and Iowa State University Seed Science Center as it serves as the day-to-day operations manager.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NSHS program review be organized immediately and the results reported at the 2010 National Plant Board Annual Meeting.

Distribution:

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