PLANT BREEDING FOR FOOD SAFETY

Washington, DC – February 13, 2020, for Immediate Release –

The role of plant breeding in food safety will be the subject of a National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) seminar on Thursday, February 20, at a noon luncheon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Allen Van Deynze, Director of the Seed Biotechnology Center at UC-Davis.

“Plant breeding can be a vital tool to enhance the safety of plant-based food products. Using a multidisciplinary approach, including new breeding methods, we have the ability to achieve these results more efficiently than ever before,” says Van Deynze.

“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 NCFAR.

Highlights: An increasing global population demands a continuous supply of nutritious and safe food. Edible products can be contaminated during production, storage, transport, and/or processing and meal preparation. The substantial impact of foodborne disease outbreaks on public health and the economy has led to multidisciplinary research aimed to understand the biology underlying the different contamination processes and how to mitigate food hazards. The talk will review the knowledge, opportunities, and challenges of plant breeding as a tool to enhance the safety of plant-based food products.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) 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. NCFAR's Hill Seminar Series, now in its fourteenth 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 NCFAR President Andy LaVigne, President & CEO of the American Seed Trade Association, 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.