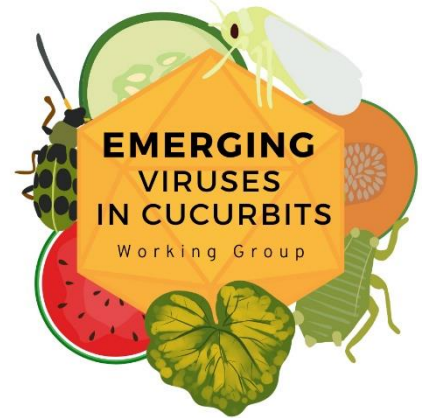


Emerging Viruses in Cucurbits Working Group Discussion Topics

In the first year of its establishment, the Emerging Viruses in Cucurbits Working Group (EVCWG) addressed several discussion topics/questions. EVCWG members will rank responses to these topics/discussions from the highest to lowest priority and will determine the best steps to take to address the highest priorities for each discussion topic. The



1. What are the potential risk factors for viruses affecting cucurbits?
2. What approaches can we take to mitigate threats?
3. What can industry and academia do to coordinate efforts to reduce threats?

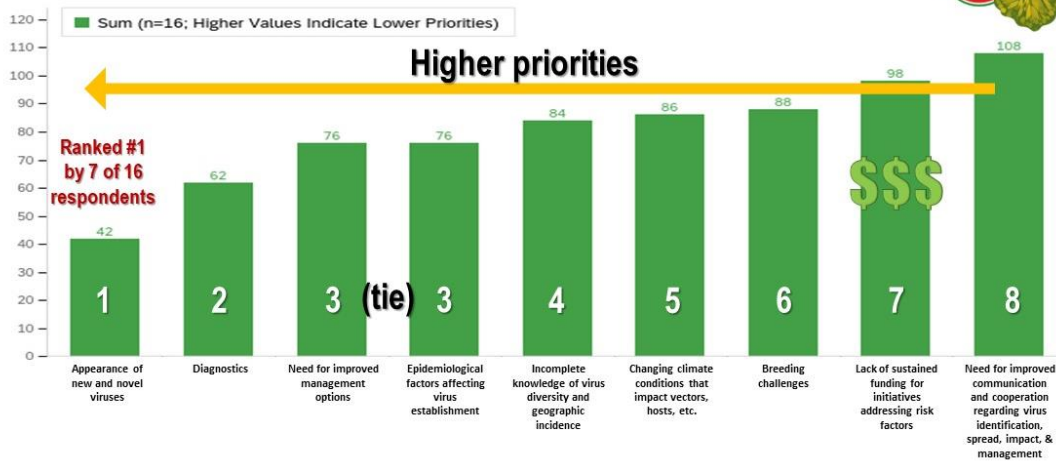
Emerging Viruses in Cucurbits Working Group Priorities (Not Ranked)

1. What are the potential risk factors for viruses affecting cucurbits?
 - Appearance of new and novel viruses
 - Need for improved management options
 - Breeding challenges
 - Changing climate conditions that impact vectors, hosts, etc.
 - Epidemiological factors affecting virus establishment
 - Diagnostics
 - Lack of sustained funding for initiatives addressing risk factors
 - Incomplete knowledge of virus diversity and geographic incidence
 - Need for improved communication and cooperation regarding virus identification, spread, impact, and management
2. What approaches can we take to mitigate threats?
 - Educate those within the cucurbit industry on what to do to identify and report a suspected virus
 - Promote self-regulation to prevent virus introduction and spread into the U.S.
 - Develop assays for identification and monitoring of virus incidence in seeds, transplants, and production sites
 - Develop management strategies for management of seed- and insect-transmitted viruses
 - Conduct virus incidence surveys to monitor introduction/spread of viruses in the U.S.
 - Improve communication and cooperation among cucurbit industry
3. What can industry and academia do to coordinate efforts to reduce threats?
 - Develop uniform regional, national, and/or international strategic plans to limit the introduction/spread of viruses affecting cucurbit crops

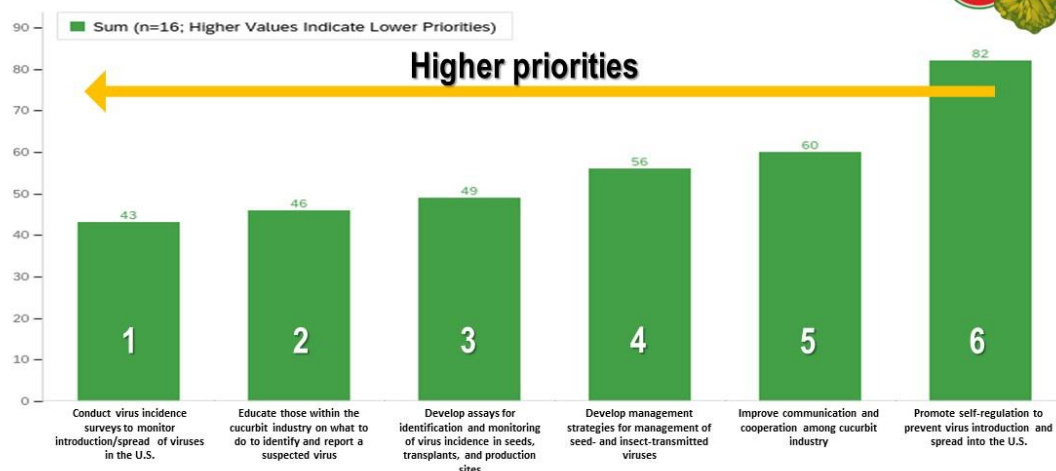
- Develop and make accessible “standard” protocols for virus detection that don’t conflict with proprietary information
- Develop biotechnology tools/resources (e.g. CRISPR, genetic resources) for use in breeding to assist with development of virus-resistant varieties
- Develop a working group to bring collaborators together to address current and future virus-related challenges
- Develop a forum to facilitate communication throughout the cucurbit industry

Emerging Viruses in Cucurbits Working Group Priorities (Ranked – 10/2022)

What are the potential risk factors for viruses affecting cucurbits?



What approaches can we take to mitigate threats?



What can industry and academia do to coordinate efforts to reduce threats?

