

Current Research Needs Identified by the Cannabis Industry

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Abstract: Informal input was accumulated at the Cannabis Business Summit, National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA.) Attendees were encouraged to identify research for commercial *Cannabis* production (non-hemp.) While most attendees were from U.S.A., input also was received from the E.U. and Canada.

Methods: A survey of horticulture needs that aligned directly to ASHS Working Groups (WG.) The summit was sponsored by the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA) that has grown to 1000 American businesses involved in various state-legal *Cannabis* industries. Sixty-seven (67) attendees interested in interacting with Otoké Horticulture at the Cannabis Business Summit, June 2016, Oakland. This represented .5% of all exhibit hall admissions. Of those 67 companies, 15 volunteers (allocating one per company) or 22% chose to participate in this survey of needs.



The survey covered topics that align directly with ASHS working groups (WGs). with several groups broken into two sections.

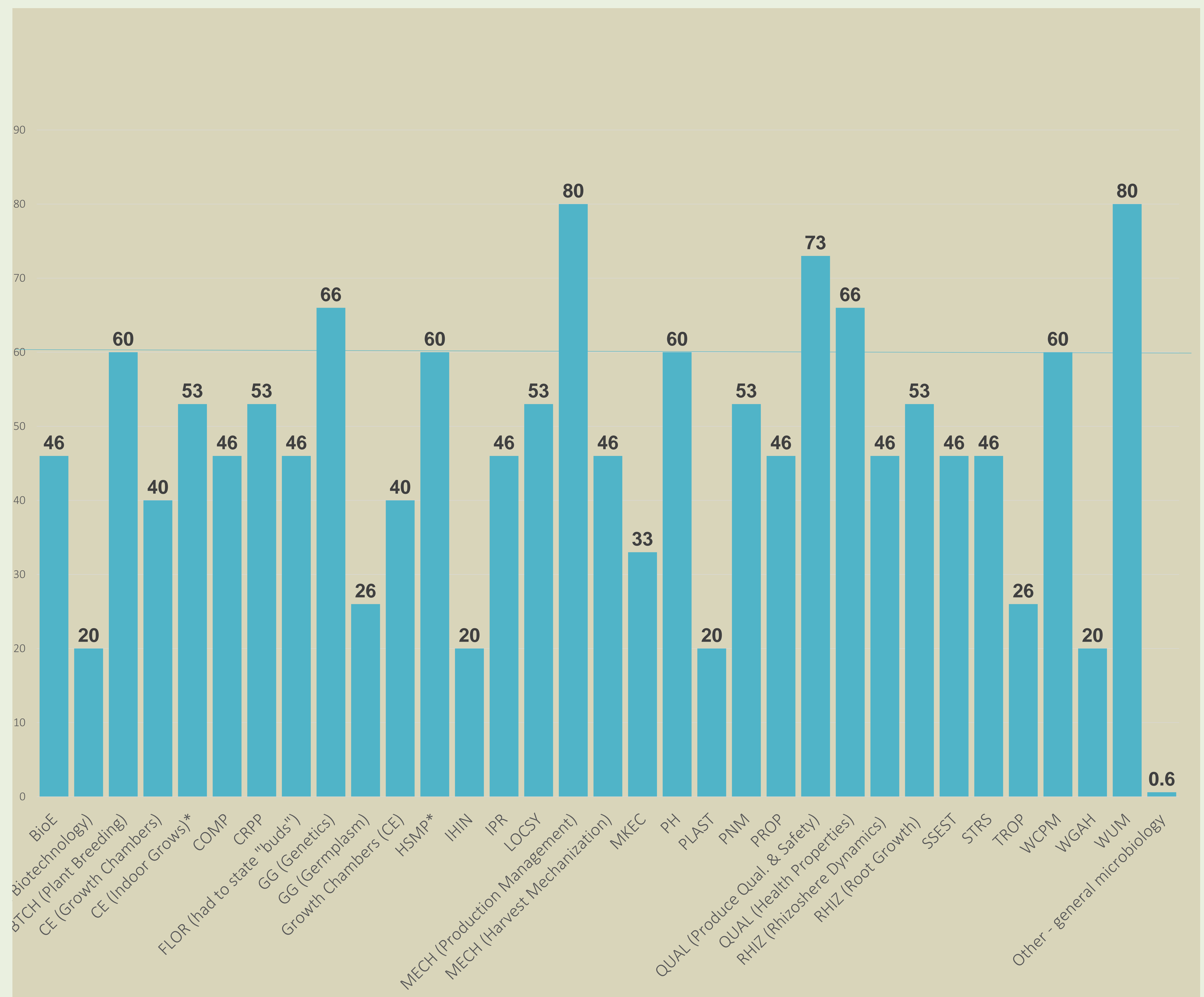
While not part of the survey results, verbal conversations indicated the need for virus testing, genetics, operations management, consistency in requirements (state to state) and how to grow without any pesticides plus assistance with 25b if appropriate. Finally the attendees indicated collaboration is important to the *Cannabis* industry.

Most interest outcome: WGs receiving 60 or higher

- Weed Control and Pest Management (WCPM)
- Plant Biotechnology and Plant Breeding (BTCH)
- Germplasm and Genetic (GG)
- Herbs, Spices and Medicinal plants (HSMP)
- Production Management (MECH)
- Post-Harvest (PH)
- Produce Quality, Safety and Health (QUAL)
- Water Utilization (WUM)

Points of interest:

- Attendees asked throughout the conference “*What is Horticulture?*” however once explained, understood the term, ‘growing’.
- Well over 90% of survey participants did not associate floriculture with cannabis until the term “buds” was used.



Conclusions:

The industry is looking for answers beyond fundamental cultivation. Pest management issues are not a surprise given the restrictions on pesticides and mandatory mold and yeast testing has growers looking into quality and post harvest topics. Production management is a pleasant surprise given how little of it we have seen in our practice and waste management is also good to see recognizing the size of the waste stream of this industry. We feel ASHS has an opportunity to help the cannabis industry find those answers and gain the trust and support of this burgeoning horticultural industry.

