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## Module III—Improving Quality of Life

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### Introductory Remarks

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The title of this session, *Improving Quality of Life*, implies optimism. A similar optimism was expressed in the title of Module II, *Diminishing the Ecological Footprint*. The speakers in that module presented some challenging and mixed assessments of optimism that are certain to make us think long and hard about the implications of biotechnology and the eco-footprint. Quality of life is certainly related to the other topics—ecological footprint and food safety—but, as we’ve seen so far in this conference, food is a major component of the quality of life for many people in the world and is a less significant component for others. Also, problems related to food distribution have been discussed, as have the challenges associated with incorporation of appropriate cultural practices to enable people in developing nations to utilize and produce food.

This session’s distinguished group of speakers will address the relationships people have with food, the way it’s produced and distributed and the larger implications for both industrialized and developing nations: Tom Remington, Ruth Chadwick, and Joel Cohen.