



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Implications of Gene Flow in the Scale-up and Commercial Use of Biotechnology-derived Crops: Economic and Policy Considerations

Washington, DC – February 20, 2008 – Highlights of an issue paper on gene flow in biotechnology crops (CAS Issue Paper 37) prepared by a committee of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) will be presented at the first 2008 National C-FAR 'Lunch~N~Learn' Hill Seminar on Monday, February 25, from 12:00-12:55 in B338 RHOB. Committee chair Dr. David Gealy, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, will be the featured speaker.

"Gene flow is a natural occurrence in the biological world and always has been," says Dr. Gealy. "The introduction of biotechnology-derived crops, however, has caused an increased interest in understanding and managing gene flow."

"We are honored to partner with CAST in today's 'Lunch~N~Learn' Hill Seminar," said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. "This issue paper is an excellent example of how food and agriculture researchers can produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities."

Dr. Gealy is the lead scientist in the weed science/plant stress group in the Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center of the USDA–Agricultural Research Service (ARS). He is internationally recognized for his expertise in the area of gene flow between rice and red rice, as well as in natural weed suppression/reduced herbicide systems for rice.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentation and CAST should be directed to CAST Executive Vice President John Bonner at jbonner@cast-science.org or (515) 292-2125.

CAST IS a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization composed of 38 scientific societies and many individual, student, company, nonprofit and associate society members. For more information about CAST and access to CAST publications, go to <http://www.cast-science.org>. CAST is a member of National C-FAR.

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. National C-FAR's Hill 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.