# Meeting Diverse Educational Needs in Agricultural Biotechnology Through the World Wide Web. (A04byrne122938-Oral)

Authors:

- P.F.Byrne\* Colorado State University
- D.M.Namuth\* University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- J.Harrington Colorado State University
- S.M.Ward Colorado State University

- D.J.Lee University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- P.Hain University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### Abstract:

Crop biotechnology is among the most controversial issues facing agriculture today. Because of the complex techniques involved in creating transgenic crops, the polarized debate over their risks and benefits, and doubts about the regulatory process, a critical need has arisen for accessible and balanced educational information. To help meet this need, a collaboration among crop scientists and computer programmers at Colorado State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have created two complementary World Wide Web sites, Transgenic Crops: An Introduction and Resource Guide (http://www.colostate.edu/programs/lifesciences/TransgenicCrops/) and Library of Crop Technology (http://croptechnology.unl.edu/). The former site emphasizes general public information and an extensive list of links to differing viewpoints and latest news reports. The latter site focuses on more in-depth information, teaching the science behind the technology and providing animations and other materials for educators. Analysis of usage data and other feedback indicate that together, these sites are effective resources in increasing broad public understanding of agricultural biotechnology.

#### **Corresponding Author Information:**

Patrick Byrne Colorado State University Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, C117 Plant Sci. Fort Collins, CO 80523 phone: 970-491-6985 fax: 970-491-0564 e-mail: pbyrne@lamar.colostate.edu

### **Presentation Information:**

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002 Presentation Time: 9:25 am

## **Keywords:**

biotechnology, genetic engineering, World Wide Web, public information