Government Advocacy Committee

Annual Report

Accomplishments:

- **Primary Pillars:**
  - **Community & Science**
  - **Organization**
- Engaged policy leaders, government officials and regulators at Advances in Plant Breeding Symposium in Kearneysville, WV Aug 2024
- Provided support for world food prize side event highlighting NPGS
- Alignment on partnership between NAPB advocacy and ASTA
- Supported two students to attend Feb 2025 CSSA Congressional Visit Days
- Partnering with ASTA attend congressional summit in June with ASTA partners

Pradeep Kumar (Texas Tech) & Yue Liu (Iowa State) at Congressional Visit Event (Feb 2025)

Current Challenges

- 2025 has presented significant challenges for advocacy
- Committee has engaged in quick turnaround
  - Responding to federal actions with letters
  - Providing calls to action for membership with ready templates
- We responded to:
  - Loss of funding for agricultural research -> Senate & House Ag Committee members, Secretary of Agriculture
  - Separation of probationary employees -> 1 week turnaround to Congressional members, Secretary of Agriculture
    - Many probationary employees were reinstated as a result of these efforts
  - USDA-ARS and AFRI funding and support
  - Join letters with ASTA, other agricultural organizations on the future of plant breeding education, research, and food security in relationship to funding

Upcoming Initiatives

- Committee would like to get back to our original plan to draft position papers on priority issues for NAPB membership
- Continue to respond quickly to changing federal landscape
  - Partnering with ASTA on responses to upcoming budget proposals at federal level
- Create resource plan for advocacy committee
- Partner with ASTA for more effective advocacy & joint efforts with other common interest groups
  - Engagement with regulatory agencies
  - Educational sessions with federal agencies, potential for virtual events
- Support student capitol visits with CSSA