Innovations in Certification—
Plant Health Updates from USA

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OVERVIEW OF USA SITUATION
Plant Health: A Federal/State Partnership

• US Department of Agriculture-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (NPPO)
  • Oversees plant import, export framework
  • Federally regulates some “high consequence” quarantine pests (interstate commerce)

• State Plant Regulatory Officials
  • License and certify growers
  • Intrastate and interstate commerce
  • Often “boots on ground” for cooperative programs
Traditional plant certification

- Annual facility inspection
- End-point visual inspection

• Innovative certification initiatives
  - Government/Industry Partnership
  - Voluntary
  - Based on a standard
  - Achieved through integrated measures/systems
Highlights for Today

- Offshore Greenhouse Certification Program (cuttings)

- US/Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP)

- Systems Approach for Nursery Certification (SANC) – domestic interstate commerce
Offshore Greenhouse Certification (OGCP)

- ~2 billion unrooted cuttings imported each year
  - “Lower risk”
  - Highly perishable
  - Highly seasonal
- “Generally admissible” taxa
- Program piloted 4 suppliers/6 countries
North American Off-Shore Suppliers

Non-Central American Locations
Athena-Brazil
Darwin(Ball)-Colombia
Cohen-Israel
Danziger-Israel
Danziger-Kenya
Dummen-Kenya
Florensis-Kenya
Syngenta-Kenya
Selecta Kenya
Dummen Ethiopia
Florensis-Ethiopia
Syngenta Ethiopia
Selecta Uganda
Ports of Entry

- Cargo arrives at port of entry
- Clearance performed by import broker
- APHIS inspects cuttings
- Releases to broker for shipment via FedEx or truck
FY 15 PLANT UNITS INSPECTED BY MONTH
OGCP – Meet or Exceed Minimum Standards

• Greenhouse infrastructure
• Irrigation/water management
• Hygiene/sanitation
• Pest management
• Recordkeeping
• Traceability
• Oversight/Audits (USDA, NPPO)
OGCP Status

• Fully launched in 2020
• Open to suppliers throughout world
• “Automated Commercial Environment” – USDA-APHIS implementation 3/15/21

• Benefits for Producers
  • Quality/Consistency
  • Reduced “frequency of inspection” means most shipments bypass USDA Plant Inspection Stations!

US/Canada Greenhouse Cert Program (GCP)

• Facilitates cross-border trade of “lower-risk” plants

• Key Components:
  • Approved Plant List
  • Pest Management Plan
  • Quarantine Modules
  • Recordkeeping, Oversight Audits

• Key Benefits
  • Time, cost savings
  • Ability to ship without phytosanitary certificate
Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

• Scope – domestic trade

• Key elements
  • Facility-specific risk assessment
  • Hazard/critical control point ID
  • Risk mitigation measures
  • Facility manual
  • Internal, external audits

• Three-way partnership (USDA, States, Industry/AmericanHort)
SANC Status

- Two-phase pilot completed
  - >20 greenhouse, nursery operations throughout US
- Program fully launched 2021
- Website: sanc.nationalplantboard.gov
Lessons Learned, Future Ideas

• Growers report quality, cost savings
• Culture transformation

Looking ahead…
• Will marketplace, especially mass retail, value and reward these efforts? Customers?
• Opportunity with sustainability certification?