

LANGURE Conference April 2007
Research Ethics Education: Beyond RCR Training

Sustainable Agriculture and Transgenic Crops Workshop, Feedback report:

The morning disciplinary team workshop was attended by faculty members from universities around the U.S. and overseas. Following initial introductions the disciplinary team leaders Nancy Creamer and Paul Mueller and junior fellow Emily Vollmer explained the status of the module and associated case study. Participants were given copies of said documents for review. After browsing through the material a discussion of the module and related topics ensued. Some teaching experiences of using the Golden Rice case study were shared; it is useful though perhaps could be updated (?).

Some topics and suggestions included: adding more information about the regulatory situation, patent/licensing issues and alternatives (e.g., U.S. land grant universities pooling some of the intellectual property rights), high-tech approaches to low-tech problems, public perceptions/concerns as being different that a strictly scientific approach (and lack of general public understanding of scientific paradigm and the nature of scientific conclusions), the presence or degree of ecological harm engendered by transgenic crops, concerns about pharmaceutical containing crops and field trials leading to escape of the transgene, and the differences in the situation in Europe (Spain) compared to the US. There were some suggestions of updated references that could be consulted to include in this module.

At this point in time the overview-document of the module and the golden rice case study are rather distinct components. Some contacts were made that present the opportunity for further collaboration as we continue to develop this module.

- Emily Vollmer, NC State University