



Asian Regional Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Biotechnology and Biosafety

10 – 11 January 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro) resulted in, among other things:

- The Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, of which Chapter 16 of agenda is dedicated to international collaboration for the development of biotechnology to improve food production, health care and environmental protection as well as international agreement on risk assessment.
- The Convention on Biodiversity, of which Article 19 is dedicated to “Handling of Biotechnology and Distribution of its Benefits”, and calls among other things for:
 - priority access by developing countries to the benefits arising from biotechnologies
 - consideration of the need for and modalities of a protocol on biosafety, which later became the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

In 1993, the Commission on Sustainable Development held its first meeting (CSD-1) to assess progress made of the activities agreed in Agenda 21. In 2011, CSD-19 discussed among others a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption & Production Patterns, but could not come to agreement on this Framework.

In 2000, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) was adopted with a focus on the transboundary movement of living modified organisms. The main functions of the CPB are:

- Procedures for countries that do not yet have regulations
- Agreement on risk assessment
- Biosafety Clearing House

In 2003, the CPB came into force and the first Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to discuss the implementation took place in 2004 (MOP1, Malaysia). Since 2004, the MOPs have taken place on average every two years: MOP2 (2005, Canada), MOP3 (2006, Brazil), MOP4 (2008, Germany), MOP5 (2010, Japan).

In 2012 and 2013, a number of meetings will take place that can have a significant impact on the global discussion on agricultural biotechnology:

- A new Earth Summit titled “Rio+20”, of which the themes will include sustainable production and consumption (4 – 6 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro,)
- The 6th Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP6, 1-5 October 2012, India.
- The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11, 8 – 19 October 2012, India).
- The CSD-20, which among other things will assess the progress made with Chapter 16 of Agenda 21 on biotechnology.





PRRI-IFPRI/PBS-ISAAA Regional Workshops

The Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)/Program for Biosafety Systems and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA), plan to organise an Asian workshop to address Rio+20, CPB, CBD and CSD-20. Aim of the regional workshop is to discuss the topics of these events, how these global events are interrelated and outcomes of these events can be implemented at the national level.

The topics of the regional workshops will mainly be the points on the agendas of the upcoming global meetings in 2012 and 2013:

1. Rio+20: the contribution of modern biotechnology to strengthen sustainable agricultural production of food, feed, fibre and fuel, in the context of the fact that by 2050 the world will have to produce 70% more, on less land, with less environmental side effects and under the effects of climate change.
2. CPB - MOP5: implementation of the outcome of topics negotiated at MOP5, such as the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur supplementary protocol on Liability and Redress.
3. CPB – MOP6 : Risk assessment, Socio-economic considerations, capacity building, Review of the functioning of the CPB
4. CBD – COP 11: relationship to CPB, and possibly topics as ABS / genetic resources.
5. CSD-20: progress of the activities agreed in Chapter 16 of Agenda 21.

The workshop will include hands on training on specific aspects, such as environmental risk assessment.

These workshops will be open to the members of the participating organisations as well as to officials and scientists involved in biosafety regulations, and delegates to Rio+20, MOP6, COP11, and CSD20.

Participants will take home an understanding of the topics on the agendas and the process of Rio+20, MOP, COP and CSD-20, how these events are interrelated and on how the outcomes of these events can be implemented nationally in a practical way.

For further information, please contact: ifpri-pbs@cgiar.org, r.hautea@isaaa.org and/or info@pubresreg.org, with reference to “Regional Workshops Rio+20 – CPB – CBD - CSD20”.





Draft Program (version 4 January 2011)

Day 1 - 10 January 2012, Rama Gardens Hotel, Bangkok		
8.00-8.30	Registration	Secretariat, Grand Hall 2 Meeting Room
8.30 – 9.00	Welcome and opening	ISAAA, IFPRI/PBS, PRRI, National co-organizers
9.00 - 9.30	Introduction to the workshop	Piet van der Meer
9.30 - 10.00	Food security and world changes and trends since 1992	Dr. Julian Adams, PBS and University of Michigan
10.00 - 10.30	The potential of biotechnology to strengthen sustainable agriculture	Dr. Paul S. Teng, NIE/GMAC/ISAAA
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 - 11.30	RIO+20 and CSD-20 History: Stockholm 1972, Rio 1992	Piet van der Meer, PRRI
11.30 - 12.30	Topics: - Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication - Institutional framework for sustainable development	General discussion
12.30 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 - 14.30	Cartagena Protocol Historical overview - Biodiversity Convention - Biosafety Protocol	Piet van der Meer, PRRI
14.30 - 15.30	Risk assessment - relevant provisions of the CPB - introduction to ongoing work on RA under the CPB: AHTEG, online conferences, guidance documents	Dr. Vilasini Pillai, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
15.30 - 16.00	<i>Tea break</i>	
16.00 - 16.45	Practice of risk assessment – regional collaboration – capacity building	Prof. Kazuo Watanabe, Univ. of Tsukuba, Japan
16.45 - 17.30	Overall utility and applicability of the guidance documents	General discussion
18.30 - 22.00	<i>Welcome Reception and Dinner - Tulip Room</i>	



Day 2 - 11 January 2012, Rama Gardens Hotel,		
09.00 - 09.45	Liability and Redress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liability & Redress - Article 27 of the CPB • Supplementary Protocol, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background - National Implementation - Complementary instruments 	Piet van der Meer, PRRI Dr. Dominic Muyldermans, CLI
09.45 - 10.30	Q&A – Discussion	
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00 – 11.45	Socio-economic considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - article 26 of the CPB • Assessment of socio-economic impacts 	Piet van der Meer, PRRI Dr. José Falck Zepeda, IFPRI
11.45 – 12.30	Q&A – Discussion	
12.30 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 – 14.45	Review of the functioning of the CPB Capacity building	Piet van der Meer, PRRI Dr. Julian Adams, PBS and University of Michigan
14.45 - 15.30	General Q&A – Discussion	
15.30 – 16.00	<i>Tea break</i>	
16.00 – 16.30	General Q&A – Discussion	
16.30 – 17.00	Next steps – closure	
	<i>Dinner - Open Schedule</i>	