



BIOSTIMULANTS WORKING GROUP

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What is a Biostimulant?

- 2018 Draft Farm Bill Definition (House Version)
 - *A substance or micro-organism that, when applied to seeds, plants, or the rhizosphere, stimulates natural processes to enhance or benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, or crop quality and yield.*

Biostimulant Working Group

Who is participating?

- USDA
- EPA
- FDA
- TFI
- AAPFCO
- AAPCO
- NASDA
- INDUSTRY

Industry Goals

- Set a definition for biostimulants on a federal level for industry and states to follow.
- Set a limited federal review process that could pre-empt current state regulations on some biostimulant products.
- Have the ability to create a nationwide label.
- Harmonization within the US and Global communities.

Plant Biostimulants are *NOT* Pesticides (Industry Perspective)

Plant biostimulants...

- ***Do not*** alter plant growth in a manner consistent with the original intent of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), regarding “plant regulators”
- ***Do not*** accelerate or retard the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or otherwise alter the behavior of plants
- ***Do*** positively affect the physiology of the plant so it may perform up to its genetic potential
- ***Do*** enable plants to achieve more of their natural growth potential
- ***Do*** offer benefits consistent with products excluded from FIFRA, i.e.:
 - Plant nutrients and trace minerals
 - Soil amendments
 - Plant inoculants

Current Plan (Industry)

- USDA Process Verified Program (PVP)
 - *Voluntary program*
 - *Still determining what it can do*
 - *Plan to look at ingredients, claims, labels, safety, efficacy...*
- Plan is to take this PVP to the states to show that they are regulated
- AAPFCO Model Documents to either accept PVP or create new structure for biostimulants

Three Workstreams (Industry)

- Regulatory and Legal Harmonization
- Criteria/Standards Development
- State Coordination and Implementation

1. Regulatory and Legal Harmonization

- Suggested Participants: USDA, EPA, AAPFCO, Potential Stakeholders: (AAPFCO, ASTA, BC, BPIA, BIO, HPTA, NASDA) (FDA to monitor if needed)
- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
 - *Regulatory Oversight: Clarify regulatory authorities enabling implementation of PVP program.*
 - *Terms and Definitions: Create list of key terms that need to be defined. Examples: “Nutrient use efficiency”, “Abiotic stress”.*
 - *Regulatory Clarification: regulatory treatment of ‘dual use’ materials.*

2. Criteria/Standards Development

- Suggested Participants: USDA, AAPFCO, Potential Stakeholders (ASTA, BC, BPIA, HPTA, TFI)
- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
 - *Process Points: Create agreement on Agreement on key “process points” or attributes requiring auditing criteria; microbial contaminants, heavy metals, efficacy and other label claims, product identification and composition, human and environmental safety, etc., dual use*
 - *Criteria to be Audited: Develop details of criteria to be audited, i.e. data, documentation, test procedures, etc., for each; review and approval of criteria and terms*
 - *Develop Auditor qualifications: USDA and others with ability to review safety, agronomic and other data*

3. State Coordination and Implementation

- Suggested Participants: USDA, NASDA, AAPFCO, AAPCO, State officials, Potential Stakeholders: (ASTA, BC, BPIA, HPTA, NASDA, TFI)
- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
 - *Model Document: Develop document (with State input) that can be used to assist any needed State regulatory/legislative clarifications.*
 - *Labels: Design uniform label*



QUESTIONS?

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