



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

Drink the Best & Drive the Rest

Optimizing the Use of Biomass as a Renewable Resource

Washington, DC – April 7, 2006 – Adding value, rather than disposing of the waste of agriculture and food, can solve an environmental problem and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of fossil fuel for production of chemicals, materials and fuels.

This will be the important topic of a presentation on Monday, April 10 in Washington, DC by Dr. Sharon Shoemaker, Executive Director and founder of the California Institute of Food and Agricultural Research (CIFAR) at the University of California, Davis.

“Today it is happening with corn,” said Dr. Shoemaker. “Tomorrow it can happen with lignocellulosic biomass. This so-called ‘bio-refinery’ approach can be tailored to produce a wide variety of products, much like that which built the petroleum industry.”

Research and development over the past 40 years have provided a greater understanding of the potential role of microorganisms and enzyme systems. Further discovery combined with commercial applications in fully integrated, robust systems can help realize the full potential of this emerging biofuels and bioproducts industry. Ethanol is one of the products receiving a lot of attention. California is particularly interesting case study because of its large public investment in research and development amidst its growing urban population competing for its land and other natural resources in this premier and highly diversified agricultural state. The attention to a fuel ethanol and an agri-based product economy in California is leading to renewed attention, stakeholder activity, and a more positive commitment to addressing the research and policy questions necessary to ensure a balanced and sustainable future in clean transportation fuels.

“We are honored to have Dr. Shoemaker featured in National C-FAR’s ‘LUNCH~N~LEARN’ Hill Seminar Series,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR.

The 12:30-1:30 luncheon seminar will be held in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The seminar is open to the media. Media questions related to Dr. Shoemaker’s presentation and her research should be directed to her at spshoemaker@ucdavis.edu. Information about CIFAR is available at <http://www.cifar.ucdavis.edu>.

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. The “LUNCH~N~LEARN” Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. Interviews with National C-FAR President Joe Layton are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.