YOU CAN’T EAT WHAT DOESN’T GROW

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PESTICIDES TO PEST MANAGEMENT
IN MEETING THE GLOBAL NEED FOR FOOD PRODUCTION BY 2050

Washington, DC–November 12, 2014, For Immediate Release -- The contributions of pesticides to pest management in meeting the global need for food production by 2050 will be the focus of a National C-FAR research seminar, held twice, at 10 am in 337 Russell Senate Office Building, and again at a noon luncheon, on Monday, November 17 in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Stephen Weller, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana.

“When pesticides are safe, effectively applied, and fully integrated into a comprehensive production approach, the world will be on its way to providing sustenance for the 9 billion humans on earth in 2050,” Weller says.

“These presentations provide excellent examples of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, Extension and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities,” says Chuck Conner, President of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Highlights: The term pesticide has been around for centuries, and it describes many different chemicals. The term has also—at times—been maligned and misunderstood. The authors of this publication use extensive data and provide clear examples to establish that pesticide use in agriculture has increased crop yield and quality, lessened the workload of pest management, and improved the prospects for long-term sustainable food production. Of course there are controversies and challenges, but with effective policies, proper regulation, and safety training, pesticide use will continue to play an important role in food production. Along with better pest management, pesticides have led to the development of improved agronomic practices such as no till, conservation tillage, higher plant densities, increased yields, and the efficient use of water and nutrients. When applied in safe, smart ways, pesticides lead to more sustainable agriculture. The authors point out that more than 800 million people in the world are food insecure today and that to address food needs, yields must be increased and losses to pests reduced, which can run upwards of 30%. But they are optimistic about developments occurring around the globe to increase yields and minimize crop loss. These needs can be achieved through the use of improved and highly integrated sustainable production technologies.

Both sessions of the seminar are open to the public and the media.

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The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (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, now in its tenth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average, and $20 in economic benefit from every $1 investment in food and ag research.

Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Chuck Conner are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com or (703) 509-4746.

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