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NATIONAL

C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

DETOURS ON THE ROAD TO SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCK PRODUCTION FOR CELLULOSIC BIOFUEL

Assessing Multidimensional Policy Approaches

May 8, 2014
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

CARON GALA
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

DR. MADHU KHANNA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSUMER ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Open Forum

Closing

CARON GALA

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. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.
ABSTRACT
High yielding energy crops, such as miscanthus and switchgrass, have been considered sustainable feedstocks for cellulosic biofuel production in the United States because of their potential to be grown on marginal lands and provide environmental benefits to soil and water quality. However, production of these feedstocks may expose farmers to several types of risk, due to volatility in yields and prices. Existing policies do not fully address the liquidity constraints and may worsen the variability in income over the life-span of these crops. Our research examines the design of an actuarially fair crop insurance for energy crops that reduce the riskiness of production. It also assesses the effectiveness of three policy instruments, a crop insurance subsidy, an establishment cost share and a biomass price subsidy, in promoting energy crop production. The implications of these policies for the geographical distribution of energy crop acreage will be discussed.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Madhu Khanna is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. Her research focuses on environmental policy analysis and incentives for adoption of environmentally friendly technologies. She has examined the effectiveness of alternative market based instruments for inducing the adoption of best management practices in agriculture such as precision farming and improved irrigation methods and the targeting of green payment policies for reducing nitrogen run off and sediment from cropland. She also analyzes the motivations and effectiveness of voluntary approaches to environmental protection in developed and developing countries. Her current work is examining the economics, land use and environmental implications of biofuel production. She has co-authored more than 100 papers and book chapters and has co-edited the *Handbook of Bioenergy Economics and Policy*. Her research is currently funded by the USDA, NSF, USDOE and the Energy Biosciences Institute. She has received several teaching and research awards. She was selected as a University of Illinois Scholar for 2004-07 and a Leopold Leadership Fellow of the Woods Institute at Stanford University in 2010 and received the Paul A. Funk recognition from the College of Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences, University of Illinois in 2013. She has served on review panels for the USEPA and the USDA and on the Board of Directors of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. She current serves on the Science Advisory Board (SAB) of USEPA and as the Chair of Environmental Economics Advisory Committee of the SAB. She has served on the editorial boards of several prestigious agricultural and environmental economics journals and is currently editor of the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. 
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