

National Plant Board

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Why a session on 526 permits?

Research is more complex - PHYTOBIOME

- Multiple microorganisms – scores of species or strains.
- Some of these organisms are “new”
- Concern about long term environmental effects

Why a session on 526 permits?

- Obtaining supporting information (for states) is more time consuming because it is confidential.
- The process of review requires more time and more expertise.

What is our goal?

To support innovative research that has the potential for beneficial outcomes while minimizing the risks of harmful outcomes.

**How do we know if this goal
is being achieved?**

Who are the key players?

- Members of the research community (industry, academia, others)
- Members of the regulatory community (APHIS PPQ, States' regulatory branch).



What can we accomplish today that is useful?

Identify priority needs of the
regulatory community.

Agree on which needs:

- Can be addressed by communication of information that is already available.
- Require increased access to information that exists but is not readily available.
- Require further research because the information does not exist.

State regulatory need:

An understanding of the review process of APHIS including criteria for approval of organism release – **Colin Stewart**

State regulatory need:

Access to supporting information to know identity and origin of organisms to be released; in some cases, to better understand the decision to allow release –
request from applicant



Regulatory need:

“Assurance” that best effort is being made to understand and prevent harmful changes to our soil microbial communities -

many unknowns