



NEW CORESTA TASK FORCE

COLLABORATIVE STUDY OF LOW NICOTINE TOBACCO AGRONOMIC PRODUCTION PRACTICES (LNTP)

The interest in low nicotine tobaccos and in the agronomic practices that can impact nicotine accumulation in the tobacco leaf has increased in the last few years. One of the drivers behind this increased interest is the fact that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published in March of 2018 an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on Tobacco Product Standard for Nicotine Level of Certain Tobacco Products. In the [ANPRM](#), the FDA “is particularly interested in comments about the merits of nicotine levels like 0.3, 0.4, 0.5 mg nicotine/g of tobacco filler” and stated that extremely low levels of nicotine, like those listed in the ANPRM, might be achievable through practices and technologies that include: (1) agronomic practices such as “controlled growing conditions, fertilization, [and] harvest” and “cross-breeding plants;” (2) tobacco blending; (3) “nicotine extraction;” and (4) “genetic engineering.”

In an effort to generate scientific data to inform the technical achievability of implementing a nicotine standard at the levels suggested by the FDA, CORESTA has created a new Task Force to conduct a collaborative study in global tobacco production regions to evaluate the impact of agronomic practices and breeding on the nicotine level of burley and flue-cured (Virginia) tobacco leaf. Due to the challenges associated with the acceptance of genetic engineering technologies across the different tobacco production regions, only conventional breeding varieties will be used in these studies.

The objectives proposed in the Task Force and approved by the CORESTA Scientific Commission and Board are:

1. To determine the impact variety selection has upon nicotine levels.
2. To determine the impact of modified cultural practices on nicotine levels.

A CORESTA technical report and an external publication will be produced once the objectives are completed and will contain the data and conclusions from the work.

Collaborators are currently in the process of being identified and field research protocols are being defined. The Task Force kick-off meeting will be held on Sunday, 13 October 2019, prior to the AP2019 (Agro-Phyto 2019) Conference in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

The Coordinator of this Task Force will be Dr. Marcos F. Lusso from Altria Client Services.

You are encouraged to circulate this document to your colleagues and CORESTA looks forward to active participation.

For further information or application to join the Task Force, please contact:

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