

Challenges and Opportunities for Internet-based Disease Information Systems

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Healthy Plants • Healthy World

Challenges and Opportunities

Some points to ponder from previous speakers:

- Network contributors to devote greater proportion of their time to interpretation and dissemination
- Much useful pest surveillance data from university research and extension programs is not centrally archived or accessible by wider communities
- Contribution of private sector pest data to government databases and network would benefit all network contributors and users

Challenges and Opportunities

Some points to ponder from previous speakers:

- Inclusion of 'high risk' exotic pest information would benefit all network contributors and users
- Most successfully deployed models are accompanied by the interpretation of an expert who is trusted by the grower or other decision-maker
- Models must be interpreted based on an understanding of model assumptions, limitations of the datasets, and the needs of decision-makers

Challenges and Opportunities

Some points to ponder from previous speakers:

- Dissemination to stakeholders is aided by timely local and national situation commentaries and by easy 'portal' access to multiple informational resources
- Dissemination to growers, consultants, educators, regulators, researchers may involve different components and mechanisms (Know your end-user!)

Challenges and Opportunities

Some points to ponder from previous speakers:

- Useful dissemination models vary from private, subscription-based to government-financed, free public access

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

- How will it be funded in the future?
- Will federal funding continue long-term?

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for
Extension and Education (PIPE)

- Is the 'volunteer' contribution fully appreciated and is it sustainable?
- Does involvement in PIPE help contributors accomplish professional objectives, enhance their visibility, and count toward their promotion?

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

- Is sentinel plot data the best type of data that might be gathered? Are there more efficient and economical methods of data collection?
- Can we build a useful and sustainable national pest database that combines government, university, and private sector data?

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for
Extension and Education (PIPE)

- Can issues of data quality control, timeliness, ownership and use, and confidentiality be dealt with to mutual satisfaction?
- What are the respective roles of commodity groups, industry, government, and academia in building the PIPE?

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

Soybean rust:

- a high consequence, invasive pathogen
- windborne on a continental scale (geography matters!)
- overwinters in frost-free areas and must be reintroduced annually to major production areas

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

Soybean rust:

- affects broad acreage crop grown in most states
- grower decisions (fungicide) are reliant on risk forecast
- a national response is essential

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

- The SBR-PIPE has been well received by different types of end-user! Yet, even its sustainability is uncertain.

Challenges and Opportunities

USDA Pest Information Platform for
Extension and Education (PIPE)

- How broadly applicable is the PIPE model as developed for soybean rust, soybean aphid, and legume viruses?
- Other invasive, high consequence pests of major commodities? All economically important pests?
- Will PIPE initiatives strengthen or compete with local educational efforts in particular commodities?

USDA Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (PIPE)

- Do we need a large comprehensive PIPE or a number of customized, mini-PIPES?
- What voices will be heard in the decisions ahead?
- What would you like to see considered in the future development of PIPE and other forecasting and surveillance systems?



On behalf of the organizers and speakers:

Thank you for your participation in the symposium!