



BIGMAP TO HOST FIFTH SYMPOSIUM IN APRIL

Scientists and members of academia and industry will have an opportunity to learn about current research on genetically modified agricultural products and other related topics at the Fifth Annual BIGMAP Symposium to be held April 23, 2008, at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames, Iowa. The theme for this year's symposium is "Biotechnology Policy and Law."

"The 2008 symposium will offer participants a chance to hear experts voice their perspectives on how regulation for biotechnology must be responsive to the rapid pace of technology innovation," said Jeff Wolt, professor of agronomy and organizer of the event. "As always we have put together a slate of speakers that are on the cutting-edge of research and policy in biotechnology. As a result, this symposium will offer valuable and timely information to anyone who is involved in the study or trade of genetically engineered crops," he said.

Of special interest this year will be the morning session on "Biotechnology Intellectual Property," which will be chaired and moderated by Former Governor Tom Vilsack, BIGMAP distinguished fellow. This session will feature legal and scientific perspectives on IP concerns for agricultural biotechnology and their policy implications.

Over 100 people attended the BIGMAP symposium last year in which speakers from over 10 countries addressed topics ranging from mycotoxin regulation and global information needs to weediness of GMO crops. **Registration for the symposium is available online at www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/bigmap/quickregister.html. For more information contact jdwolt@iastate.edu.**