In June 2013, the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Iowa State University and DuPont Pioneer, convened a technical training workshop on non-target organism testing of transgenic crops.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide regulatory scientists and environmental risk assessors with an experiential learning opportunity in laboratory and field testing of non-target organisms.

In the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to review and critique data generated by commercial laboratories which are typically provided to government regulators in support of applications to authorize commercial planting of insect-resistant crops.

Measuring the impact:

- “The workshop was interesting and I learnt a lot about NTOs and insect bioassays which I had no idea about. My job as an adviser to a national regulatory body has suddenly become more interesting, and I think I will be able to manage regulation better.”
- “Kenya is preparing to commercialize Bt cotton, and as risk assessors and regulators, we did not have a clear direction or an in-depth insight into what ERA entails, but we now have a path and something to build on or borrow from.”
- “The resource persons and the course curriculum were top notch. As a person actively involved in the regulatory system in my country, I cannot emphasize just how useful this information was.”

90% Of responders have applied what they learned during the workshop to their work

80% Are reading more literature related to non-target organism testing after attending this workshop

45% Have prepared an ERA for a GM plant and were able to apply what they learned during the workshop