

Seventh Latin American Meeting in Hematology, Immunology and Transfusion Medicine

Hematology Hababana'2005 has organized a meeting in Hematology, Immunology and Transfusion Medicine on May 16-20, 2005 at International Conference Center, La Habana, Cuba. The Seventh Latin American Conference is organized in collaboration with Fifth National Congress. For more information contact Prof. Josè M. Ballester, President, Hematology Habana' 2005, Tel: (537) 578268, 578695, 2085199, Fax: (537) 442334, 202-8382, Email: ihidir@hemato.sld.cu, aliciag@palco.cu, Website: www.loseventos.cu/hemalogia2005.

World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing

The first World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing will be held on April 21 to 23, 2004 at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Jointly hosted by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the American Chemical Society, and the National Agriculture Biotechnology Council, the congress focuses on how industrial biotechnology is currently used to transform manufacturing, chemical synthesis, and energy production. The conversion of agricultural wastes, such as corn stalks and rice, into new consumer goods will also be highlighted. More information about the World Congress can be seen at <http://www.bio.org/worldcongress>.

Summary Report on the Global Status of GM Crops in 2003

The Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology (KC) has recently released the summary report on the current global status of GM crops. This latest data is downloadable at <http://www.isaaa.org/kc>.

Asian Bio-Net

The Coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) BiotechNet News announced the launch of Asian Bio-Net, the website of the FAO project on Capacity Building in Biosafety of GM Crops in Asia, based at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. The project, supported by the Government of Japan, was formulated to “assist countries in the region in safe harnessing of the benefits of biotechnology in accordance with relevant global agreements on the subject.” Please visit <http://asiabionet.org> for details.

New K-Sheet

The National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy’s (NCFAP) December 2003 study entitled “Plant Biotechnology: Potential Impact for Improving Pest Management in European Agriculture,” is the latest Knowledge (K) Sheet from the Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA-KC). Authored by Leonard Gianessi, Sujatha Sankula, and Nathan Reigner, this comprehensive report examines nine case studies on the potential impacts of biotech crops on European agriculture. Download the K-Sheet at <http://www.isaaa.org/kc>.

International Year of Rice Celebration in Africa

International Year of Rice (IYR) events have been planned across. The 23rd Session of FAO African Regional Conference would be from March 1-5, 2004 at Johannesburg, South Africa. The International Year of Rice promotes improved production and access to this vital food crop, which feeds more than half the world’s population while providing income for millions of rice producers, processors and traders. For more information visit <http://www.fao.org/rice2004/en/calendar.htm>

ASFARNET Newsletter

The Asian Farmers Regional Network (ASFARNET) released a newsletter highlighting its first meeting which was held in Thailand earlier this month. ASFARNET was organized during a capacity building workshop held in Manila and Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines last December 2003. For the

full newsletter article and more information about ASFARNET, visit <http://www.searca.org/~bic/resources/newsletters/ASFAR-Feb2004.pdf>

Paper on Wheat Improvement

A summary of David Hoisington and colleagues' paper entitled "The application of biotechnology to wheat improvement" is posted in the document cabinet of the Global Knowledge Center on Crop Biotechnology together with other recent papers. Hoisington, who is affiliated with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), together with his colleagues, analyzed how biotechnology can improve the wheat crop. View the summary and other articles at <http://www.isaaa.org/kc>.