

# From the Lab to the Village: Innovative Global Solutions in Agricultural Biotechnology

The Importance of Trust and Partnership in Health-Related Initiatives



— A TALK OFFERED BY —

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### Wednesday April 3rd

### at 2:00 pm

### Room S175 Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences

— RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE ROTUNDA —

*Effective adoption of biotechnology to improve global health requires much more than scientific discovery. To save lives and achieve humanitarian goals, diverse ethical, social, and cultural issues must also be considered. As described in this talk, a strategic model was developed to build trust among participants and to increase the success of biotechnology implementation. This approach, which has been applied to projects sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, creates transparency and improves management practices and accountability. The strategy helps align the goals of all partners and provides farmers with a voice and an important role in the process. The inclusive framework encompasses all who are involved in the “lab-to-village” pathway. The importance of building trust among the project partners and the public is revealed in several global examples of agricultural biotechnology with public-private partnerships in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria and Burkina Faso.*



From working in a microbiology lab at the University of Georgia to interviewing farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Obidimma Ezezika also traveled a path from the lab to the village. He earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology at UGA (2006) and completed a master's degree in environmental management (MEM) at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies focusing on environmental policy, economics and law (2008). Dr. Ezezika is a Program Leader in Ethics at the Sandra Rotman Centre based at the University of Toronto and University Health Network. He is an adjunct faculty member at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, where he focuses on navigating ethical and commercialization challenges to innovative development initiatives in Africa.



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