

# Energy and Resources Group Spring 2008 Colloquium Series (ER295)

January 30, 2008



110 Barrow Hall – 4:00 p.m.

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Resource Economics  
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*The Spread of Innovations in  
Traditional Agrosystems*

In recent times, genetically modified crops have spread in an unprecedented way, but the spread of biological innovations is as old as agriculture. A common thread in the long history of innovation is the diffusion of seed, particularly through exchanges among farmers. In this seminar, I will present a modeling framework to explain the role of seed exchange in the spread of biological innovations and the flow of genes in traditional agrosystems. I will illustrate the framework with the case of maize and the dispersal of transgenes in Mexico.

George A. Dyer is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Davis. He earned a B.Sc. from UNAM, Mexico, a Masters in Economics from El Colegio de México, and a Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Davis. His research interests include development and the environment, markets and land use, ecosystem services and ecotourism. He has been a consultant for the World Bank, FAO, IADB, and the Mexican Congress and Executive Branch.