

Opening Statement for UN Biodiversity Conference 2018

Mr Chair:

I speak on behalf of Cornell University's Alliance for Science, a public communications initiative that believes that access to scientific innovation has the potential to improve environmental sustainability, enhance food security, and raise the quality of life globally.

As is it is recognized within Article 16 of the Convention and in the preamble of the Biosafety Protocol, we fully support biotechnology as an essential element for biodiversity. We acknowledge biotechnology has great potential for human well-being, if developed and used with adequate safety measures.

Cornell University has collaborated in safe and responsible biotechnology sharing projects¹ that have reduced pesticide use and improved smallholder farmer's livelihoods.

The Alliance for Science has covered and will continue to share stories of passionate people engaged in the implementation of modern biotechnology to minimize farming's ecological footprint, deliver food security, and inspire young people to pursue a career science.

We believe safe and responsible technological advances help us overcome humanity's biggest challenges, correcting the grave social injustices of poverty and hunger.

We welcome all present to speak with us about the many science stories from around the world that inspire us and ours to look to innovation for a better tomorrow.

Thank you.

¹ The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II cooperative agreement (ABSPII): Bt brinjal provided to the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) through a public private partnership between Mahyco, Cornell University, Sathguru Management Consultants, BARI and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).