**Appendix E**

# DRAFT

### The Nature of Information and Data Management in PPQ and in Cooperative Pest Survey Initiatives

Federally sponsored plant pest survey initiatives take many forms. All initiatives provide vital information—pest presence or absence, geographical distribution, etc.—which is used by PPQ and cooperating agencies to 1) ensure prompt response, including eradication projects, to pest outbreaks; 2) ensure sound management strategies for pests that have established themselves in the country; and 3) demonstrate to international trading partners that agricultural commodities meet import requirements.

PPQ relies primarily on cooperative Federal/State pest surveys to gather information on insect pests, diseases and invasive weeds. PPQ and cooperators gather survey information and store that information in a variety of ways. In many cases, PPQ places survey summaries into the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) data warehouse. Traditionally, PPQ requires cooperators to report discoveries of new pests immediately, as well as provide into NAPIS an annual summary of survey initiatives.

In today's global environment, survey results provide data not only to make decisions about how PPQ and cooperators will respond to specific pest issues, but also—and ever more frequently—to describe immediate pest status to senior level Federal and State policy makers, agricultural stakeholders, and international trading partners. This environment forces PPQ to build information management systems that provide timely, quality data to these key players in the plant protection and agricultural trade environment.

PPQ developed the Integrated Survey Information System (ISIS) with the above needs in mind. ISIS provides an environment and process to gather quality survey information in a timely or "real-time" manner, and makes this information accessible to key stakeholders. Flexibility within ISIS allows for the transfer of summary data to public sites such as NAPIS Pest Tracker and provides a survey data set for analysis or basic research. ISIS allows strict control of access to its data. Most importantly, ISIS offers the capability of providing immediate information to managers in the field who are responding to pest situations.

ISIS is being used successfully on a variety of programs, such as citrus health and Mexican fruit fly in Texas. PPQ expects that in 2007, ISIS will be used for the potato cyst nematode national survey and on citrus commodity surveys in western States. In addition, in 2007, PPQ State Plant Health Directors and regional program managers will discuss with cooperators the use of ISIS on all PPQ funded survey initiatives. PPQ

understands that in some circumstances, ISIS will not be able to immediately replace existing data systems.

PPQ's long term vision is to utilize ISIS as the core of a comprehensive Plant Health Information System. ISIS will serve as the core survey database within this larger system. The comprehensive system will link ISIS with diagnostic results, public reporting tools, and other plant health data systems.