

The Committee was instated as a standing committee with NAPB during the last annual meeting in August 2019. During the past year the committee worked on the following key projects:

1. Developed an NAPB Antitrust document and received approval from the Executive Committee.
2. Initially the committee worked to expand the committee to representatives from more companies with breeding activities. The goal was to have more crop diversity in the committee. The committee was initially made up of John Gill, Ag Reliant JD Rossouw (Bayer), Chibwe Chungu (BASF vegetable seeds) , Anna Reibson (Cibus), Klaus Koehler (Corteva), Clinton Stekete (INARI) We expanded it to include Jason Jandrew (Ball Horticulture), Rick Harrison (Driscoll) and Ben Beyer (Advanta). Due to a career change Anna Reibson left the committee in February 2020. Currently Klaus Koehler serves as Chair, JD Rossouw as vice chair and Rick Harrison as secretary. At the annual meeting JD Rossouw will become the chair.
3. The committee developed additional program elements for the 2020 Annual meeting as well as a webinar which was integrated into the webinar series of the education committee.
 - a. Organize a way for companies to present themselves and what they are doing at the annual meeting. Initially planned as short lightning talks it will now be implemented in special online sessions.
 - b. A workshop about gene editing its value and regulatory challenges at upcoming annual meeting, Monday August 17:
Session 2: Gene editing opportunities within the current global regulatory landscape
 - Bernice Slutsky – Regulatory Policy Update on Gene Editing and Why It Matters
 - Getu Beyene Duguma – Role of Genome Editing to Enhance the Speed of Crop Improvement in Developing Countries
 - Donald MacKenzie, Executive Director, Institute for International Crop Improvement, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Saint Louis, Missouri
 - c. A webinar on UPOV and its role in the intellectual property protection of seed products on the international markets titled "Why do we need plant variety protection and UPOV?" presented by Peter Button from UPOV on May 12, 2020 as part of the education committee webinar series.
4. Developed a concept for a company sponsored internship program for NAPB graduate student members. Concept allows flexibility for different offers from the hosting company. During the development it became clear that companies will differ in the type of engagement and experience they would provide. Currently the committee is in discussions with ASTA to potentially expand such program and have it co-sponsored by ASTA.
5. The committee worked on an improvement in the relationship and connectivity of NAPB and ASTA. Joint engagements have been discussed or are being already initiated:
 - a. Connectivity between the NAPB communication committee and ASTA. An exchange of information, accessing the mailing lists if each other's organization to cross-advertise for experiences, opportunities, scholarships, events etc. A contact was established between the ASTA membership office and the communication committee and first instances of such exchange advertising in each other's newsletter occurred.

- b. Several meetings occurred engaging with ASTA's science policy office. Opportunities exists in making recordings of the seed science symposium available on the NAPB website.
 - i. Have public breeders from NAPB more engaged in public policy statements to communicate to government entities on policy.
 - ii. ASTA provides one internship per year in the policy area. This could also be opened to NAPB members.
 - iii. Opportunity to recruit mentors for the NAPB Borlaug mentorship program from ASTA member companies.
 - iv. Possibility to receive funding from the science foundation. NAPB would need to develop a proposal to the science foundation. Areas could be education, public outreach in areas the science foundation is active in:
 - 1. Plant Breeding Systems
 - 2. Product Technology
 - 3. Seed applied technology
 - 4. Digital Ag
 - 5. Phytosanitary and Seed health

Due to a retirement there will be a change at the head of the ASTA science policy office. For further engagement we need to wait for a successor to be named.

- 6. The committee also started discussing two attract more member companies from the private sector to NAPB. Clinton Steketee will lead this effort. Chibwe Chungu and Klaus Koehler to assist.
 - a. Plan is to develop a membership flyer about the benefits of NAPB membership in collaboration with the membership committee.
 - b. Approach more companies, beyond those present in the committee to solicit their plant breeding community to join.
 - c. Possibly expand communication to ASTA membership
 - d. Goal is to expand private sector membership by 25% in FY 2020-21.
- 7. On July 15, 2020 the committee held a strategy session to discuss potential new activities for the committee in FY 2020-21. The following areas were identified in no specific order:
 - Attract two more companies to be represented in the committee.
 - Identify one industry specific topic for the year. For the new year potential topic could be about agriculture sustainability. Several companies announced their sustainability goals for this decade recently.
 - Have a forum to discuss/showcase Covid19 impact on our industry? Have a wide diversity of company issues represented.
 - What does the plant breeder of the future look like? Develop a white paper on this in the committee during the next year. Plan to have a panel discussion at the 2021 annual meeting.
 - Focus on the technical skills as well as the soft skills.
 - Outreach of the committee to universities on changing their curriculum.
 - The committee to become the go-to place for industry positions within NAPB. How to define? This is a three-year ambition. Will require tight collaboration with the Executive Committee.