Biotechnology in a Complete System of a Genetic Improvement Program: A Perspective from Developed and Developing Countries. (C07-traxler145121-Oral)

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Abstract:

To date, 98 percent of all economic benefits from transgenic crop varieties have occurred through the diffusion of two genetic events in four commercial crops in three countries (US, Canada and Argentina) with large commercial seed markets. How can the research and regulatory investments needed to deliver the benefits of biotechnology be supported in developing countries? Advances in biotechnology increase the importance of conventional plant breeding research, yet there is much unfinished business in the maturation of crop improvement systems in developing countries. A major reason that the US dominates the science and business of biotechnology is the huge size and smooth functioning of its commercial seed markets. Seed delivery is complicated when commercial markets are small or nonexistent as they are for many pureline crops in the US, and for nearly all crops in small countries. This seminar reviews evidence on the use of GMOs and the generation of improved plant varieties, and explores models that might evolve for allowing developing countries access to the benefits of biotechnology.

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