Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Goal 1: Optimize ACPC: Improve, standardize, and implement systems

Objective 1: Implement Quality Systems
- Hire quality control manager
- Survey clean plant quality control systems used in horticulturally advanced countries to better understand and align ACPC to key components of international standards
- Implement ISO standards by 2028

Objective 2: Implement Protocol Standardization and SOPs
- ACPC staff meet during annual retreat to review and optimize technical protocols

Goal 2: Technology and Testing: Use best technologies to remain competitive and inspire consumer confidence

Objective 1: Build competitive and complete HTS capabilities to realize the full benefits of the technology
- Support process to expedite USDA approval of HTS protocols and SOPs, then increase number of plants tested using HTS
- Develop a 5-year transition period where both conventional and HTS testing are valid

Objective 2: Optimize pathogen testing methods used within ACPC, to ensure highest level of confidence in plant material's pathogen-free status
- Establish Diagnostic Assay Validation Network (DAVN) membership for operational manager of ACPC
- Conduct industry-critical work (e.g., pathogen detection and test optimization) that are validated through peer-reviewed publications
- Quality control managers oversee changes in testing regulatory requirements

Objective 3: Develop excellence in new pathogen elimination methods and ensure accessibility to breeders and industry
- Compare efficiencies and effectiveness of the different methodologies (thermo, cryo, chemo, siRNAs and CRISPR) on different virus taxa

Objective 4: Communicate and promote the advantages of new testing and screening methodology
- ACPC attend grower-focused meetings (WERA-20, NCCC212, NPB, NARBA, NASGA, others)
- Convene/Attend and actively contribute to annual meetings with state regulators and USDA

Goal 3: Sustainability: Ensuring the future success of ACPC

Objective 1: Work towards long-term financial stability of ACPC

- Pursue additional sources of funding beyond NCPN to accomplish industry-critical work that is complementary to clean plant production
- Distribute information within and outside NCPN about the ACPC testing capabilities to maximize resource use by other crops
- Support diversification of funding and use of ACPC fees for services

Objective 2: Establish current and future financial targets

- Collect and analyze percentage breakdown of current and ACPC past funding sources
- Evaluate future financial targets annually

Objective 3: Quantify and leverage industry partnerships within the NCPN Framework

- Develop and maintain ACPC testing to support industry needs (e.g., certification, plant movement, CIPs)
- Support partnerships that reduce ACPC costs and increase overall clean plant capacity (e.g., infrastructure, privately-held mother plants, CIP)
- Define metrics, then collect and report on partnership data biannually

Goal 4: Networking/ Communication: Promote usage of clean plants through networking and communication

Objective 1: Optimize targeted clean plant messaging to maintain a high level of industry engagement and use of Clean Plant Centers

- Create an industry/customer contact list and update biannually
- Inform current ACPC customers on center developments biannually
- ACPC personnel attends defined high-priority meetings
- Actively collaborate with NCPN E&O working group to leverage highest value from network resources

Objective 2: Increase use of ACPC by public/private breeding programs to distribute their material

- Communicate to breeders the industries' preference to receive material from ACPC
- Demonstrate system and value to breeders through focused communications around ACPC processes and benefits

Objective 3: Maintain a database on ACPC impact metrics

- Develop center metrics, then annually collect and update data (e.g., types and number of plants, origin, customers, testing, clean-up, NCPN template, center fees)
- Report on metrics at annual meeting to identify future targets for clean plant usage
- Include data/metrics in proposal process and communications with stakeholders