



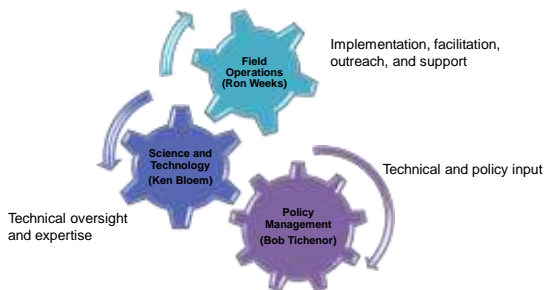
Biological Control – Update on National Program Direction/Strategic Plan

United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Ronald D. Weeks Jr., Ph.D.

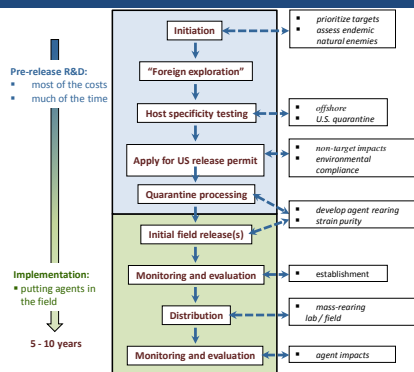


Biological Control Cross-Functional Working Group (BC-CFWG)



PPQ Definition

Biological control is the intentional use of natural enemies (“biological control agents” – parasites, predators, pathogens, competitors, or antagonists) to reduce pest populations to levels below which would occur in the absence of the natural enemies, thus making a pest less damaging.



Project Prioritization Factors

- importance of pest (emergency, significant impacts)
- amount of resources needed (time and money)
- opportunities (e.g. agent timing, climate, partnerships)
- likelihood of success (e.g. measurable, agent impacts)



Overview of PPQ BC Strategic Goals

- 1) Ensure program supports PPQ's long and short term priority pest targets.
- 2) Strengthen partnerships with external resources.
- 3) Enhance management, program staff, and stakeholder's awareness and understanding of program.
- 4) Develop avenues to monitor, evaluate/measure and communicate program outputs and outcomes.

Strengthen Prevention and Preparedness

- Support and coordinate foreign exploration and pre-release activities for BC agents for high priority pests.
- Work closely with key partners and stakeholders to identify and leverage off-shore opportunities for key pests not yet in the USA.
- Prepare for invasive pest threats to ensure a more rapid deployment of BC.



Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Activities

Engage stakeholders and experts for input into PPQ target and priority setting process.

- National and Regional Plant Board meetings per invitation
- Interagency planning, steering and technical support meetings/collaborations
- Tribal consultations and technical support
- Professional society meetings
- Regional pest specific meetings, workshops, advisory groups

Additional program plans (not exhaustive)

- Annual timeframe to receive BC projects – improved planning and budgeting
- Internal and external communications (annual report, SharePoint site, PPQ website, permitting process)
- Leveraging existing rearing facilities, resources, and expertise
- Improved accomplishment/data reporting
- Cost – sharing captured (indirect and direct)

What about the money?

Field Ops	\$3,744,857	
Program	\$3,335,333	89.1%
Agreements	\$2,162,131	64.8%



Volunteer Plant Board Representatives for BC Strategic Planning

- SPB: Trevor Smith - Florida
- EPB: Carol Holko - Maryland
- WPB: Mike Pitcairn - California
- CPB: Monica Chandler - Minnesota



Key Review Comments

- APHIS critical role in shared response and mitigation strategies – plan is not far off from expectations
- BC Steering Committee – member composition
- Structured approach to a national prioritized target list for BC (e.g., every 5 years) – process, time frame, frequency, participation
- Follow-up and assessment process - how much/long
- TAG issues – communication, timeliness, guidelines and criteria. Separate and distinct unit from BC Cross-Function Working Group



Time for a few questions/suggestions/comments...



Thank you on behalf of the PPQ BC-CFWG!

Ron.D.Weeks@aphis.usda.gov