

Industry's Roles in Pest Management

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I'm very pleased to be able to participate in the Entomological Society of America's Centennial National Symposium. As the previous speakers have demonstrated amply, the science of entomology has made tremendous advances in the last century. And obviously, entomology has tremendous and exciting challenges in the future.

In a like vein, industry has contributed to these advances and faces major challenges in the future—a future to which we are strongly committed.

Some would say that industry has contributed to many of the problems in entomology as well. And there's no doubt that most people, both within entomology and in society at large, are more likely to remember that DDT was associated with adverse effects on raptorial birds than to remember that Paul Muller won a Nobel Prize for discovering it, or that it saved millions of people from the scourges of malaria and typhoid.

So it is most appropriate for me to be speaking in this session, which centers on major social concerns. Pest control, especially by intervention with a chemical agent, is of great concern to many. Indeed, if some of the standards applied to pesticides were extended to other technologies, automobiles (as only one example) probably would be banned or redesigned completely. But social concerns certainly deserve consideration on their own, and I'm sure Perry Gehring will address this later in the program. It will suffice to say that they are major challenges for our industry, and these concerns add another level of complexity to our endeavors.