

Agricultural Security Efforts of the State Agricultural Experiments Stations

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Outline

- ESCOP Activities
- University Requirements
- Snapshots – 2007
- Director Experiences

Actions and Activities

- Homeland Agrosecurity Task Force
 - 2001
- Articulation within the LGU system
 - 2001-02
- ESS Annual Meeting Workshops
 - 2002, 2004
- AES surveys
 - 2002, 2007

Task Force Charge

- Recommend site security guidelines, policies and procedures that should be adopted across the SAES to:
 - insure that research materials, databases and microbial germplasm collections are secure
- Determine the capacity of SAES to address agrosecurity issues:
 - human resources, capacity and university-based infrastructure that can be brought to bear on the issues and problems

(Charge cont.)

- Help formulate how the SAES and USDA/ARS can collectively and cooperatively work together to provide enhanced agrosecurity for the nation.
- Identify research needs and opportunities in the agrosecurity arena
- Define research program initiatives (and the associated funding needs) that will support enhanced agrosecurity in the U.S.

Task Force Products

White Papers on:

- Site Security
- Initiatives in Agricultural Security
- Formation of the National Institute for Agricultural Security

National Institute for Agricultural Security

- A nonprofit organization with membership comprised of:
 - **Experiment Stations**
 - **Cooperative Extension**
 - **Academic Programs**
 - **International Programs**



Initiatives in Agricultural Security

- “Logical Framework” for Agrosecurity
 - Vulnerability Assessment
 - Vulnerability Prevention
 - Monitoring and Surveillance
 - Interventions and Initial Responses
 - *Ex Post* Attack Analysis
- Education and Training
 - Workshops 2002, 2004
- NIAS-led discussion and information to decision makers at all levels
- Development of a decision support tool for non select agents - NIAS

Where are we today?

Status of Select Agent Policies at LGUs - 2007

■ University Policies

- 24 of 24 land grant universities have policies and procedures relating to select agents
- Institutional Biosafety Committee
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- Institutional Responsible Officer (RO)
- Registration for possession, use, and transfer of select agents
- Radiation Safety Office
- Additional approvals may be needed for select agents, radiochemicals, pesticides and many standard chemicals
- Many require chemical inventories

Responses and Actions* - 2007

- Do you and your immediate staff have an increased awareness of:
 - Institution policies? (100%)
 - State regulations? (91%)
 - Federal regulations? (82%)
- Have your faculty and staff received additional training? (70%)

*n=23

Chemical Inventories

- Do your faculty/staff maintain inventories of
 - Biologicals? (96%)
 - Chemicals? (96%)
 - Hazardous materials? (100%)
 - Field use chemicals? (90%)
 - Pesticides? (91%)

Select Agent Use

- Do you know the identity of your institutions responsible officer (RO)? (96%)
- Do any of your faculty or staff members currently use select agents? (64%)

Building Security & Surveillance

- Has your unit reviewed/ revised its emergency management plan in the last 2 years? (68%)
- Do *you* conduct regular site security assessments of facilities? (57%)
 - Monthly to annually
 - In many cases assessments conducted by external unit
- Have you installed, or are you planning to install or adopt additional security measures? (70%)
- Has surveillance been increased? (62%)
 - Measures range from locked doors, computer-coded access key cards to cameras
- Has building and laboratory security been increased? (74%)

Organized Security Efforts

- Are you aware of, or contributing to, state efforts and planning in homeland security? (95%)
- Is your unit or university participating in an institutional effort relative to homeland or agrosecurity? (74%)
- Are you aware of or contributing to the Plant and Animal Diagnostics Networks? (84%)

So what is really happening?

Director Experiences

- Mark Hussey, Director
 - Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
- Jim Stack, Director
 - Kansas State, Biosecurity Research Institute
- Marshall Martin, Associate Director
 - Purdue/Indiana Agricultural Experiment Station