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Experts Agree on Biotech's Contributions to Agriculture Sustainability

"Advances in the genetic engineering of plants have provided enormous benefits to American farmers. I believe that we can continue to modify plants safely with new genetic methods, abetted by stringent tests for environmental and health effects and by stronger regulatory oversight guided by the best available scientific advice."

- President Barack Obama, August 30, 2008

"Our new trade strategy also has to focus on biotechnology and developing a way in which we can do a better job of using that science, a better understanding of the environmental benefits that could occur from biotechnology – less pesticides and less chemicals, less damage to the environment, greater productivity at a time when the world's population continues to expand and the available land for productivity shrinks."

- U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, February 18, 2010

"We believe that biotechnology has a critical role to play in increasing agricultural productivity, particularly in light of climate change. We also believe it can help to improve the nutritional value of staple foods."

- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, October 16, 2009

"I became a scientist because one of my goals was to develop disease-resistant crops that require fewer chemical inputs than non-resistant crops – disease-resistance that didn't need a chemical treatment. When that solution came through biotechnology, I considered it a sustainable outcome. Others define 'sustainability' as not involving biotechnology. We disagree."

- Dr. Roger Beachy, NIFA Director and USDA Chief Scientist, February 18, 2010

"We have to link biotech to development, food security and the environment, and we have to address consumers as well as farmers. We need to tell consumers that GM crops won't make them dependent on seed companies."

- Jose Fernandez, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, May 3, 2010

"Biotech is going to be absolutely critical...what we haven't done is shown people how different modern biotechnology can make farming."

- Nina Fedoroff, Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State and to the Administrator of USAID, February 12, 2010

"At this time of critical need, the epicenter of our collective work should focus on driving continued investments from both the public and private sectors in efficient agriculture production technologies...To accomplish this, governments must make their decisions about access to new technologies, such as the development of genetically modified organisms – on the basis of science, and not to further political agendas."

- Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, July 30, 2009

"Some have tried to restrict the spread of biotechnology regardless of its potential to increase productivity... even though there are already 1 billion hungry people in the world, and climate change is going to make conditions harsher in the future. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that developing countries will have to boost their yields by half to meet the challenge of global hunger. We simply won't be able to meet that goal without using all the scientific tools at our disposal."

- Bill Gates, January 20, 2010

SUSTAINABILITY

through Agricultural Biotechnology



"Biotechnology has provided significant farm yield increases and pesticide use decreases... The governments and people of Europe must understand that their opposition to safe biotechnology contributes to hunger in Africa."

- Senator Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), September 2, 2008

"Biotechnology is the cutting edge of the future of agriculture, and I am thrilled that our subcommittee will continue to look at possibilities for this rapidly expanding field."

- Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), February 3, 2009

"Existing technologies can increase farmland productivity, but efforts must be made to share these relatively simple techniques with small-scale farmers. In addition, emerging agricultural biotechnology can play a pivotal role in improving health and nutrition."

- Jimmy Carter, July 11, 1997

"Genetic modification can reduce the chemical load in the environment, reduce the impact on non-target species, and reduce the amount of land required for food crops. There are so many real benefits from genetic modification compared to the largely hypothetical and contrived risks that it would be foolish to ban genetic modification."

- Dr. Patrick Moore, ecologist and co-founder of Greenpeace, March 6, 2001

"Biotech crops are the bounty of safe and reliable technologies that deliver environmental and economic sustainability. They produce more yield on less land with lower production costs--and one of those lower production costs includes less dependence on pesticides."

- John Reifsteck, Illinois Farmer, November 20, 2009

"As a believer in modern farming technology, I was one of the pioneer farmers who planted biotech corn in 2003. From then, I was able to experience the benefits brought about by biotech farming such as increased yields and lower production costs."

- Rosalie Ellasus, Philippines Farmer, May 20, 2009

"Because of biotechnology, we're able to feed more people with less farmland than ever before. Biotechnology enhances production efficiency and creates a more plentiful supply of safe, reliable and affordable food for a hungry world. In the years ahead, our capabilities will do nothing but improve."

- Terry Wanzek, North Dakota Farmer, May 20, 2009

"Genetically modified food is no longer the fruit of a cutting-edge technology. Instead, it's a proven form of agriculture. I've grown it on my farm for three years, though E.U. regulators place severe limits on my access to all of the opportunities that biotechnology has to offer."

- Maria Gabriela Cruz, Portugal Farmer, April 2, 2009

"I am a global farmer. I've observed best practices in very different environments. Unfortunately, I've also witnessed worst practices. A bullheaded refusal to take advantage of biotechnology is probably the very worst practice around."

- Jim McCarthey, Ireland Farmer, October 26, 2009

"More farmers are growing more GM crops than ever before. Most are like me: smallholders in developing countries. My dream is to join their ranks as soon as possible."

- Gilbert Arap Bor, Kenya Farmer, March 5, 2010