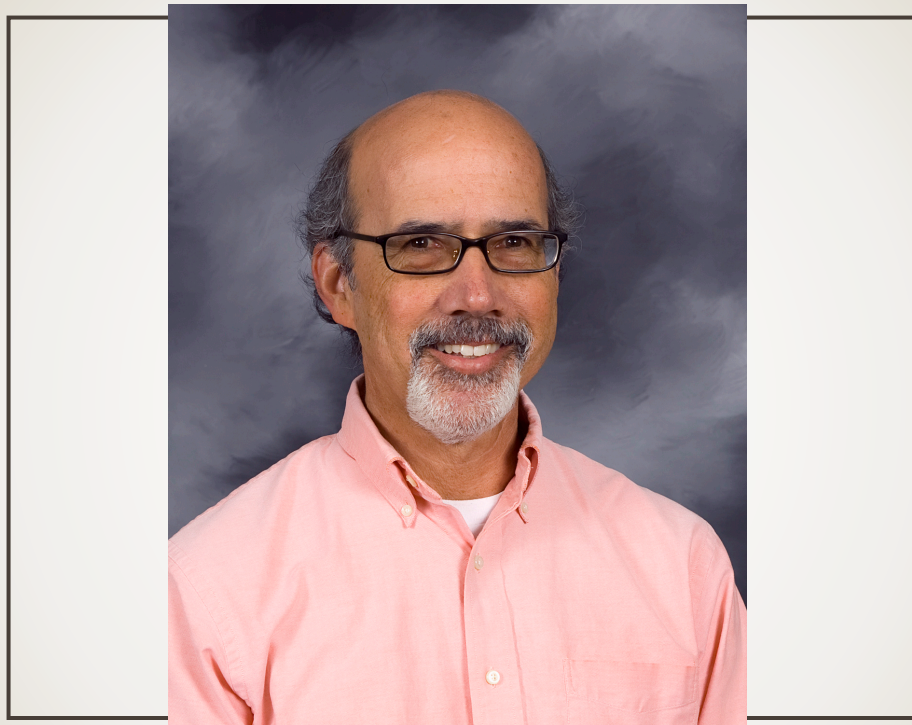


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Policies for the Sustainable Development of Biofuels in Pan America: A Review and Synthesis of Five Countries



Rapid growth of biofuel production in the United States and Brazil has increased interest in replicating this success in other Pan American nations. However, the continued use of food-based feedstock is widely seen as unsustainable and is, in some cases, linked to deforestation and increased greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, many nations are exploring the production and use of cellulosic feedstock. This presentation reviews the North-South axis of biofuel production in Pan America and its linkage with the agricultural sectors in five countries in Pan America. Focus will be given to biofuel policy goals, their results, and consideration of sustainability criteria and certification of producers. I examine the two largest producers - the United States and Brazil and two smaller emerging producers - Argentina and Canada; and one stalled program - Mexico to explore if biofuel programs are effectively improving environmental quality and sustainable development.