CAN STAPLE FOOD CROPS REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASES IN HUMANS?

Dry Edible Beans Can Reduce Chronic Diseases in Humans and Improve Human Nutrition

Washington, DC—October 13, 2015, for Immediate Release – Research on the role of staple food crops in human nutrition will be the subject of National C-FAR’s research seminar on Friday, October 16, offered at 10 a.m. in 188 Russell Senate Office Building and again at noon in 1302 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Mark Brick, Colorado State University.

“Our results suggest that we can develop staple food crops that will reduce the economic burden and incidence of all major chronic disease in humans,” says Brick.

“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: Pulse crops, including dry edible beans, are rich in protein, minerals, vitamins and dietary fiber. They are also known to lower blood cholesterol, reduce the risk of colorectal cancer, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Thus there is an interest in breeding to improve bean varieties for enhanced human health and nutritional value. Dr. Brick will present research results that show that dry edible beans can reduce the incidence of mammary cancer, alleviate obesity and show a dose dependent responses using preclinical animal models. He will also show that modern genomic technologies can identify genes that control dietary fiber, which will provide plant breeders tools to improve beans for human health. In summary, these findings demonstrate that modern genomic tools will allow plant breeders to develop staple food crops with improved human health benefits.

The seminar is 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.