



Nexus of Technology, Agricultural Productivity & the Environment

OAK BROOK, IL Feb. 26, 2015: Debate on the sustainability of agriculture centers, in part, on how technological changes that contribute to agricultural productivity growth affect the environment. The March 11 Farm Foundation[®] Forum will focus on *The Nexus of Technology, Agricultural Productivity and the Environment*.

The Forum will be 9 to 11 a.m. EDT Wednesday, March 11, at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C. A live audiocast will be available. Collaborating with Farm Foundation, NFP to present this Forum are Global Harvest Initiative and USDA's Economic Research Service.

It has long been recognized that technology-based tools that help increase agricultural productivity may have positive and negative impacts on the environment. Technological changes that require more intensive use of fertilizer and chemical inputs may generate the potential for more pollution of water resources or greater loss of biodiversity, for example. At the same time, technological changes that increase crop yields may also improve efficiency of nutrient and water use, and prevent the conversion of non-agricultural land to farmland. All these factors may influence long-term agricultural sustainability in developed and developing countries.

Providing perspectives for discussion will be:

- Stephen Polasky, Ph.D., University of Minnesota, discussing the value of environmental services.
- Derek Byerlee, independent researcher and former rural policy advisor at the World Bank, examining constraints small-holder farmers face in increasing productivity while protecting the environment, and
- Jerry Flint, Ph.D., DuPont/Pioneer, providing a corporate perspective on sustainable agricultural intensification.

The presentations will be followed by questions and discussion with the audience. There is no charge to participate in the Forum or the live audiocast, but registration is requested.

The Forum will precede a two-day international conference, Agricultural Productivity and the Environment. [Click here](#) for conference details.

To attend the Forum, register by [CLICKING HERE](#). For those people unable to attend the

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event in person, a live audiocast of this Forum is being provided. It will include speaker PowerPoints as available, and the opportunity for the audiocast audience to submit questions. To participate by audiocast, [CLICK HERE](#).

Audiocasting is made possible by a grant from Farm Credit. After the event, an audio file is posted to the [Farm Foundation website](#) for those unable to be part of the live event.

Who should participate in the Forum: People with an interest in agricultural, food and rural policy, including members of Congress, congressional staff, executive branch officials, industry representatives, NGO representatives, academics and members of the media.

The Forum: Farm Foundation, NFP organizes these public forums to engage all stakeholders in informed dialogue on food, agricultural and rural policies. Participants examine current policies, explore and analyze alternative policy proposals, and give voice to new proposals.

Audio from the session will be posted on the Farm Foundation [website](#). Presentations and audio files from past Forum sessions are also available at the website.

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