

Tweets from BIO Breakfast Panel on Ag Innovation

June 29, 2011

NOTE: These tweets should be read from bottom, up. The top tweets are the most recent.

[wheatworld](#) NAWG

[#bio2011](#) Beachy: need assurances that science that is developed can make it into the marketplace.

29 Jun

[wheatworld](#) NAWG

[#BIO2011](#) Bobo: US is leader in biotech; it creates jobs, drives exports. Tech is even more imp't for developing countries

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[wheatworld](#) NAWG

[#BIO2011](#) Swenson: look forward to the day there is biotech in wheat, hope it happens in his career

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[#BIO2011](#) Swenson: wheat industry has shown desire and need for biotech; seen tremendous interest from trait developers

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[#BIO2011](#) Bobo: Sustainable agriculture needs to be something all farmers can achieve

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[#BIO2011](#) Bobo: regulatory review around the world hasn't found safety problems; big issue is that EU process has political step at the end

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[#BIO2011](#) Beachy: Average year, lose 3 to 10% of crops to viruses, which are controllable

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[#BIO2011](#) Beachy: Original intention of biotech in the 1980s was to reduce chemical insecticides, seemed "like a no brainer"

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[#BIO2011](#) Beachy: By 2015, half of new varieties will be developed outside the US, we will be importing. Concern we won't be doing it here

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#BIO2011 Beachy: 900 million pounds of insecticide NOT used because of Bt gene - "that ain't chicken feed", as he puts it

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#BIO2011 Beachy: farmers in India spray conventional eggplant 75 to 125 times (you read that right), may not even eat it themselves.

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#BIO2011 Bobo: consumers don't name biotech as top food concern; no one in his family has brought it up in the 10 yrs he's worked on it

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#BIO2011 Swenson: organic soy took at least 10 passes tilling the field; conventional, around 3; biotech fewer - dramatic fuel reduction

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#BIO2011 conclusion from panel that benefits to consumer need to be better communicated - to food security, environment

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#BIO2011 Bobo: everywhere in the world there's a benefit to ag research and development - \$1 returns \$1.43, better in private sector

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#BIO2011 Bobo: challenge is how to show consumers benefits of biotech; if it's new and you don't need it, what benefit do you see?

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#BIO2011 Swenson: worries about what regulatory challenges say to students thinking about becoming plant scientists, breeders

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Follow [@wheatworld](#) for updates from [#bio2011](#) future of ag panel

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#BIO2011 Beachy: right now in mode of cutting ag research just when we shouldn't; this will make us less competitive

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#BIO2011 Bobo in talking about biotech's use in developing world: possibility to move from subsistence to entrepreneurship

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#BIO2011 Herseth Sandlin: must address issue of regulatory bottleneck for US to use limited \$ wisely and remain competitive

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#BIO2011 Beachy: scientific knowledge from corn + other biotech crops means shouldn't take 6 years and \$25m for a wheat trait

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#BIO2011 Swenson says biotech corn and beans he's used reduce field passes, conserving organic matter and \$, making him more competitive

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#BIO2011 Wheat farmer Scott Swenson talks about shift in acres from wheat on his farm

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#BIO2011 interesting stat from media breakfast - about half of US ag exports are biotech products, Jack Bobo from State

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agbiotech CBI

by wheatworld

Moderator Stephanie Herseth Sandlin introducing farmer Scott Swenson. He's grown it all: biotech, conventional, organic crops **#bio2011**

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Wheat producer Scott Swenson on panel about innovation at BIO Convention. <http://fb.me/XOvUYSe5>

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