



NERA News & Notes

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From the Office of the Executive Director

Announcement

***National Agricultural Biotechnology Council
Annual Meeting
June 27-29, 2005
Nashville, TN***

The National Agricultural Biotechnology Council (NABC) will host its seventeenth annual meeting, *Agricultural Biotechnology: Beyond Food and Energy to Health and the Environment*, at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee June 27-29, 2005. Co-hosted by the University of Kentucky and the University of Tennessee, an excellent program of speakers is lined up to provide a range of opinion on four subject areas:

- Plants as new sources of medicinals: production of protein pharmaceuticals in food and nonfood plants
- Bioremediation, phytosensing and ecorestoration
- Gene-to-product development
- Regulatory, containment, and legal challenges.

The stage will be set with contrasting keynote addresses from Roger Beachy of the Danforth Plant Sciences Center and Michael Rodemeyer of the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology.

In the eight years since genetically engineered (GE) crops were introduced, farmers have embraced their benefits and continue to adopt the technology at a phenomenal pace. No other technology has enjoyed such extraordinary acceptance. The fast rate of adoption of agbiotech is now particularly striking in the developing world. A recent report from the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA) showed last year 1.25 million more farmers grew genetically GE than in 2003. In 2004, some 200 million acres of GE crops were planted in 17 countries, 11 of which are in the developing world. Biotech crops have had enormous economic impact. The ISAAA report shows that their global value is expected to exceed \$5 billion in 2005 and estimates indicate the area planted with GE crops may double by 2010. NABC 17 will explore GE crops for novel uses.

We look forward to welcoming you to NABC 17. For more information about the conference, please see <http://www.outreach.tennessee.edu/ppd/nabc/>.

