

# BIO SAFETY



जहाँ है हरियाली।  
वहाँ है खुशहाली।।

A Quarterly  
Newsletter

## Newsletter



### From the Desk of Editor

Subsequent to hosting of Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP11-MOP6) at Hyderabad in October 2012, India is holding the Presidency to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for a period of two years. We are committed towards strengthening institutional mechanisms, enhancing technical and human capabilities for biodiversity conservation in India and promoting similar capacity building in other developing countries during this period of India's Presidency.

As part of several initiatives being taken, we organized a 3 day workshop specifically for African countries to share experience and identify capacity building opportunities on the two protocols i.e., Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. The workshop was a joint initiative with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and African nationals from 36 countries attended the workshop. It provided a platform for South-South Cooperation and was greatly appreciated. We propose to continue with more activities in the future and shall keep our readers updated.

**Hem Pande**

*Additional Secretary*

Ministry of Environment and Forests

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### Online discussion groups on Socio-economic considerations (Article 26)

The CBD Secretariat has scheduled online discussions on socio-economic (SE) considerations (Article 26) from March-April 2013, as an outcome of the decision BS-VI/13 on Article 26 adopted at COP11-MOP6 held at Hyderabad in October 2012. The objective of these online discussions is to facilitate a global exchange of information and experiences on SE considerations and identify issues for further discussion during the future real-time online regional conferences and workshops. The online discussions will be facilitated through the SE considerations portal that

is available on the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) at: [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_art26/portal.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml). The portal has now been declared open for participants to give their suggestions and inputs. The timetable for the various activities is available at [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_art26/calendar\\_2012\\_2014.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art26/calendar_2012_2014.shtml)

The outcomes of the online discussions and real-time conferences will form the basis for the work of the ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) to develop conceptual clarity on SE considerations especially in the context of paragraph 1 of Article 26 CPB. The CBD Secretariat will soon establish an AHTEG for SE considerations. For further information please visit [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_art26/se\\_forum\\_discussiongroups.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art26/se_forum_discussiongroups.shtml)



## Capacity building workshop for African nationals on Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, Traditional Knowledge and Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress of Biosafety



Lighting of the lamp during inaugural session

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) in association with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), organized a capacity building workshop for African countries on Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Nagoya Protocol Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress of biosafety in Bengaluru, India from 11-13 February 2013. The event was coordinated by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), India.

The workshop was designed to fulfill the following three mandates

- To further the collaboration between India and Africa, as agreed to under the 2nd Africa-India Forum Summit (AIFS-II)
- To share its experiences in implementing various provisions on issues related to ABS, TK and biosafety with experts from African region as well as to learn from them
- To fulfill its obligation as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) president to forward an inclusive agenda on capacity building, awareness raising using the South-South Cooperation platform (SSCP)

The workshop was presided by Mr. Olivier Rukundo, Programme officer, Nagoya Protocol Unit, Secretariat of the CBD and steered by Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Director, MoEF; Dr. Sujata Arora, Director, MoEF; Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairman, NBA and Mr. C. Achalender Reddy, Secretary, NBA.

After a brief welcome note by Member Secretary, NBA, Dr. Ranjini Warriar and Dr. Sujata Arora from MoEF introduced the two protocols to the participants. Mr. Olivier Rukundo

from CBD Secretariat thanked the Government of India for hosting the workshop and providing its generous financial support that enabled participants from African countries to attend the workshop. Mr. Rukundo encouraged the participants to utilise this opportunity for understanding the needs and challenges for implementing the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and Nagoya Kuala-Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. Dr. Balakrishna Pisupati, Chairman, NBA indicated that Africa is an important political region for India and these two parallel workshops for African countries are in response to the assurance by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the 2nd Africa India Forum Summit, 2011. Dr. Balakrishna was of the firm view that sharing of experiences at domestic level will assist the Parties in expediting the process of ratification.

A series of presentations were made by key experts on various aspects of the two protocols providing background to the negotiations, key features and requirements at the national level. The second day of the workshop was dedicated to presentations by country representatives followed by discussions about various challenges being faced in these countries for implementation of the two protocols. The discussions on Nagoya Kuala-Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress were moderated by Dr. S.R. Rao, Advisor, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Dr. Ranjini Warriar. On the third day a visit was organized for the participants to the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) and Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) to acquaint them about state of the art research in biotechnology in India.

Participants of capacity building workshop for African National





## Training Session for IRS Probationers on Cartagena Protocol in Biosafety



As part of ongoing training of Indian Revenue Services (IRS) probationers at Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, training sessions were organized on Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB).

The objective of these sessions is to apprise IRS probationers about the rules and regulations applicable for the transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs). Dr. Ranjini Warriar, Director, MoEF gave detailed presentation for the two batches on January 25, 2013 and February 8, 2013. She informed participants

about the legal, administrative and procedural obligations of India as a Party to the CPB.

The participants were also introduced to self learning audio/visual tools available at Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) so as to have better understanding. Mr. Vivek Veerbhan from Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) demonstrated practical use of Biosafety Clearing House to enable the participants to learn about accessing/retrieving the required information from BCH in specific cases.

## Series of virtual seminars - UNEP-GEF BCH II Capacity building project

A series of virtual seminars (webinars) are being organized as part of the United Nations Environment Programme – Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) under the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) phase II capacity building project in February- March 2013 on various issues related to use of BCH. The objective of organizing these webinars is to strengthen national capacities to effectively access and use the BCH.

The following topics have been so far covered:

- Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)
- How to use BCH management centre for BCH central portal national authorized users management
- Applying the CPB in the industry using the BCH - Part I (Food Feed Processing (FFP) importer)
- Applying the CPB in the industry using the BCH - Part II (FFP exporter)
- Applying the CPB in the industry using the BCH - Part III (Customs)

A few more webinars are proposed to be organized in the coming months and relevant information will be uploaded at <http://moodle.bch.cbd.int>. Various stakeholders can register and participate in these webinars free of cost.

## Email Conference on GMOs in the pipeline

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Biotechnology Forum held its 18th email conference from 5 Nov- 2 Dec 2012 on "GMOs in the pipeline: Looking to the next five years in the crop, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and agro-industry sectors in developing countries".

The conference focused on what new GMOs are likely to be commercialized in developing countries within the next five years (i.e before the end of 2017) in the crop, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and agro-industry sectors. Many messages were dedicated to the implications of releasing Bt Brinjal in India and the fast growing Atlantic salmon, two specific GMOs that have been in the pipeline for several years now.

The proceedings of the email conference are available at [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/biotech/docs/conf18msgs.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/biotech/docs/conf18msgs.pdf)



## Interactive panel discussion on “Genetically Modified Crops and Food Security”



L - R: Prof N.K. Singh,  
Prof Krishna Lal,  
Prof G. Padmanaban,  
Prof A. K. Tyagi

Participants  
at the interactive panel  
discussion

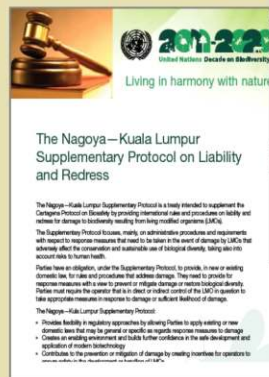


Source: www.insaindia.org/

On the occasion of the National Science Day on 28th February, the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) organized an Interactive panel discussion on “Genetically Modified (GM) Crops and Food Security” at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Prof Krishna Lal, President, INSA. The panelists for the discussion were three eminent scientists i.e. Prof. G. Padmanaban, Former Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Prof. Akhilesh Kumar Tyagi, Director, National Institute of Plant and Genomic Research (NIPGR), New Delhi and Prof. N. K. Singh, National Professor, B. P. Pal Chair. Presentations were made by the panelist followed by discussions on the need and safety issues of GM crops and increasing food demand globally.

After a brief welcome note by Prof Krishna Lal, Prof. A. K. Tyagi and Prof. N. K. Singh appraised the participants about GM technology and the success story of Bt Cotton in India. Whereas Prof. Tyagi emphasized that GM technology is completely safe and a complementary option to meet the increasing food demand globally, Prof. Singh stressed that this technology is the best hope to achieve zero hunger challenge being faced in India. The panelist were in support of the introduction of GM technology and informed participants that the evaluation of any GM product depends on the risk analysis and should be left to scientists and experts for drawing the conclusions about it. Prof. G. Padmanaban further extended his support towards commercialization of GM crops as this being the only way forward for sustainable food security.

## Fact sheets on Articles to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety



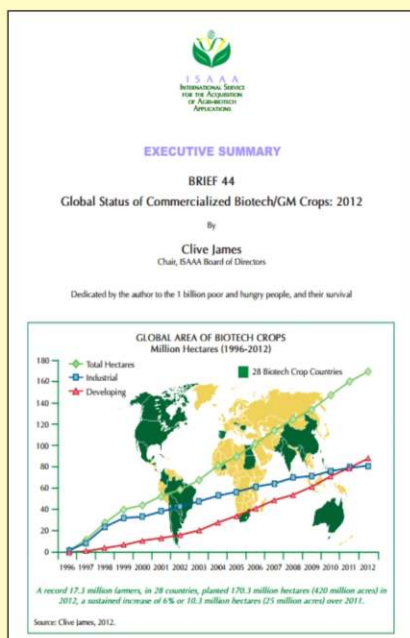
Fact sheets on important elements of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) are available at [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_factsheets.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_factsheets.shtml) These single page fact sheets give clear, precise, and to the point information for each element. The fact sheets also provide a list of websites for further reading by viewers. Some of the topics covered are:

- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Information sharing and Biosafety Clearing House
- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
- Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification
- Capacity building
- Public awareness and public participation
- Nagoya Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress





### ISAAA Brief 44: Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM crops



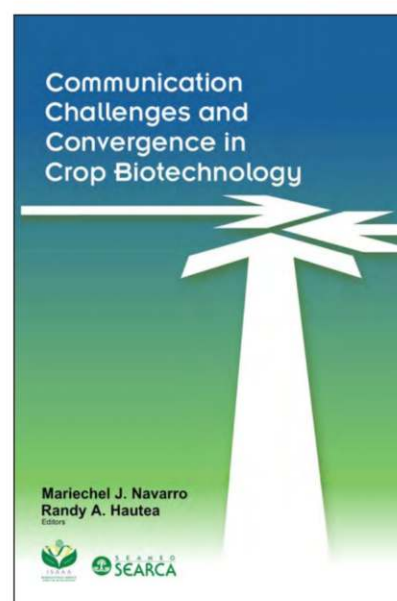
ISAAA recently released their annual brief on "Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM crops". It has been indicated that for the first time in the last 17 years of commercialization of biotech crops the developing countries grew more i.e 52% in comparison to 48% of the global biotech crops that was grown in developed/ industrialized countries. The growth rate has been reported to be at least three times and five times as large in developing countries at 11% versus the 3% of the developed nations. Two new countries Sudan and Cuba have also planted biotech crops for the first time in 2012. The document entitled "ISAAA Brief 44-2012" may be accessed at

<http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/briefs/44/executivesummary/pdf/Brief%2044%20-%20Executive%20Summary%20-%20English.pdf>

### Communication Challenges and Coverage in Crop Biotechnology

ISAAA and SEAMEO Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) have recently published a book on "Communication Challenges and Coverage in Crop Biotechnology". The book documents how many countries, mostly in the developing world, have addressed communication challenges in the research and development process and in some cases actual commercialization of biotech crops. The book presents case studies of Asia and Australia on country experiences in fostering greater awareness and understanding of the technology through science communication. The book is available at

[http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/communication\\_challenges\\_and\\_convergence\\_in\\_crop\\_biotechnology/download/communication\\_challenges\\_and\\_convergence\\_in\\_crop\\_biotechnology-cover-toc-preface.pdf](http://www.isaaa.org/resources/publications/communication_challenges_and_convergence_in_crop_biotechnology/download/communication_challenges_and_convergence_in_crop_biotechnology-cover-toc-preface.pdf)



# Upcoming Events

Title	Organized/hosted by	Date & Venue	Website
<b>National Events</b>			
Symposium on Biosafety, Genetically Modified Crops and Public Awareness	Chhattisgarh Infotech and Biotech Promotion Society (CHIPS)	March 18-19, 2013, Raipur	<a href="http://www.chips.gov.in/">http://www.chips.gov.in/</a>
Workshop on Key issues in Commercialization of Biotechnology	Department of Biotechnology and Biotech Consortium India Limited	March 19, 2013, New Delhi	<a href="http://www.bcil.nic.in/DISC_Workshop.htm">http://www.bcil.nic.in/DISC_Workshop.htm</a>
BIRAC Foundation Day and BIRAC Grand Challenge Meet	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council	March 20-22, 2013, New Delhi	<a href="http://www.birac.nic.in">http://www.birac.nic.in</a>
The India Maize Summit 2013 : Multidimensional Approach for Outlook, Implications & Perspective	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry	March 21 -22, 2013 , New Delhi	<a href="http://www.ficci.com/events-page.asp?evid=21371">http://www.ficci.com/events-page.asp?evid=21371</a>
National Symposium on Abiotic and Biotic Stress Management in Vegetable Crops*	Indian Society of Vegetable Science and Indian Institute of Vegetable Research	April 12-14, 2013 at Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi	<a href="http://conference.isvs.org.in">http://conference.isvs.org.in</a>
AP-TEC 2013@TIRUPATI	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	June 6-8, 2013, Tirupati	<a href="http://www.cii.in/Events.aspx?gid=S">http://www.cii.in/Events.aspx?gid=S</a>
<b>International Events</b>			
BIT's 6th Annual World Congress of Industrial Biotechnology (IBIO-2013)	Information Research Center of International Talent, SAFEA and China Medicinal Biotech Association	April 25-27, 2013 Nanjing, China	<a href="http://www.bitlifesciences.com/ibio2013/">http://www.bitlifesciences.com/ibio2013/</a>
Stakeholders' Dialogue on Biosafety Regulations in Asia-Pacific	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)	April, 2013 at Bangkok, Thailand	<a href="http://www.apaari.org/events/dialogue-biosafety-201.html">http://www.apaari.org/events/dialogue-biosafety-201.html</a>
Strategic approaches in the evaluation of the science underpinning GMO regulatory decision-making	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB)	July 1-5, 2013, Trieste, Italy	<a href="http://www.icgeb.org/tl_files/Meetings/2013/TS_BIOSAFETY_1-5%20July_2013.pdf">http://www.icgeb.org/tl_files/Meetings/2013/TS_BIOSAFETY_1-5%20July_2013.pdf</a>

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