



SOUTH ASIA
BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

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SABP

The South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) is an international developmental program initiated with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The program is implemented in India and Bangladesh and aims to work with national governmental agencies to facilitate the implementation of transparent, efficient and responsive regulatory frameworks for products of modern biotechnology that meet national goals as regards the safety of novel foods and feeds and environmental protection.

SABP is working with its in-country partners to:

- Identify and respond to technical training needs for food, feed and environmental safety assessment.
- Develop a sustainable network of trained, authoritative local experts to communicate both the benefits and the concerns associated with new agricultural biotechnologies to farmers and other stakeholder groups.
- Raise the profile of biotechnology and biosafety on the policy agenda within India and Bangladesh and address policy issues within the overall context of economic development, international trade, environmental safety and sustainability.

- ii) Draft Biosafety Rules, which include the existing Guidelines, for formal incorporation into the Guidelines under the Environmental Protection Act of Bangladesh.

In addition to these direct outcomes, and as a result of the steps taken to achieve them, many scientists from Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) Institutes, government representatives and other stakeholders have been sensitized to the issues of biosafety surrounding genetically engineered plants. Many training workshops have been conducted at which scientists and government representatives have been familiarized with procedures for the safe conduct of confined field trials as well as those for regulatory compliance inspections.

Recent training activities have focussed on risk assessment procedures for pre-market approval of foods derived from genetically engineered plants, which have provided a small cadre (15-20) of scientists with some experience to that end. This is intended as a first step towards the final outcome of a functioning regulatory system that can accept, review and pass opinion on the entry into market of genetically engineered plants and food derived from them.

- SABP/BARC organized workshops have trained 116 DAE scientists; 87 NARS scientists; 25 university and college levels teachers/researchers; 19 from the private and NGO sectors; and 16 students. In addition, by co-sponsoring the 3rd International Botanical Conference, SABP was able to disseminate information on recent developments in agricultural biotechnology and biosafety to more than 273 participating botanists, agricultural scientists, students, representatives from private and NGO sectors as well as to others attending from abroad.
- SABP has facilitated the biosafety and food safety assessment related training of 14 Bangladeshi scientists/policymakers through their participation in training workshops in India, Sri Lanka and The Philippines making it possible to develop a group of local agricultural biotechnology and biosafety experts who can act as Resource Persons in most of the SABP organized workshops.
- Bangladesh Biotechnology Information Centre (BdBIC) of ISAAA was established with initial support from SABP.
- BdBIC/SABP activities have informed local print and electronic media journalists of ag-biotechnology developments and their benefits for Bangladesh. As a result, news articles on the subject and its benefits to food security and poverty alleviation are regularly being published in the national daily.
- The monthly SABP newsletter, published since April 2005, is distributed to researchers, policymakers, academics at university and college levels and most university/NARS/NGO libraries. Its purpose is to regularly disseminate news of SABP and other new developments in ag-biotech and biosafety.



SEVEN YEARS OF SABP ACTIVITIES IN BANGLADESH

Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque, SABP Bangladesh Coordinator

In February 2005 the South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) was established with the aim, in part, of assisting the Bangladesh government to facilitate the implementation of transparent, efficient and responsive regulatory frameworks to ensure the safety of new foods and feeds and the protection of the environment. In February 2005 it signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Bangladesh Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and with Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

With SABP's support BARC has developed:

- i) Guidelines for conducting confined field trials, which were accepted by the National Committee on Biosafety (NCB) and are currently in force.
- ii) A set of standard operating procedures for use by proponents of confined field trials to ensure compliance with the required confinement conditions.
- iii) Bangladesh based confined field trials of genetically engineered brinjal and potato, which were conducted safely with no apparent adverse environmental impacts.

With SABP's support the Bangladesh Department of Environment (DOE) has developed:

- i) Guidelines for the safety assessment of foods derived from genetically engineered plants, which were accepted by the NCB.

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE ON CURRENT APPROACHES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS

May 16-18, 2011 • Taj Ambassador Hotel • Sujan Singh Park • New Delhi • India

The South Asia Biosafety Program and Biotech Consortium India Ltd., with support from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, are pleased to be organising the South Asia Conference on the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Crops to be held in New Delhi, May 16-18, 2011. This conference will provide an opportunity to interact with leading scientists from regulatory agencies, public sector research institutions and the private sector in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, Mexico, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the U.S. and to hear them present on the current science that is used to inform the environmental risk assessment of genetically engineered crops.

Session I: International Experience in Environmental Risk Assessment of GE Plants

- **International Consensus on ERA of GM Crops: Contributions from the OECD** — Dr. Sally McCammon, USDA and Chair, OECD Working Group on Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology
- **ERA of GE Crops in Australia** — Dr. Joe Smith, OGTR, Australia
- **ERA of GE Crops in the Philippines** — Dr. Flerida Carino, University of the Philippines
- **ERA of GE Crops in India** — Dr. Ranjini Warrior, MoEF and Dr. S.R. Rao, DBT, India

Session II: Problem Formulation for Environmental Risk Assessment

- **Problem Formulation in Environmental Risk Assessment: Where Do We Begin?** — Dr. Alan Gray, UK Center for Ecology and Hydrology
- **Problem Formulation in Environmental Risk Assessment: Reducing Uncertainty in Decision-Making** — Dr. Alan Raybould, Syngenta, UK
- **Context for Problem Formulation – 25 years of Biosafety Research in the EU** — Dr. Ioannis Economidis, Belgium
- **Applying Problem Formulation to ERA in India** — Dr. Vibha Ahuja, BCIL, India
- **Perspective on ERA from a Public Sector Research Organization** — Dr. Swapan Datta, ICAR, India

Session III: Selected Topics in ERA

- **Collecting Data and Interpreting Results from Field Trials** — Dr. Donald MacKenzie, Pioneer Hi-Bred, USA
- **Gene Flow to Wild and Weedy Relatives** — TBA
- **Considering Gene Flow in Centers of Origin or Centers of Diversity** — Dr. Ariel Alvarez, CIBIOGEM, Mexico
- **Early Tier Lab Testing of Non-Target Organisms** — Dr. Joerg Romeis, Agroscope ART, Switzerland
- **Semi-field and Field Studies for Assessing Impacts on Non-Target Organisms** — TBA

Session IV: Additional Science for Oversight of GE Plants

- **Post Release Environmental Monitoring (PREM)** — Dr. Alan Gray, UK Center for Ecology and Hydrology
- **PREM – General Surveillance in Brazil** — Dr. Paulo Paes de Andrade, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil
- **Canada's Approach to PREM** — Mr. Phil Macdonald, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- **Insect Resistance Management: The Past, the Present and the Future** — Dr. Rick Roush, Melbourne School of Land and Environment, Australia
- **Insect Resistance Management – Predicting Insect Resistance in Bt Cotton using Modeling** — Dr. K.R. Kranthi, Central Institute for Cotton Research, India

Session V: Recurring Issues for ERA of GM Plants (Panel Sessions)

- **Horizontal Gene Transfer**
- **Antibiotic Resistance Markers**
- **Herbicide Tolerance Management of GE Crops**

For more information about the conference, please contact:

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, General Manager, BCIL
vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

Dr. Andrew Roberts, Deputy Director, Center for Environmental Risk Assessment
aroberts@ilsi.org



South Asia Conference on Current Approaches to the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Crops



May 16-18, 2011 -- Hotel Taj Ambassador Delhi, Cornwallis Road, New Delhi

SOUTH ASIA
BIOSAFETY PROGRAM

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Registration Fees

Industry	Rs. 5,000/-
Research Institution Universities Individual experts	Rs. 3,000/-
Students	Rs. 2,000/-
BCIL BiotechClub Members	25% discount
Additional delegates from same organization (except students)	25% discount
Government departments and ministries	No fee up to two nomina- tions and Rs. 2,000/- each for additional nomination

The registration fee will be paid by Demand Draft/At par cheque in favour of Biotech Consortium India Limited, New Delhi. For international participants, bank transfer details shall be provided upon receiving registration form.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

Registration cancellations must be made in writing and received by BCIL no later than April 7, 2011. Cancellations received by this date are subject to a 20% processing fee. Registration and ticketed event cancellations received after May 1, 2011, are NOT subject to a refund.

Registration forms should be sent to:

Dr. Vibha Ahuja, General Manager
Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL)
Anuvrat Bhawan, 5th Floor
210, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg
New Delhi - 110 002
Tel.No. +91-11-23219064-67 (Ext. 204; 205);
23219059(D)
Fax No. +91-11-23219063
Email: vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in;
vibhaahuja.bcil@nic.in

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organized by	Date and Venue	Website
INDIA			
3rd Congress on Insect Science	Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science and Department of Entomology Punjab Agricultural University	April 18-20, 2011 Ludhiana	http://web.pau.edu/content/banner/trd_congress.pdf
Bangalore India Bio 2011	Department of Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka	May 4-6, 2011 Bangalore	http://www.bangaloreindiabio.in/BIO2011/index.php
South Asia Conference on Current Approaches to the Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Engineered Crops	Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA), ILSI Research Foundation, Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) in association with Department of Biotechnology, Government of India	May 16-18, 2011 New Delhi	http://cera-gmc.org/index.php?action=meetings
Training Workshop on Role of Risk Analysis in the Development and Implementation of Food Safety Programmes and Standards	BCIL in collaboration with University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of Maryland	June 20-22, 2011 Hyderabad	
TERI-ITEC Courses 2011-12 Course II - Applications of biotechnology and its regulation	The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	July 25–August 12, 2011 Gurgaon	http://www.teriin.org/index.php?option=com_events&task=details&sid=382
World Cotton Research Conference	International Cotton Advisory Committee and Indian Society for Crop Improvement under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research	November 7-11, 2011 Mumbai	http://www.wcrc-5.com/WCRC5_Circular.pdf
8th International Safflower Conference: Safflower Research and Development in the World - Status and Strategies	Indian Society of Oilseeds Research and Indian Council of Agricultural Research	January 19 - 23, 2012 Hyderabad	http://www.dor-icar.org.in/downloads/Conference1.pdf
INTERNATIONAL			
Biosafety, Biosecurity, & Biodefence (BioSSD) 2011 International Congress on Asia Pacific's Practices, Challenges, and Strategies	PROTEMP Conferences and beta congress (Germany) in collaboration with the Malaysian government agencies	July 18 – 20, 2011 Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur	http://www.biossdcongress.com/
Biosafety: An International Short Course in Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Biotechnology	Michigan State University Institute of International Agriculture in collaboration with the Plant Breeding and Genetics program	July 31–August 5, 2011 Michigan, USA	http://worldtap.msu.edu/short-courses/biosafety/
First International Workshop on the Food and Environmental Safety Assessment of Genetically Modified Animals	Argentine Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, (SAGyP, Biotechnology Directorate); ICGEB; United Nations University Biotechnology Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNU-BIOLAC) and International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI Argentina)	September 5 - 9, 2011 Buenos Aires, Argentina	http://www.agrobiotecnologia.gov.ar/gmanimal2011/
5th International Botanical Conference -- Climate Change and Biodiversity: Role of Plant Scientists	Bangladesh Botanical Society	December 09 – 11, 2011 Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh	www.bdbotsoc.org or http://www.dhakai.com/botany/Circular.pdf

SABP CONTACTS

India

Dr. Vibha Ahuja
General Manager
Biotech Consortium India Limited
Anuvrat Bhawan, 5th Floor
210, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg
New Delhi 110 002 India
Email: vibhaahuja@biotech.co.in

Bangladesh

Prof. Dr. M. Imdadul Hoque
Department of Botany
University of Dhaka
Dhaka - 1000
Bangladesh
Email: mimdadul07@yahoo.com

Others

Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA)
ILSI Research Foundation
1156 Fifteenth Street,
N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington D.C.
20005-1743 USA
Email: info@cera-gmc.org



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