

Do We *Need* Higher Crop Yields?

Lokey seminar by

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The human population has just surpassed eight billion. Do we need higher crop yields? Yes, but not produced in quite the same way. Negative environmental impacts of high-yield agriculture are well-documented. Furthermore, rural communities may suffer reductions of vitality in highly specialized, high yield agroecosystems. At the same time, high yields offer the possibility of freeing land for conservation of biodiversity, a critical need and are essential for increasing food security in developing countries. Addressing these challenges makes for exciting times to be a farmer or professional (agronomist, biologist, economist, geographer, sociologist, etc.) who works with farmers.