

SBARE Request: Operating support funds for Department of Plant Pathology (PPTH)

NEED: Operating support for NDSU Extension and North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

IMPACT: Increased operating support gives PPTH the speed, flexibility and stability needed to **identify, develop and deliver solutions** to the plant diseases threatening North Dakota crops.



◆ The Problem

North Dakota growers lose an estimated \$260 million per year to diseases in their wheat, soybean and corn crops. Losses to all other crops are likely hundreds of millions of dollars more.

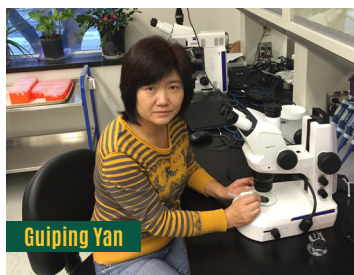


◆ We Protect North Dakota Crops

- **Identify** plant disease threats as they occur (EXT and AES).
- **Develop** short- and long-term research-based solutions (AES and EXT).
- **Deliver** crucial information to North Dakota growers and stakeholders as they make the best decisions for their farms and businesses (EXT and AES).

Soybean Pathologist Wade Webster (EXT - 2023)

- Identify and monitor emerging threats (Sudden Death Syndrome, Frogeye Leaf Spot, Soybean Cyst Nematode)
- Delivered White Mold ROI Calculator and several Disease Forecasting Models estimated to save North Dakota growers \$12.5 million in 2025



Nematologist Guiping Yan (AES - 2014)

- Identified 10 “new” nematodes impacting six crops in North Dakota.
- Developing and/or improving multiple management tools for many crops

◆ Barriers to Protecting North Dakota Crops

- **Increased dependency on grants/contracts**
 - Inability to respond to emerging threats
 - Long-term research is unstable
 - No flexibility
 - Support is limited to “projects” (unable to service the engine)
- **Catastrophic (87%) reduction of AES operating support**
 - Main AES PPTH Operating: \$100,000 (2021-2024) to \$68,590 (2025) to \$41,300 (2026)
 - 2026 AES PPTH State Scab (\$160,000) and Crop Enhancement (\$60,000) support withheld
- **Debilitating (39%) reduction of EXT operating**
 - EXT PPTH main operating: \$40,000 (2021-2024) to \$24,345 (2025)

For more information: Sam Markell, Interim Chair
Department of Plant Pathology | 701-231-7056 | samuel.markell@ndsu.edu