

Guidelines for Updating Recovery Plans

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) Annual Meeting is an opportunity for discussion and partnership among plant pathologists from the academia, government, industry, and private practice both in the US and international levels.

At this juncture, the APS Meeting is an avenue for lead authors, experts involved in the development of recovery plans including scientists with interest in high-consequence plant diseases to contribute and collaborate by conducting a National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) Meeting.

Through the NPDRS Meeting, a yearly review of the status of recovery plans is monitored and evaluated to keep the recovery plans as current and relevant.

Considering that the need for, and extent of, updating recovery plans will vary considerably depending on specific improvements, attendees at the NPDRS Meeting decide on recovery plans that needs to be refined.

It is through this forum that updating a recovery plan could be applied according to the age of the plan, complexity of information that has changed, the scope of new information, and the level of interest or greater involvement of stakeholders in the plan.

To keep track of research gaps identified in the recovery plans and to monitor the progress in filling those research gaps, the lead author in consultation with the members of the recovery team including representatives from APHIS, ARS and OPMP will provide up-to-date comments on how gaps identified in the previous recovery plan had been addressed. Newly identified knowledge/research gaps should be worded so that they are attainable (e.g., need knowledge of how temperature and moisture affect pathogen sporulation rather than saying need more knowledge for epidemiology).

After all feedback had been collected and collated by the lead author, the revised plan will be ready for posting.

Research priorities that needs to be tracked include the following areas but not limited to:

- Field-level detection and identification tools and protocols
- Diagnosis protocols among quarantine agencies worldwide
- Screening of resistant germplasm either domestically under quarantine or in countries where the disease is indigenous
- Mitigation and disease management approaches
- Certification approaches

- Race or strain characterization
- Conservation, storage and maintenance of races or strains in the US
- Biocontrol approaches to disease management
- Epidemiology, survival, disease movement, and prediction models
- Cultural, ecological and economic implications

In addition, there are extension and education priorities that need to be addressed such as:

- Education and training of extension personnel, growers and crop advisors on symptomology and prediction models, detection under field situations
- Engagement of state institutions such as NPDN, iPIPE, and IPM regional centers
- Risk management utilizing good farming practices
- Surveillance and monitoring network
- Interdisciplinary working group of scientists and experts familiar with the new disease
- Short courses, workshops for stakeholders
- Develop and disseminate extension publications on disease identification and management through print and electronic media outlets
- Conduct of surveys to expand detection of exotic pathogen to first detectors and first responders

Updated recovery plans are posted by OPMP on the current chair, status and link to the updated recovery plan at the NPDRS website (<https://www.ars.usda.gov/office-of-pest-management-policy/npdrs/>).

The website will serve as a central clearinghouse of maintaining and expediting the changes made by the lead author.

Further, greater awareness and sharing of the updated information to stakeholders even at the international level in the NPDRS website allows for better communication, networking and building partnerships.