

# Public Research & Regulation Initiative

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*Public Research & Regulation*

## PRRI - Background:

Over a hundred thousand scientists in thousands of public research institutions in developing and developed countries are involved in developing modern biotechnological solutions for agricultural production, health care and environmental protection.

However, this public research sector has not been represented in a significant or organised way in international agreements such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

## PRRI – Background (continued)

As a result, the public research sector has not been able to provide scientific input for the benefit of the negotiations or to express its views about the effectiveness and workability of the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol.

Another consequence of the absence of the public research sector during the negotiations is the persistence of the misperception that modern biotechnology is the exclusive domain of a handful of big multinationals.

# The Public Research & Regulation Initiative

offers a forum for the public research sector to be informed about and involved in international agreements relevant to modern biotechnology

# Public Research & Regulation Initiative

Phase 1: 'Raising awareness' (June 2004 – January 2005)

Phase 2: 'Try out' Involvement of public research sector scientists in MOP2 of the Biosafety Protocol (June 2005)

Phase 3: Multi year, structured involvement of the public research sector in subsequent MOPs and other relevant international meetings (2005 onwards).

# Phase 1: Raising awareness

## Presentations in international meetings:

- BioAlexandria, (April 2004, Egypt)
- IPBO Course (August 2004, Belgium),
- ABIC 2004, (September 2004, Germany)
- 8th IBRS, (September 2004, France)
- 'Plants for the Future', (October 2004, Belgium)
- NAS 'Global Challenges' (October 2004, USA)
- GMO Guidelines project (January 2005, Switzerland)
- Cartagena protocol 'Coordination and Liaison Group' on biosafety capacity building (January 2005, Canada)
- Conference Plant Made Pharmaceuticals (February 2005, Canada)

## Phase 2: Involvement of the public research sector scientists in MOP2.

- 1) Introductory seminar, 3-4 March 2005
- 2) Preparatory meeting, weekend before MOP2
- 3) Participation in MOP2, 30 May – 3 June 2005

Introductory seminar, 3-4 March 2005,  
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, USA.

Over 50 Participants

- from 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Western Europe and North America.
- from 10 international organisations: ASARECA, BSBA, CIAT, IRRI, IFPRI, IITA, GMO Guidelines Project, Golden Rice Project, NEPAD.

Introductory seminar, 3-4 March 2005,  
Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, USA.

Topics:

- Introduction to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- Implementation of the CPB - national regulations
- Introduction to MOP negotiations – topics discussed
- Road to MOP2 – participation in MOP2

# Participation in MOP2 to the Biosafety Protocol (30 May – 3 June, 2005, Montreal, Canada).

## Over 30 Participants

- from 19 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Western Europe and North America.
- from 7 international organisations: ASARECA, BSBA, CIAT, IRRI, IITA, PBS-BBI, Golden Rice Project,

## Preparatory meeting, 28-29 May 2005.

- Re-introduction to MOP negotiations
- Discussion of each of the substantive topics
- Meetings with other delegations and groups to have informal exchanges of views on the substantive topics

# Participation in MOP2 to the Biosafety Protocol

## Objectives:

- Making delegates aware that a substantial part of the research on modern biotechnology is conducted for the public good in public research institutes worldwide.
- Making delegates aware of the concerns of the public research sector about the implications of the different options they were discussing.
- Assisting the negotiations by making the scientific knowledge available to the delegates

# Participation in MOP2 to the Biosafety Protocol

## Approaches

- Organizing side events and attending side events of others
- Statements for interventions
- Holding meetings with other delegations and groups
- Informal discussions with delegates.

# Participation in MOP2 to the Biosafety Protocol

## Conclusions:

- Public researchers have become aware of the need to participate in international negotiations and are prepared to invest time and resources.
- Experience with participation in MOP2 has shown that participation can be effective.
- Subject to the availability of funds, public researchers will participate in MOP3 (March 2006, Brazil).

# Participation in MOPs to the Biosafety Protocol

## Next steps:

- Homework resulting from MOP2
- Expanding Steering Committee and scope of work
- Seeking funds for participation in MOP3
- Preparatory meeting late 2005, followed by regional follow up meetings
- Participation in MOP3 (March 2006)

## Phase 3: Structured involvement of the public research sector in next MOPs and related meetings .

Based on results of Phase 2 structure the approach:

- organisation: Steering Committee, Working Groups, Forum
- newsletters, fact sheets, Q&A
- position papers, etc.

# Steering Committee and Forum

## Steering Committee, current members:

- Em. Prof. Philip Dale, JIC, UK, (chairman)
- Prof. Atanas Atanassov, ABI, Bulgaria.
- Dr. Roger Beachy, DDPSC, USA
- Prof. Yaroslav Blume, Ukraine,
- Willy de Greef, IBRS (vice-chair)
- Prof. Calestous Juma, Harvard University, USA
- Dr. Desiree Hautea, University of the Philippines, Los Baños
- Drs. Piet van der Meer, Esq., Horizons (vice-chair)
- Em. Prof. Marc van Montagu, IPBO, Belgium.
- Prof. Paul S. Teng, Nanyang University, Singapore
- Dr. Zaida Lentini, CIAT, Colombia

Forum: over 120 public research scientists and institutions supporting the initiative

# Funding

## Phase 1 and 2:

- Governments: Canada, Switzerland and the US,
- private sector: CropLife International
- organisations Syngenta Foundation and IPBO

## Phase 3:

Requests for funds have been and will be submitted to governmental and other relevant organisations.

Further Information:

[www.pubresreg.org](http://www.pubresreg.org)

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