



THE ROLE OF GMOs IN TRADE DISPUTES

October 30 - 31, 2003

The Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
(Home of the Historic Cattleman's Bar)

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Background

Border disputes over agricultural products continue worldwide. These arise for many reasons, including unfair subsidization and the use of non-tariff barriers. A major barrier to trade for the United States is the reluctance of trading blocks to import products that are genetically modified organisms (GMO). Cases abound, including the controversy surrounding the resistance by the European Union to import U.S. GMO corn and soybeans. Likewise, even where countries allow the importation of GMO products from the United States, disputes have arisen over product contamination. For example, even though Japan imports GMO corn from the United States, problems arose with the introduction of Starlink corn, which contaminated the shipment of U.S. food corn (a lawsuit was settled that involved U.S. growers and Aventis - the developer of Starlink corn).



Why are the United States and Canada, for example, reluctant to introduce GMO wheat? Would non-GMO producers lose more than what GMO producers would gain? Why has there been reluctance by Canada to introduce GMO wheat, when in fact the acceptance of GMO canola is increasing?

There has been a significant increase in productivity brought about by the Green Revolution. Will the new "gene revolution" have similar results?

Malnutrition remains a significant problem in less developed countries. Some authors argue that GMOs are the solution to the malnutrition problem but others disagree.

Those who oppose the adoption of GMOs argue that overall they do not result in an increase in producer profitability nor do they add to food quality and cite cases where

the opposite can happen. However, there are cases, though not well documented, that food quality can be significantly enhanced through GMOs.

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Speakers

Speakers from the private sector, government, and academia, include:

Walter Armbruster, Farm Foundation

Frank Chiang, The National Taiwan Ocean University

Bob Evenson, Yale University

Harvey Glick, Monsanto Company

Richard Gray, University of Saskatchewan

Wallace Huffman, Iowa State University

Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes, University of Missouri-Columbia

Won Koo, North Dakota State University

Leonie Marks, University of Missouri-Columbia

Charles Moss, University of Florida

James Oehmke, Michigan State University

Bob Richey, Foreign Agricultural Group

Parr Rosson, Texas A&M University

Andrew Schmitz, University of Florida

James Seale, University of Florida

Ian Sheldon, Ohio State University

Tom Wahl, Washington State University

David Zilberman, University of California, Berkely

...and Other Industry Leaders.

Final list being completed.

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Sponsors include:

Farm Foundation, in collaboration with:

- Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies, North Dakota State University
- Ben Hill Griffin Chair, University of Florida
- Center for North American Studies, Texas A&M University
- Economics and Management of Agrobiotechnology Center, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Missouri-Columbia
- IMPACT Center, Washington State University
- International Agricultural Trade Policy and Center, University of Florida

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Conference Schedule:

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Registration & Breakfast

(7:00 am-8:00 am)

Introductory Remarks

(8:00 am-8:30 am)

Welcome Walter Armbuster, Farm Foundation
Overview Andrew Schmitz, University of Florida

Session I

(8:30 am-10:00 am)

Chair: Ken Erickson, USDA
Speaker 1: Harvey Glick, Monsanto
Speaker 2: Richard Gray,
University of Saskatchewan,
Chuck Moss and Andrew
Schmitz, University of Florida
Discussant: Tom Marsh, Kansas State University

Coffee Break

(10:00 am-10:15 am)

Session II

(10:15 am-12:00 noon)

Chair: Brian Francis, University of Florida
Speaker 1: Tom Wahl, Washington State University
Speaker 2: Wallace Huffman, Iowa State University
Speaker 3: Eric Devuyt, Richard
Taylor, and Won Koo, North Dakota State University
Discussant: Parr Rosson, Texas A&M University

Lunch

(12:00 noon-1:30 pm)

Session III

(1:30 pm-3:00 pm)

Chair: Flynn Adcock, Texas A&M University

Speaker 1: Nicholas Kalitzandonakes, S. Vickner, and L. Marks, University of Missouri-Columbia

Speaker 2: Andrew Schmitz, and Chuck Moss, University of Florida

Troy Schmitz, Arizona State University

Discussant: Walter Armbruster, Farm Foundation

Afternoon Break

(3:00 pm-3:15 pm)

Session IV

(3:15 pm-5:00 pm)

Chair: George Caldwell, Texas Farm Bureau

Speaker 1: James Oehmke, Michigan State University

Speaker 2: Frank Chiang, National Taiwan Ocean University

Discussant: Jim Seale, University of Florida

Cocktails and Dinner

(6:00 pm-10:00 pm)

Friday, October 31, 2003

Breakfast

(7:30 am-8:30 am)

Session I

(8:30 am-10:00 am)

Chair: Rachel Myers, Texas Wheat Producers Assoc.

Speaker 1: David Zilberman, University of California-Berkeley

Speaker 2: Bob Evenson, Yale University

Discussant: Kimball Nill, American Soybean Association

Coffee Break

(10:00 am-10:15 am)

Session II

(10:15 am-12:00 noon)

Chair: Marisa Zansler, University of Florida

Speaker 1: Ian Sheldon, Ohio State University

Speaker 2: Bill Wilson, North Dakota State University

Discussant: Edward Evans, University of Florida

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Registration

Online Registration being updated, please check back

!!!! Early registration ends September 28th, 2003 !!!!

Registration Fees
(Includes Conference and all Meals)

\$75 (Student Rate)
\$175 (If Registered by September 28th, 2003)
\$225

[Secure online registration with IFAS Conferences \(Credit Cards Only\)](#)

[Printable PDF Registration Form](#)

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Hotel Information

Room Rates:
\$ 91/room/single occupancy + Tax
\$101/room/double occupancy + Tax
(Mention Conference Title when calling for reservations)
(Call early before rooms are taken!)



The Historic Menger Hotel
San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.travelbase.com/destinations/san-antonio/menger/index.html>