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Gordon Conway was elected the twelfth President of The Rockefeller Foundation in April 1998. He was educated at the Universities of Wales (Bangor), Cambridge, Trinidad and California (Davis). His discipline is agricultural ecology. In the early 1960's, working in Sabah, North Borneo, he became one of the pioneers of integrated pest management. From 1970 to 1986, he was Professor of Environmental Technology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London. During this period he lived and worked in many countries in Asia and the Middle East. He then directed the sustainable agriculture program of the International Institute for Environment and Development in London before becoming Representative of the Ford Foundation in New Delhi from 1988 to 1992. Prior to joining The Rockefeller Foundation, he was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex and Chair of the Institute for Development Studies. He has authored *Unwelcome Harvest: Agriculture and Pollution* (Earthscan, Island Press), *The Doubly Green Revolution: Food for All in the 21st Century* (Penguin and University Press, Cornell) and *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All* (The Runnymede Trust).

Biotechnology for Developing World Agriculture

If we are to feed the 800 million who are currently chronically undernourished and the 1.5 billion additional people who will be on this planet by the year 2020, we will require a concerted effort along a number of fronts. In particular, we will need to apply the modern advances of ecology to sustainable agricultural production; we will need to engage farmers in a fully participatory manner in the analysis, design, and implementation of new technologies; and we will need to apply the benefits of modern biotechnology. The three biotechnology goals applicable to poor farmers in the developing countries are increasing yield ceilings; combating pests, diseases, drought, and other stresses; and improving the nutritional quality of crops and livestock products. There are risks—some real, many imaginary—which must be addressed and, most important, public plant breeders must have free access to the techniques of modern biotechnology.