The National Plant Diagnostic Network

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The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) was established under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 (HSPD-9) as one of a raft of biosecurity initiatives that were started in the aftermath of the 09/11/2001. The network is funded by discretionary appropriations as part of the Food & Agriculture Defense Initiative, a line item in the budget of USDA-NIFA. HSPD-9 (along with all of the other HSPDs from that era) has now been retired and replaced, as of November 2022, by the National Biosecurity Strategy, which is much broader in perspective, heavily influenced by our recent global experience with COVID-19, and framed by concepts from the domain of One Health. The funding provided by USDA-NIFA allows NPDN to added considerable value to plant diagnostic activities in every US state and several US territories in the Pacific and Caribbean. As an organization, NPDN consists of 5 regional networks of diagnostic labs and the National Data Repository, which is hosted by the Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Services at Purdue University in Indiana. NPDN works closely with state and federal regulatory agencies to provide US agriculture and other plant-based socio-ecological systems with robust, high quality, diagnostic capability. In the context of the future of the PIPP program, NPDN's 20 year existence may be viewed either as a glittering success story or a dire warning about institutional development and policy implementation in the biosecurity arena. We will discuss why both of these perspectives are true and useful in planning for the future.