What is a Biostimulant?

- 2018 Draft Farm Bill Definition (House Version)
  - A substance or micro-organism that, when applied to seeds, plants, or the rhizosphere, stimulates natural processes to enhance or benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, or crop quality and yield.
Biostimulant Working Group

Who is participating?

- USDA
- EPA
- FDA
- TFI
- AAPFCO
- AAPCO
- NASDA
- INDUSTRY
Industry Goals

- Set a definition for biostimulants on a federal level for industry and states to follow.
- Set a limited federal review process that could pre-empt current state regulations on some biostimulant products.
- Have the ability to create a nationwide label.
- Harmonization within the US and Global communities.
Plant Biostimulants are NOT Pesticides (Industry Perspective)

Plant biostimulants...

- **Do not** alter plant growth in a manner consistent with the original intent of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), regarding “plant regulators”
- **Do not** accelerate or retard the rate of growth or rate of maturation, or otherwise alter the behavior of plants
- **Do** positively affect the physiology of the plant so it may perform up to its genetic potential
- **Do** enable plants to achieve more of their natural growth potential
- **Do** offer benefits consistent with products excluded from FIFRA, i.e.:
  - Plant nutrients and trace minerals
  - Soil amendments
  - Plant inoculants
Current Plan (Industry)

- USDA Process Verified Program (PVP)
  - Voluntary program
  - Still determining what it can do
    - Plan to look at ingredients, claims, labels, safety, efficacy...

- Plan is to take this PVP to the states to show that they are regulated

- AAPFCO Model Documents to either accept PVP or create new structure for biostimulants
Three Workstreams (Industry)

- Regulatory and Legal Harmonization
- Criteria/Standards Development
- State Coordination and Implementation
1. Regulatory and Legal Harmonization

- Suggested Participants: USDA, EPA, AAPFCO, Potential Stakeholders: (AAPFCO, ASTA, BC, BPIA, BIO, HPTA, NASDA) (FDA to monitor if needed)

- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
  - **Regulatory Oversight:** Clarify regulatory authorities enabling implementation of PVP program.
  - **Terms and Definitions:** Create list of key terms that need to be defined. Examples: “Nutrient use efficiency”, “Abiotic stress”.
  - **Regulatory Clarification:** regulatory treatment of ‘dual use’ materials.
2. Criteria/Standards Development

- Suggested Participants: USDA, AAPFCO, Potential Stakeholders (ASTA, BC, BPIA, HPTA, TFI)

- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
  - **Process Points**: Create agreement on Agreement on key “process points” or attributes requiring auditing criteria; microbial contaminants, heavy metals, efficacy and other label claims, product identification and composition, human and environmental safety, etc., dual use
  - **Criteria to be Audited**: Develop details of criteria to be audited, i.e. data, documentation, test procedures, etc., for each; review and approval of criteria and terms
  - **Develop Auditor qualifications**: USDA and others with ability to review safety, agronomic and other data
3. State Coordination and Implementation

- Suggested Participants: USDA, NASDA, AAPFCO, AAPCO, State officials, Potential Stakeholders: (ASTA, BC, BPIA, HPTA, NASDA, TFI)

- Example of Work stream Subgroups:
  - **Model Document**: Develop document (with State input) that can be used to assist any needed State regulatory/legislative clarifications.
  - **Labels**: Design uniform label
QUESTIONS?

Eddie Simons
Registration Specialist
Washington State Department of Agriculture
esimons@agr.wa.gov