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

RESOLUTION No. 8

ENHANCED FUNDING OF THE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS) PROGRAM BASED ON STATE-LEVEL PEST INTRODUCTION RISK ANALYSIS

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program is a combined effort by Federal and State agricultural organizations to conduct surveillance, detection, and monitoring of agricultural crop pests and biological control agents. CAPS is charged with (1) detection of exotic pests before they become well established through survey and identification activities in the field and the laboratory; and (2) the collection and management of survey data for state-level data bases and a national electronic information and exchange system and data base - the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS).

A critical need identified in the Safeguarding Review was the strengthening of the pest detection infrastructure in order to develop a more effective system for prioritizing pest detection activities. As a result, the USDA FY 2002 supplemental appropriation provided $25 million in pest detection funds, which was used for critical needs such as surveys to support ongoing emergency programs and other pest management programs, and for supporting a stronger federal-state cooperative pest detection program. CAPS was assigned more invasive plant pest detection and response priorities and with implementing proactive survey and detection activities in the United States. CAPS also works with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ and other agencies to incorporate the pest lists, PPQ interception data, existing pest detection databases, and other data into a linked database that can be used for multiple purposes-risk assessment, resource allocation, staffing, strategic planning, and operational planning.

CAPS program activities have played key roles in the recent survey and detections of several noteworthy exotic plant diseases or pests. First detections of soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*) in 2004 and 2005 in Florida's 11,000 acres of soybeans, as well as kudzu sites, were essential predictors for the 73 million acre US soybean crop ($18 billion in 2003). In a 2005 Florida CAPS initiative, a targeted huanglongbing or citrus greening survey in Miami-Dade Co. found two citrus trees in separate locations showing symptoms of this fatal citrus disease. The citrus industry contributes $9 billion a year to Florida. The Swede midge, *Contarinia nasturtii*, a serious pest of crucifers, was detected in New York in 2004 through a CAPS survey. Cabbage alone is an $87 million annual crop in New York. Also in 2005, a single sirex woodwasp, *Sirex noctilio*, was identified in a sample collected as part of the New York State CAPS National Exotic Wood Borer and Bark Beetle Survey. The sirex woodwasp is a major pest in exotic pine plantations in the Southern Hemisphere. These early detections are essential to successful mitigation of the damages by these newly arrived exotic pests.

Inadequate funding limits the effectiveness of the CAPS program at the state and national level. Of the current program funding level of $27 million, states receive approximately $5 million which is sufficient only to support per state one state survey coordinator and a handful of small-scale survey programs. However, in the two eastern regions, high-risk sentinel states (FL, NY), the special allocation of funding above the $100 thousand state limit has clearly resulted in early detection successes. The low level funding for the remaining 25 eastern region states means there are few fully supported surveys for critical national target pests.

RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting held in Savannah, Georgia on April 12, 2006, requests that USDA-APHIS-PPQ evaluate and increase the funding for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program. A minimum or core level of funding of at least 40% of the pest detection line item should be allocated to all states willing to participate, with additional funding to be allocated based on a state-level pest introduction risk analysis (SPIRA) to conduct critical surveys. The SPIRA should consider number of international seaports, airports, import agricultural commodity tonnage, foreign visitor traffic, and other relevant pathway data as well as climate and host plant availability that occurs in each state.

Motion to Adopt: Richard Gaskella
Seconded by: Tomm Johnson

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