Program:

Implications of Trade Disruptions

The Impact of Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops on Agricultural Sustainability, Trade, and Innovation

December 8, 2016
PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

DR. JANET COLLINS
NATIONAL C-FAR REPRESENTATIVE

Distinguished Speaker

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS
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Open Forum

Closing

DR. JANET COLLINS

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ABSTRACT
In this brief 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.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes is the MSMC Endowed Professor of Agribusiness Strategy and the Director of the Economics and Management of Agrobiotechnology Center (EMAC) at the University of Missouri. His research, teaching, and outreach focus on the economics and policy of agrifood biotechnology and other agribusiness innovations. He has been communicating and educating about innovation and biotechnology since the early 1990s. He was one of the first economists to conduct economic and policy analysis of genetically modified organisms for the general public. As a result, Dr. Kalaitzandonakes was appointed to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture’s first Biotechnology Advisory Committee, serving two three-year terms. He established the first online journal focused on the economics and management of agrobiotechnology, AgBioForum.com, and has remained as the Executive Editor since 1996. Dr. Kalaitzandonakes’ recent research deals with the economic and environmental impacts of biotechnology, strategic changes in the agrifood supply chain emerging from the use of biotechnology, structural change, optimal national and international biotechnology policies and regulation, consumer response to biotech foods, and issues around the communication of biotechnology. Dr. Kalaitzandonakes also works on the economics of e-commerce in the agrifood sector.
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