



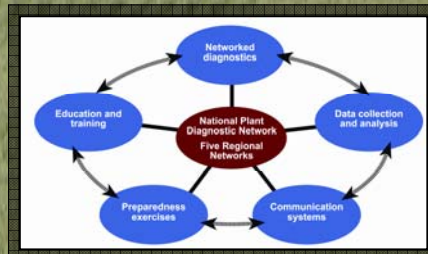
National Plant Diagnostic Network

** Operations Committee **



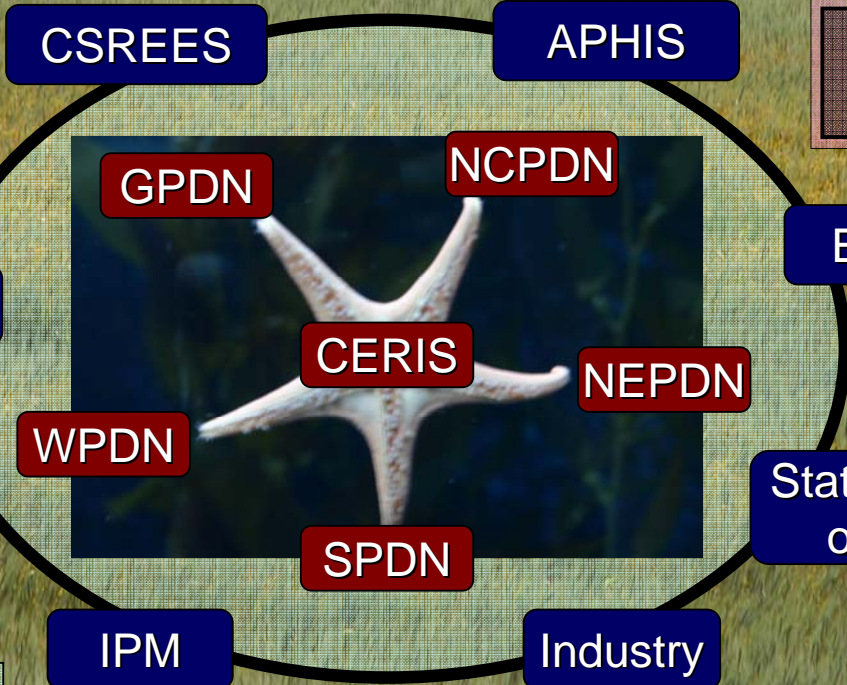
Effective & Efficient Operations

- NPDN Operations Committee has members from USDA CSREES, APHIS, state departments of agriculture, EDEN, industry, and the regional networks
- Annual plans of work are developed and implemented and assessments of progress toward Network goals are performed and reported
- The NPDN Operations Committee provides a mechanism to ensure communications among regions and between NPDN and its partners

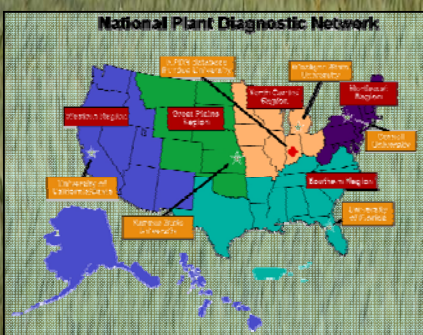


The NPDN Operations Committee convenes a two day planning and assessment meeting twice each year: in August at the Annual Meeting of APS and in December at alternating locations.

Conference calls (60 to 90 minute) are convened every 2-4 weeks to monitor progress and as needed to address critical issues.



A detailed project planning process is employed that facilitates the prioritization of objectives, the allocation of funding, and the tracking of progress toward national and regional goals.



NPDN Operations Committee Activities

The establishment and subsequent development of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) was guided by a national operations committee whose members represented federal agencies, state departments of agriculture, and the land grant universities. Through a combination of regular conference calls and face-to-face meetings, challenges were addressed, issues resolved, and policies set. This group provided oversight for network operations and served as the mechanism by which to ensure communications among the five regional networks and the federal and state agencies with whom NPDN interacts. The NPDN has become an excellent model for government-university interaction and the NPDN Operations Committee an effective mechanism to facilitate the development and evolution of the Network.