



**Improving Plants to Improve Lives**

**National Association of Plant Breeders**

**2022-23 Annual Report**

**Awards Committee**

**This year's committee:**

Officers	Other members
Chair James McFerson (Chair) Washington State Univ R&E Ctr (Ret)  Vice Chair NA Secretary NA	David Baltensperger, Texas A&M Univ Rob Duncan, Univ Manitoba Laura Grapes, Bayer Crop Science Kim Kidwell, Univ Illinois Steve Kresovich, Clemson Univ Jim Parks, Jim, Corteva AgriScience Stephanie Sjoberg, Syngenta Chris Smallwood, Purdue Univ

**Major Goals for the Year 2022-23**

- Formally consider the creation of an award recognizing outstanding plant breeding educators (cooperative with Education Committee)
- Critically assess the effectiveness of the Committee's activities and improve and document operations to achieve a representative diversity of awardees and enhance accessibility for the broad plant breeding community.
- Efficiently and transparently conduct the nomination and evaluation process for the 2022-23 cycle.

**Major Highlights / Accomplishments for the Year 2022-23**

- Achieved a diverse set of nominees for 2023 awards
- Initiated discussion with Education Committee on initiative to create a Plant Breeding Educator award
- Created draft of Awards Committee Guidelines to support future efforts of the Committee

**Lessons learnt**

- An updated web site and active Communications team can significantly benefit functions of NAPB committees – already suspected this but appreciate the improvements
- When the annual meeting time line is set earlier, need to adjust Award nominations timeline earlier as well – another already knew this too, but need to adjust
- NAPB lacks certain demographic information (racial background, gender preference, career stage, etc.) that would help assess the representatives of awardees



**Loose ends &/or Goals for Next Year 2023-24**

- Complete the process to consider the addition of a Plant Breeder Educator award category
- Encourage turnover of Committee members while maintaining a balanced, diverse membership
- Complete Awards Committee Guidelines

**Incoming Secretary**

Awards Committee has only one officer (Chair)

**Details on any collaborations between committees**

- The efforts by Eloy Corona as Communications Chair were critical in obtaining a more balanced set of nominees for the four categories.
- Look forward to collaboration with the Education Committee on the potential Plant Breeding Educator Award