Lunch~N~Learn SEMINAR

NATIONAL C-FAR

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

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

November 17, 2014
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Tyrone Spady
National C-FAR Representative

Distinguished Speaker
Dr. Stephen Weller
Professor
Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Purdue University

Open Forum

Closing
Dr. Tyrone Spady

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
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. 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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Stephen Weller is currently a professor in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. He has been on the faculty there since 1980. He has been active in international work on pest management and cropping systems development, as well as pest management training in Central America, Mexico, Ukraine, Uganda, China, Kenya, Zambia, and Tanzania. He is currently leading a project titled “Indigenous African Leafy Vegetables for Enhancing Livelihood Security of Smallholder Farmers in Kenya” as part of the USAID Horticulture Innovation Laboratory Project. His research interests include implementation of integrated crop and pest management production systems for vegetable crops, studies of plant responses and resistance mechanisms to herbicides, and in vitro regeneration and transformation systems for crop improvement. Dr. Weller is coauthor of the fourth edition of the textbook Weed Science Principles and Practices. He received his B.S. in biology from Central Michigan University, his M.S. in horticulture from The Ohio State University, and his Ph.D. in weed science from North Carolina State University.
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