



AG BIOTECH VIETNAM

Agbiotech Vietnam

Activities in 2012 and plan for 2013

*Presented by Eng. Le Duc Linh, Assistant to Director
On behalf of
AG BIOTECH VIETNAM*



International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications

Global Knowledge Center
on Crop Biotechnology

CropBiotech Net

Vietnam Biotech Current Status

- Biotechnology in Vietnam's agricultural sector has recorded many achievements and been recognized by the Government. These results include the research works and application of gene technology in selecting and creating of crop varieties and livestock species with high yields, good qualities and resistance to diseases. Vietnamese scientists have selectively collected and applied the GMO technology to bring in economic benefits while ensuring biological safety.
- Adoption of GM crops (Biotech corn) helps Vietnam reduce feeds imports.
- Support continued from the Government but needs a political will for its commercialization as scheduled. The plan of commercialization of biotech corn in 2012 is delayed, although field trials of GM corn in some localities (Vinh Phuc, Son La, Baria Vung Tau, Daclak...) in 2011 and 2012 (with products of Pioneer Hi- Bred, Syngenta, Delka - Monsanto Thailand) have shown promising results.
- Cautious steps to field cultivation, different opinions about GMOs, specially from former high ranking government officers.

Vietnam Biotech Current Status

-Worries about overdependence on GMO : IPR of GM varieties (the depending on multi corporations for GM varieties in the future), the impacts to exportation of some main agricultural commodities (like rice, coffee, cashew nuts, cassava...), the negative effects to human health and environment...

-More cons to GM crops, specially from former high ranking politicians who attended the war in the last century and affected by image of that time chemical companies...).Therefore, that requests for more information and more activities for public awareness in different modalities aiming at the adoption of GM/biotech crops in Vietnam.

NEW ACTIVITIES OF AGBIOTECH VIETNAM IN 2012:

Meeting with the Cons to GM crops in Vietnam (*who played the key role in delaying commercialization of GM crops in Vietnam*)

- Agbiotech Vietnam has visited and met with Former Vice President of Vietnam and some scientists who have different points of view on GM crops to make clear about GM crops.
- Regular information exchange was set up after these meeting.

Organized a scientific seminar on GM crops.

The seminar was chaired by Deputy Minister of Science and Technology and Chairman of Vietnam Association for Scientific and Technological Information and Documentation (VASTID)

Dr. Nguyen Van Lang



Biotech Talk and Writing competition for Agriculture's students:

In collaboration with Hanoi Agricultural University to organize a Biotech Talk and a writing competition about GM crops for its students (Dec 2012).

- Around 300 students participated in these activities, having a chance to:
 - +understand GM crops status and trends in global and in Vietnam presented by Dr. Prof. Le Huy Ham, Director the Institution for Agriculture Genetics and Agbiotech Vietnam staff.
 - +Joint a writing competition with 11 prizes awarded to the students -01 first prize, 2 second prize; 3 third prize; 05 encouraging prize.



Biotech Talk and Writing Competition - Its regular activity of Agbiotechvietnam for Agricultural Students every year



- **Website development and distribution of information on biotech crops.**
- Our website (<http://www.agbiotech.com.vn>) is a bilingual website with number of visitors average from 30,000 - 40.000 visitors/month in 2012.



- Opened the Special Pages for GM crops in the Information and Development Magazine (a Publication of Ministry of Science and Technology with circulation of 3,000 copies per issue)

Through the Magazine, Vietnamese scientists share their opinions and points of view as well as their studies on biotech crops, promoting the public awareness.





Workshops:

organized 01 workshop and started special pages in Information and Development Magazine (no budget allocated for organizing workshops, only for biotech talk); and attended other 2 events to deliver information on biotech crops to participants.

Others activities:

- To publish or translate some of ISAAA/KC publications for Vietnamese readers (*translation of reports of global status of GM crops, Knowledge pockets....*)
- Provide Vietnam biotech news for foreign readers by its regular contribution to Crop biotech update
- Serve as Biotech information Network for current science-based information on agricultural biotechnology in Vietnam
- Assisting ISAAA in other works in Vietnam

Agbiotech Vietnam's Plan for 2013

- **Continue information distribution activities.**
- **Restructure the website meeting new demand and trend in disseminating information and news (readers can access through Facebook or mobile applications...)**
- **Organize Writing competitions**
- **Organize Biotech Talks and workshops**
- **Publication: Develop Special Pages on GM crops in the Information and Development Magazine**



Some challenges to Agbiotech Vietnam and response measures :

- Limited budget allocation for our operations (yearly budget now has covered travelling cost to BIC meeting).
- Concerns on protection of personal data and information prevent new email addresses collection.
- Cons to GM crops, reluctance from government for their application
- Concerns about overdependence on GM : IPRs of GM varieties (dependence on multi corporations for GM varieties in the future), the impact to exportation of some main agricultural commodities (like rice, coffee, cashew nuts, cassava...), the negative effect to human health and environment...
- Response measures: provide more information and conduct more activities aiming at public awareness and education to promote the adoption of GM/biotech crops in Vietnam.

Some AgbiotechVN activities



THANK YOU

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