IMPLICATIONS OF TRADE DISRUPTIONS
The Impact of Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops on Agricultural Sustainability, Trade, and Innovation

Washington, DC—December 5, 2016, for Immediate Release – Research on regarding the impact of asynchronous regulatory approvals on global agricultural innovation, production, trade, and consumption will be the subject of National C-FAR's research seminar on Thursday, December 8, at 10 AM in 328A Russell Senate Office Building, and again at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes, MSMC Endowed Professor of Agribusiness Strategy and the Director of the Economics and Management of Agrobiotechnology Center (EMAC) at the University of Missouri.

"How the world’s regulatory systems operate in the area of biotech crops is critically important to producers and consumers," says Dr. Kalaitzandonakes.

“This presentation provides an excellent example 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 Andy LaVigne, President of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (National C-FAR).

Highlights: In this Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) report, the authors outline the main economic effects of the observed asynchrony in approvals for biotech-improved crops from regulatory systems in countries that are major global commodity exporters and importers. The purpose here is not to evaluate the quality or functionality of any national regulatory approval system. Rather, current scholarly research and knowledge regarding the impact of asynchronous regulatory approvals on global agricultural innovation, production, trade, and consumption are reviewed. Initially the work of scientists from a range of academic disciplines who use a variety of modeling and analytical techniques to approach this general question is described. The next section includes a detailed discussion of the question at hand and why it is so important to producers and consumers worldwide. This is followed by a description of concrete research results in several relevant areas, including the effects on trade, downstream industries, the adoption of biotechnology innovations, biotech investment and R&D (research and development), crop breeding, and farm income. There is also a discussion of proposed policies that could decrease regulatory asynchrony and its impacts on the global agricultural economy. In the final sections, the authors identify some areas for future research and summarize their findings.

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 Andy LaVigne 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.