



# USDA Global Conference on Agricultural Biofuels: Research and Economics



Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Minneapolis, Minnesota - August 20-22, 2007

**The objective of this conference is to bring together key international technical experts from government and public institutions from current and future liquid biofuels producing and consuming countries to share information and experiences on the science, technology and economics of biofuels development. Participating countries from a diverse range of economies will seek consensus on steps to improve future collaboration, especially in the area of research. The target audience from invited countries is government and other public officials who will engage in discussions with U.S. public sector officials and receive specialized briefings from experts.**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

**Agricultural Research Service (ARS):**

Dr. Pai-Yei Whung, Co-Chair  
Dr. Chad Haynes  
Ms. Eileen Herrera  
Ms. Kim Kaplan

**Rural Development (RD):**

Mr. Chris Cassidy

**Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS):**

Ms. Susan Owens, Co-Chair  
Mr. Steve Beasley  
Mr. Gary Laidig  
Dr. Karen Laughlin  
Mr. Ben Rau  
Ms. Linda Habenstreit

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

Dr. Abel Ponce de Leon  
Dr. Rob King  
Dr. Shri Ramaswamy  
Dr. Bill Lazarus  
Dr. John Vreyens

Ms. Lori Engstrom  
Ms. Cynthia Moore  
Mr. Marty Moen  
Ms. Kelsey Wall  
Ms. Mary Buschette

Mr. Todd Reubold  
Dr. Judd Sheridan  
Mr. Dick Hemmingsen  
Ms. Sara Schmitz

**August 20, 2007**

**OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**Moderator: Mr. Michael Yost**, Administrator, FAS

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

8:30AM-8:55AM

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Dr. R. Timothy Mulcahy, Vice President for Research,  
University of Minnesota

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

*USDA's Role in Global Bioenergy Development*

8:55AM-9:15AM

**Dr. Gale Buchanan**

Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATIONS**

**Biofuels: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead**

THE NATURAL RESOURCE AND TECHNICAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
BURGEONING BIOECONOMY

Moderator: **Dr. Pai-Yei Whung**, Director, Office of International Research Programs, Agricultural  
Research Service, USDA

*Role of USDA Research and Development in the Emerging Bioeconomy* 9:15AM-9:40AM

**Dr. Ghassem Asrar**, Deputy Administrator, Natural Resources and Sustainable  
Agricultural Systems, Agricultural Research Service, USDA

*EC Research Priorities in the Area of Bio-Based Products* 9:40AM-10:05AM

**Dr. Laurent Bocherreau**, Head of Science, Technology and Education Section  
Delegation of the European Commission to the US

*The Promise of Energy Biosciences* 10:05AM-10:30 AM

**Dr. Steve Koonin**, Chief Scientist, BP, p.l.c.

*Challenges and Perspectives for RD&I for Brazilian Agroenergy,* 10:30AM-10:55AM

**Dr. Kepler Euclides Filho**, Executive Director, Empresa Brasileira  
de Pesquisa Agropecuária, Embrapa – Brazil

Morning Break

11:00AM-11:20AM

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PANELS

### **Second Generation Feedstocks**

11:20AM-12:30PM

PROSPECTS FOR "SECOND GENERATION" FEEDSTOCK TECHNOLOGIES

Moderator: **Dr. Steven Shafer**, Area Director, USDA-ARS

*Biotechnology Options for Bioenergy Crops*, **Dr. Richard Flavell**, Chief Scientific Officer, Ceres, Inc., USA

*Switchgrass: Production, Economics, and Net Energy*, **Dr. Ken Vogel**, Research Leader, USDA-ARS, Lincoln, Nebraska

*United Kingdom Biofuel Activities, Initiatives and Successes: Scientific and technological development of agricultural production and conversion for biofuels*, **Dr. Melvyn F. Askew**, CSL Fellow, Central Science Laboratory (CSL), York, United Kingdom

Q/A (10 minutes)

Lunch

12:30 PM-1:30PM

### **Agricultural Production and Biomass Conversion**

1:40PM-3:10PM

BIOMASS PRODUCTION AND FEEDSTOCK OPTIONS, CONVERSION CHALLENGES, DECISION MAKING TOOLS AND IMPACTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEEDSTOCKS

Moderator: **Dr. Allen S. Levine**

Dean, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota

*Biofuel Feedstock Options and Conversion Platforms for Today and Tomorrow*, **Dr. Kevin Hicks**, Research Leader, USDA-ARS, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania

*Sweet Sorghum: A dryland-adapted, pro-poor bioethanol feedstock yielding both grain and fuel*, **Dr. Belum V.S. Reddy**, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India

*Biodiesel: Brazilian Perspective. New and Future Feedstocks for its Production. The Official Brazilian Biodiesel Test Program*, **Dr. Miguel Dabdoub**, Sao Paulo Biofuels Association, Brazil

*Biomass Production Decision Making Tools and Planning*, **Dr. Robert Anex**, Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University

Q/A (10 minutes)

Afternoon Break

3:10PM-3:30PM

## **Sustainable Production & Environmental Considerations** 3:30PM-5:20PM

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES OF BIOFUEL CROPS TO ENHANCE THEIR SUSTAINABILITY

Moderator: **Dr. Robert P. Elde**, Dean, College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota

*Making Crop Residues a Sustainable Feedstock for Biofuel Production*, **Dr. Wallace Wilhelm**, Plant Physiologist, USDA-ARS and Director of the Renewable Energy Assessment Project

*Sustainability of Biomass Production in Context*, **Dr. David I. Bransby**, Professor, Energy Crops and Bioenergy, Auburn University, Alabama

*Ethanol Production and Water Quality*, **Dr. Thomas W. Simpson**, Professor, University of Maryland

*Biofuels from Perennial Prairie Plant Polycultures and the Ecosystem Services they Provide*, **Dr. Jason Hill**, Research Associate, University of Minnesota

*Biofuel Climatic Risks Zoning in Brazil*, **Dr. Eduardo Assad**, Agroclimatologist, Embrapa, Brazil

Q/A (10 minutes)

Final announcements for the day

5:20PM

### **RECEPTION, HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA:**

Bus departs from Crowne Plaza hotel 5:30PM

Reception hosted by the University of Minnesota 6:00PM

Eastcliff, residence of the President of the University of Minnesota

176 N. Mississippi River Boulevard

St. Paul, MN 55104

Return to hotel 7:30PM

**August 21, 2007**

**ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND OUTLOOK PANELS**

**Commercialization and Economic Impacts Considerations 8:30AM-10:10AM**

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BIOFUELS ON FARMERS, PROCESSORS, FUEL END USERS, AND PRODUCERS OF OTHER AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND ON COMMERCIALIZATION OF BIOFUELS

Moderator: **Mr. William (Bill) Lee**, Former President, Renewable Fuels Association

*Bioproducts - Everything Old is New Again*, **Dr. Roger Conway**, Director, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, USDA

**Dr. Yue Guojun**, Assistant President, Cofco Ltd.

*Future Biofuels Policy Alternatives*, **Dr. Wallace E. Tyner**, Professor Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

*Commercialization of First Generation Biofuels*, **Dr. Vernon Eidman**, Professor Emeritus and former Head, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

Q/A (20 minutes)

Morning Break

10:10AM-10:30AM

**International Biofuels Economic Outlook Panel**

10:30AM-11:50PM

CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR BIOFUELS PRODUCTION

Moderator: **Dr. Melvyn F. Askew**, Central Science Laboratory (CSL), York, United Kingdom

*Support for Biofuels — Considerations for Policymakers*, **Dr. Masami Kojima**, Senior Energy and Environment Specialist, World Bank

*The World Energy Outlook 2006 – Outlook for Biofuels*, **Dr. Teresa Malyshev**, Senior Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency

*Global Biofuels Trends and Economic Forces Determining the Future Size of the Maize-based Ethanol Industry*, **Dr. Robert N. Wisner**, Agricultural Economist & University Professor, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

*Rising Biofuels Prices – Blessing or Curse for Food Security?* **Dr. A. Arslan Gürkan**, Chief, Commodities and Trade Division, Economic and Social Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Q/A (20 minutes)

Lunch

12:00PM-1:00PM

## INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES SESSIONS

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

**Mr. Michael Yost**, Administrator, USDA-FAS

### International Perspectives Session A

1:00PM-2:45PM

Moderator: **Ms. Constance Jackson**, Associate Administrator, USDA-FAS

#### INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES:

##### **AFRICA:**

*Bio-diesel research and production in Kenya*, **Dr. Joseph Keriko**, Institute of Energy and Environmental Technology (IEET), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Nairobi, Kenya

##### **EUROPE:**

*Agricultural biofuels – Bulgarian Perspectives*, **Prof. Atanas Atanasov**, AgroBioInstitute, Director, Bulgaria

*Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR), Central German Co-Ordination Agency for the Promotion and Dissemination of Renewable Resources*, **Mr. Ronny Winkelmann**, Project Manager, Agency of Renewable Resources, Germany

*Commercialisation of biofuels in Poland*, **Podlaski Slawomir**, Warsaw Agricultural University Warsaw, Poland

*Biofuels – activities in Sweden*, **Mr. Fredrik Odelram**, Senior Administrative Officer, Agriculture and Forestry Division, Sweden

Afternoon Break

2:45PM-3:00PM

### International Perspectives Session B

3:00PM-4:45PM

Moderator: **Dr. Asif Chaudhry**, Deputy Administrator, Office of Global Analysis, USDA-FAS

##### **ASIA:**

*Non-food feedstock and the road map of China's bioethanol industry*, **Dr. Shi-Zhong Li**, Institute of New Energy, Tsinghua University, Beijing - PRC

*Current status of research and development on Jatropha (*Jatropha curcus*) for sustainable biofuel production in India*, **Dr. M.S. Punia**, Executive Director, National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Haryana, India

*Biofuel development in Indonesia*, **Ms. Yanni Kussuryani**, Coordinator of Process Technology Research Programme Group, Department of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia

*Technological progress and commercialization of biodiesel in Malaysia*, **Mr. Mohammed Basri Wahid**, Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Kajang, Selangor, Malaysia

##### **LATIN AMERICA:**

*Bioenergy value chain construction methodology*, **Mr. Miguel Almada**, Secretariat of Agriculture Livestock, Fishing and Food; and **Mr. Martín Fraguío**, Director, Argentine Corn Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina

## CLOSING CEREMONY

Moderator: **Dr. Gale Buchanan**, Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, USDA

*Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC)* 4:45-5:10PM

**Ambassador Reno L. Harnish III**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

U.S. Department of State

*Closing Remarks* 5:10PM-5:30PM

**Mr. Thomas C. Dorr**

Under Secretary for Rural Development

U.S. Department of Agriculture

## **August 22, 2007      BIOFUELS FIELD TRIP**

Depart from Crowne Plaza hotel 7:30AM

*Travel Hotel to Litchfield (1.5 hours approx)*

AgStar Financial-financing the biofuels industry 9:00AM-10:00AM  
Mark Schmidt

*Travel to Litchfield to Benson (1.25 hours)*

Farm visit enroute (tentative) 10:30AM

Lunch 11:45AM

Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company in Benson 1:15PM-2:45PM  
Bill Lee, General Manager

*Travel Benson to Morris*

Community-based Energy Platform program 3:30PM-4:30PM  
Lowell Rasmussen, Associate Vice Chancellor  
University of Minnesota, West Central Research and Outreach Center  
Morris, Minnesota (1 hour)

*Morris to Hotel (3 hours approx)*

Return to Crowne Plaza hotel: 7:30 p.m.