

The American Phytopathological Society: A Resource for EPA

The APS has begun to explore ways in which we can more closely cooperate with the US Environmental Protection Agency, in particular, to provide the agency with objective, science-based information for risk assessments on crop protection chemicals and biotechnology products to ensure their continued availability for combating crop diseases.

November 2008 APS-EPA Roundtable: To facilitate enhanced discussion between EPA staff and members of our society knowledgeable about crop protection products, a roundtable was held. These initial conversations were pivotal in identifying a few opportunities for APS to assist EPA in fulfilling its need for science based data, outreach, and education.

Opportunities for Enhanced APS-EPA Activities:

- **Transitioning Long-Ranging Section 18 Registrations to Section 3 Registration:** The APS could assist in EPA efforts to transition these products to Section 3 registration by providing information for key risk assessment issues and identifying the availability of other products or chemistry in the pipeline that could control the disease without a Section 18. We suggest the establishment of one or more working groups to provide detailed, long-range management recommendations for critical pest management gaps identified by EPA.
- **Proactive Fungicide Resistance Management:** APS proposes the establishment of a working group to identify areas in which APS members can assist EPA.
- **Fungicides to Promote General Plant Health:** There are varying opinions on the use of fungicides for promoting plant health. APS would like to open a dialogue on this issue. To enable a broad range of APS members to participate, the PPB proposes using live, web-based conferencing (e.g., WebEx) on this topic.
- **Registration Review:** APS members can assist the EPA in reviewing the safety of registered pesticides. APS will work with EPA to identify products scheduled for review during 2009-2012 for which APS can provide assistance during the reviews to ensure that essential modes of action remain available for managing plant pathogens.
- **Joint APS-EPA Regulatory Issues Symposium at the 2010 APS Annual Meeting:** While a more detailed outline can be developed over the next three months, topic areas could include a broad overview of EPA regulations affecting plant pathology and various presentations on key topics (e.g., resistance management, risk management, transitioning long-ranging Section 18s to Section 3s etc.) Symposium proposals for 2010 will be reviewed at the 2009 meeting.
- **Establishment of an APS-EPA internship/fellowship:** The APS would like to develop a long-term internship/fellowship program for a plant pathologist to spend a year at EPA headquarters working on science-based regulatory issues related to plant pathology. This could be structured similar to policy fellowships at other Federal agencies (e.g., NIH).

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