

CAST REPORT PRESENTED TO CHINESE DELEGATION/ROLLS OUT AS COMMENTARY

On November 22, CAST EVP Kent Schescke and Task Force Chair Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes met with USDA officials and a Chinese delegation to release *The Impact of Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops on Agricultural Sustainability, Trade, and Innovation*, a literature review and report that Dr. Kalaitzandonakes and a team of authors wrote under a grant from the USDA. The paper was officially released as CAST Commentary QTA2016-2 on December 8, with rollout presentations on the Hill (both Senate and House events) and at the American Farm Bureau offices in conjunction with the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance. The latter presentation featured a panel discussion among industry stakeholders, a producer association, and a representative of the U.S. government.



(Above L to R) Schescke; Kalaitzandonakes; Val Giddings, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation; and Andrew Conner, U.S. Grains Council (Left L to R) Moderator: Veronica Nigh, American Farm Bureau Federation and Panelists: Jonathan Cordone, USDA Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Bobby Frederick, National Grain and Feed Association; Matthew O'Mara, The Biotechnology Innovation Organization; and Andrew Conner



NEW CAST PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr. Nancy Reichert officially assumed her responsibilities at the conclusion of the CAST Fall Board Meeting in St. Louis in October. In 2017, she will become the 45th President of CAST.

CAST EDUCATION PROGRAM

With the addition of Cal Poly, 14 schools have now joined the CAST Education Program. CAST benefits from the insights, research, and student involvement that come from its member universities. They are Cal Poly; Cornell University CALS Program; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; Mississippi State University; North Carolina State University; Ohio State University; Texas A&M University; UC–Davis; and the Universities of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Nevada.



AG INNOVATION SERIES FEATURED

An essay written by CAST EVP Kent Schescke, referring to CAST's 12-part series of issue papers, appeared in the July/August 2016 edition of the ASABE publication called *Resource—Engineering and Technology for a Sustainable World*.



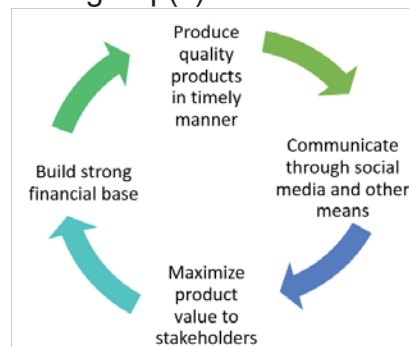


SUBMIT AN IDEA

In July, CAST added a button to their homepage so readers could instantly submit an idea for a publication. Clicking on the “Submit an Idea” button leads the user to a simple online form to collect ideas and basic contact information. After submission, the information is fed to the appropriate work group(s).

STRATEGIC PLAN

A one-page version of the updated CAST Strategic Plan is now available. Having been through many iterations with members of the CAST Board of Representatives, this version has been trimmed considerably and includes a graphic representation of the plan. It is available on the CAST website under “About.”



BORLAUG CAST COMMUNICATION AWARD

On October 12, Dr. Kevin M. Folta, chair of the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida, received the 2016 Borlaug CAST Communication Award at a World Food Prize breakfast side event. He spoke on “Unveiling Our Halo—Building Trust with a Concerned Consumer.” Following the award presentation, there was a panel discussion and preview of the forthcoming CAST Ag Innovation series.

Left: Kevin Folta; Right: Amit Dhingra presents on *The Need for Agricultural Innovation to Sustainably Feed the World by 2050: Technologies on the Shelf*. Additional panelists included Sally Rockey, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research; Neal Gutterson, DuPont Pioneer; Kevin Folta; and moderator, Todd Peterson, Land O’ Lakes.



CAST RESOURCES

A Look at Modern Agriculture

is a new presentation available to board members. The slides were created by Mark Armfelt for use with a nonscientific audience, such as a Rotary Club. The presentation is available for download from the Board Members Only website under the “CAST Resources and Development Materials” menu.

SPANISH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE

Issue Paper 56—*Process Labeling of Food: Consumer Behavior, the Agricultural Sector, and Policy Recommendations*—is now provided in Spanish on the CAST website. An Ag quickCAST of the publication is also available in Spanish.

