

# **Harnessing Biotechnology for International Agricultural Development: USAID Experience and Future Directions. (A06-lewis164412-Oral)**

## **Authors:**

- J.O.Lewis - *U.S. Agency for International Development*
- B.Pathak - *U.S. Agency for International Development*

## **Abstract:**

The U.S. Agency for International Development has supported biotechnology research and development activities for more than ten years to increase agricultural productivity and economic growth. Harnessing U.S. global scientific leadership is a cornerstone of our approach to expanding developing country access to the tools of biotechnology. The pathway to realizing the benefits of this new technology, however, requires a commitment beyond building the science. Biotechnology development challenges the public research system in developing countries to take on broader roles than their colleagues in U.S universities. For biotech, this means scientists become policy makers to establish the necessary regulatory environment, media experts to build public acceptance, and cognizant of international trade requirements. Moving biotechnology beyond field-testing will require navigating new and technically challenging food and environment safety laws. Through using new models for agricultural research and bringing together the best expertise from international public research, industrial technology development, and biotech policy lessons in new partnerships, we are progressing towards realizing greater access and application of biotechnology in developing countries.

## **Corresponding Author Information:**

Josette Lewis

U.S. Agency for International Development

EGAT/AFS/PMR

Washington, DC 20523-2110

phone: 202-712-5592

fax: 202-216-3579

e-mail: [jlewis@usaid.gov](mailto:jlewis@usaid.gov)

## **Presentation Information:**

Presentation Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Presentation Time: 1:00 pm

**Keywords:**

biotechnology, international development