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How Rightsizing Regs Can Optimize Plant Protection and Minimize Burdens

Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture



Safeguarding Agriculture

Preventing pests from entering and becoming established in the United States

- Cleared millions of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables and more than 1 billion plants before they enter the United States
- Issued 18,633 import permits, to keep harmful pests from traveling to the United States
- Eradicated the European grapevine moth, which threatened California's \$4 billion annual grape crop
- Eradicated numerous exotic fruit fly outbreaks in California, Florida, and Texas
- Kept 99.5 percent of U.S. commercial cotton free of boll weevil



Facilitating Safe Trade

Promoting the use of sciencebased standards

Resolving plant health barriers to trade and certifying the health of U.S. exports

- Opened new markets for U.S. exports totaling \$171.6 million
- Expanded market access for U.S. exports valued at \$122.3 million
- Retained market access for U.S. exports totaling \$22.7 billion
- And issued more than 738,000 export certificates



The Balance: Most Effective, Least Restrictive



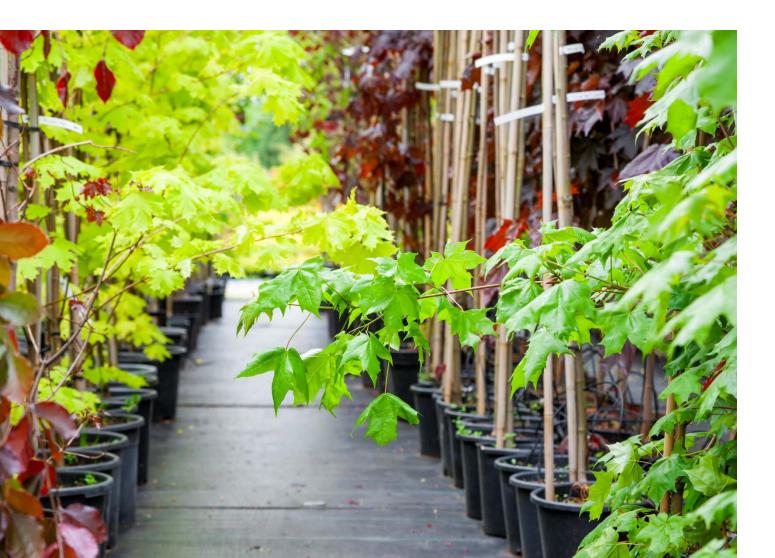
- Regulatory streamlining (notice-based processes)
- Focusing regulations on true risk
- Non-regulatory solutions

Notice-Based Processes



- General requirements in U.S. Code of Federal Regulations; specific restrictions on our web site
- Allows for more timely response to ever-changing pest situations
- Science-based
- Transparent, includes public comment period

Focusing Regulations on True Risk



- Better use of resources
- Greater ability to prevent pest and disease spread
- Relieves unnecessary requirements and burdens

Non-Regulatory Solutions



- Seek voluntary
 partnerships with industry
 when possible to address
 pest and disease issues
 without regulation
- Leverage industry best practices
- Use non-regulatory solutions to address both domestic and international plant health issues

By taking the *most* effective and *least* restrictive approach, we can regulate at the speed of commerce and relieve industry burdens where possible without compromising our mission.

USDA

Thank you!

