

Plant Biostimulants Regulatory Opportunities

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✓ TFI is the leading voice in the fertilizer industry, focused on public policy, nutrient stewardship, communication and market intelligence. We represent:



Manufacturers



Retailers



Brokers



Wholesalers



Transporters of fertilizer

Biostimulant Timeline



May '18:
Industry
Solicits
USDA
Participants

Jul '18: USDA
WG Kickoff
Meeting

Dec '18: Farm
Bill Signed by
President

- Sep '18 –
May '19: WG
Meetings and
Weekly Subgroup
Calls

Jun '19: Industry
Recommends
Framework for
USDA Report to
Congress

Dec '19: USDA
Report to
Congress

Biostimulant Definitions

USDA (Alt 1): A plant biostimulant is a naturally occurring substance, its synthetically derived equivalent, or a microbe that is used for the purpose of stimulating natural processes in plants or in the soil in order to, among other things: improve nutrient and/or water use efficiency by plants, help plants tolerate abiotic stress, or improve characteristics of the soil as a medium for plant growth. The characteristics may be physical, chemical, and/or biological. The plant biostimulant may be used either by itself or in combination with other substances or microbes for this purpose.

USDA (Alt 2): A plant biostimulant is a substance(s), microorganism(s), or mixtures thereof, that, when applied to seeds, plants, the rhizosphere, soil or other growth media, act to support a plant's natural nutrition processes independently of the biostimulant's nutrient content. The plant biostimulant thereby improves nutrient availability, uptake or use efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and consequent growth, development, quality or yield.

EU: Plant biostimulants contain substances and/or microorganisms whose function when applied to plants or to soil is to stimulate natural processes to enhance or benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress and crop quality.

TFI Goals



- **Time Bound AAPFCO/Industry Sub-Committee:**
 - › “Comprehensive PBS package”
 - Terms and Definitions
 - Uniform Bill (legislation)
 - Regulations (including efficacy and safety)
 - SUIP
 - Policy Statement
 - Label
 - Approval process guidance

TFI Goals



- **Robust efficacy framework; Allows only those products with demonstrated claims to gain market access**
- **Lobby for U.S. Legislation based on AAPFCO/Industry “Comprehensive PBS Package”**
 - › Implemented in it’s entirety by AAPFCO officials on a state-by-state basis
 - › States may add additional provisions, as necessary

Pondering

- Align/Coordinate Efficacy Framework with EU?
- Coordinate and Adopt ISO TC/134 Lab Methods?
 - Ring test and validate EU PBS lab methods?
 - Utilize the MOU between ISO TC/134 and AOAC?
 - Rely solely on AOAC approval process?

Thank You!

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