CALIFORNIA DROUGHT REINFORCES URGENCY FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED FARMING

NEW YORK, March 25, 2014 -- National Agriculture Day (March 25) arrives as legions of California farmers stare at parched fields and withering crops and wonder how they'll recover from the devastating, ongoing effects of the statewide drought.

The severe water shortage, now in its third year, has sharply curtailed farm production. Given that California is the nation’s largest agricultural producer, falling crop yields can easily translate into rising food prices across the U.S.

During challenging times like these, America should be enhancing its farm productivity aided by innovation and backed by sound science. This is one of several key points contained in *What s the Story? Genetically Modified Food*, the latest publication from the American Council on Science and Health.

Agricultural biotechnology offers the potential of feeding a hungry world, said Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, president of the American Council on Science and Health. We should be welcoming this advance in food production not fearing it.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS INCLUDED IN *Genetically Modified Food*:

- Some GM crops grow well despite drought conditions
- GM agriculture can produce more food on the same farmland
- Food demand is ever increasing, as U.S. and world populations rise
- Biotechnology is safe, and has been since its inception in 1993

For ag-biotech opponents, unfortunately it’s easier to spread fear over the safety of consuming GM food rather than attempt to present sound, scientific reasoning to justify their faulty position. And the reason is clear: They have no case to make, because GM food is safe to grow and eat.

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