



SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
April 9-12, 2006
Savannah, Georgia

RESOLUTION No. 10

DIAGNOSTIC AND TAXONOMIC SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS)

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia

Recent enhancements in the CAPS Program have substantially improved pest survey and detection activities at both the state and regional levels. With these program enhancements, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of samples and screening activities needed for rapid response. The significant increase in the volume of samples, coupled with the corresponding target pest diversity, have triggered the need for personnel dedicated to screening samples, identification of qualified private taxonomic and diagnostic sources and development of identifier staff needed to serve states and the USDA, APHIS, PPQ.

At the present time, CAPS Program staff are canvassing State Survey Coordinators to identify those surveys requiring taxonomic support and expected number of samples across the nation. Screening, diagnostic, and taxonomic support serve as critical components in early pest detection of invasive plant pests and in the initiation of a rapid response needed to mitigate their impact and formulate eradication plans.

RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on April 12, 2006, that USDA, APHIS, PPQ, in collaboration with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), secure funding necessary to implement the recommendations found in the *Safeguarding American Plant Resources (1999) Report*. These recommendations include the following:

- ▶ Dedicate a National Identification System (NIS) staff position to coordinate taxonomic support for domestic programs and to establish a virtual lab linking existing NIS diagnostic resources with available expertise outside of NIS for domestic study.
- ▶ Augment the NIS diagnostic system in order to provide a virtual clearinghouse for specimen to be identified.
- ▶ Contract with external specialists, via cooperative agreements, to provide their services for confirmation of species that are not readily categorized by National Invasive Plant Pest Laboratory staff.
- ▶ Utilize highly competent taxonomists and systematists from a variety of institutions.

Motion by: Richard Gaskella

Seconded by: Shashank Nilakhe

Distribution:

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Program, USDA
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA
Gus Douglas, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA
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