



Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection and
Quarantine

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July 13, 2017

Joe Collins
President, National Plant Board
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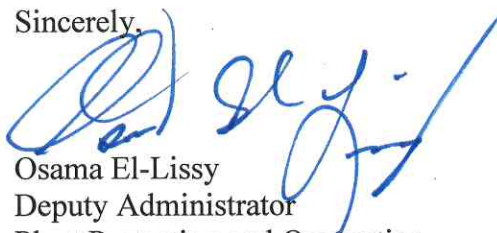
Dear Mr. Collins,

We are committed to our partnership and our goal to adequately address the training needs of the State Departments of Agriculture. In 2016, The National Plant Board and Plant Protection and Quarantine (NPB/PPQ) Training Working Group formed to identify training priorities for NPB membership, as well as funding sources for potential initiatives. The NPB/PPQ Training Working Group developed a training needs survey to capture the priority training needs for each state. The group distributed the survey to State Plant Regulatory Officials (SPROs) and other state officials, and then compiled and shared the results during the NPB Annual Meeting in August 2016.

Since August 2016, the NPB/PPQ Training Working Group has discussed several potential models to support long-term funding of training for the states. The NPB supports a model where federal partners fund and establish training programs for state cooperators. For example, Wisconsin received a \$120,000 grant from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (through the Farm Bill) in 2016 to implement a strategic alliance demonstration training project focused on Seed Potato Certification. However, before considering a sustainable funding source, the NPB Board of Directors and the PPQ Management Team agreed to specifically identify the unfunded training needs and level of funding necessary to address those needs. As directed by NPB and PPQ leadership, the NPB/PPQ Training Working Group will identify training needs by the end of FY 2017.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the NPB to further support this initiative. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Ken Waters, Director of the Professional Development Center, at (240) 529-0207.

Sincerely,



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine