



# REPORT

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## NCSRP: A Soybean Checkoff Success Story

If there ever was a success story to be told, this is it. The North Central Soybean Research Program (NCSRP) is celebrating ten years of investing checkoff dollars on behalf of the soybean producer.

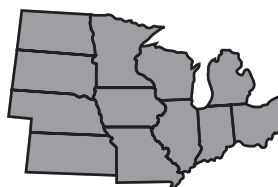
The NCSRP is a multi-state research organization comprised of members from 12 North Central checkoff boards: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. NCSRP has invested over \$17 million into research and outreach programs designed to increase the profitability of the U.S. soybean producer.

Success came soon after the NCSRP was formed. In August 1997, the board began a project called the Soybean Cyst Nematode Coalition. With a budget of nearly \$1 million, the “Take the Test. Beat the Pest” initiative was launched. It was an innovative public/private partnership to increase awareness to the producer of the soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and encourage them to have their fields tested.

The initiative was an overwhelming success. A record number of soybean producers in all states are now testing their fields for SCN and managing the problem with high-yielding SCN resistant varieties.

The “Take the Test. Beat the Pest” initiative was so successful that an unprecedented 30 percent to 35 percent of the soybean varieties now sold in maturity groups I-III are SCN resistant. This percentage is even higher in maturity groups IV-V. Ten years ago, a typical company portfolio

### NCSRP NORTH CENTRAL SOYBEAN RESEARCH PROGRAM



would offer only three or four varieties with SCN resistance, and those were normally lower yielding than non-SCN varieties.

One of the key reasons for the success of NCSRP is the cooperation among the state checkoff organizations and the United Soybean Board (USB).

NCSRP and the USB joined forces in 1998 on a one-of-a-kind project to decode gene messages from soybeans.

The world's largest library of soybean genomic information has been generated by this research. These decoded messages will enable researchers to make improvements in soybean yield, disease resistance, protein and oil synthesis and stress tolerance.

“As NCSRP celebrates it’s 10th anniversary and starts into it's next decade, it is exciting to see NCSRP build on it's successes,” says Paul Harrison, president of NCSRP. “For example, the SCN Coalition was a proven success in raising producer awareness about SCN. We have built Plant Health Initiative (PHI) on that success using what we learned from it to create an even better communication tool that will provide soybean producers with timely and accurate information on a wider variety of soybean diseases. PHI will help soybean producers significantly reduce the current annual yield loss of 365.5 million bushels from diseases and nematodes.”

Check out the PHI Web site at [www.planthealth.info](http://www.planthealth.info) for more information.