

MISSISSIPPI SOYBEAN PROMOTION BOARD

MSU Seed and Agricultural Technology Short Course Sponsorship, 24-2023 Final Report

PI: Daniel Chesser, 662-325-4148, dchesser@abe.msstate.edu

Rationale/Justification for Research

The MSU Seed and Agricultural Technology short course is an annual event (since 2015) held at MSU to impact and strengthen the Seed & Ag. Technology industry/value-chain. The short course promotes industry advancements, provides current trainings and resources, and provides a networking opportunity for industry professionals, stakeholders, and MSU personnel.

Each year the high-impact training program has averaged 90-100 attendees made up of seed/crop commodity producers, equipment manufacturers, seedsmen, engineers, sales technicians, processors, crop consultants, agronomists, and Extension specialists from across 16 states. MSU research professionals and graduate students are also in regular attendance and participation. Attendees are presented with current information and technical resources covering seed technology topics including seed storage, conditioning, processing, genetics, treatments, biologics, testing, labeling, and State/Federal seed laws. Precision Ag. Technology topics include farm/field data management, Drone/UAV applications, digital tools, precision planting, precision technology economics, and on-farm technology applications. Speakers include a variety of qualified industry professionals and scientists from across the nation. Certified Crop Advisor CEU's and MS commercial pesticide applicator recertification credits are often offered at each short course.

Report of Progress/Activity

Final Report: In this quarter, the MSU Seed and Ag. Technology short course planning committee successfully executed the short course on August 1-2. The short course consisted of 13 technical presentations and a hands-on grain bin safety demonstration by MS Farm Bureau. Participants learned about basic considerations for seed applied technologies including: seed treatment processes and application equipment, biological and microbial seed treatment opportunities, safe use and environmental stewardship of treated seed, policy and regulatory issues related to treated seed, and state/federal seed laws. Drone/UAV applications and regulations, prescriptive/high speed planting technologies for seed and crop production, and long-range meteorology platforms were also discussed. A total of 88 participants were registered for the 2023 short course. Evaluation surveys indicated the short course was rated very favorably with an average score of 4.4/5. Respondents mentioned they plan to make changes in planting timing, seed treatments, and spray pesticides after attending the course. The MSPB \$500 sponsorship was used to offset the costs of catering and event services.