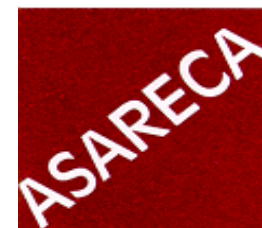


**Preparation for the 4th Meeting of the  
Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on  
Biosafety (MOP4) and the 9th Conference of  
the Parties to the Convention on Biological  
Diversity (COP9)**

***PRRI and AfricaBio  
Side-event Report***





- Objective:
  - Offer public researchers involved in modern biotechnology a forum through which they are informed about and involved in relevant international discussions, such as the Meetings of the Parties to the CPB (MOPs).
- Details: PRRI; [www.pubresreg.org](http://www.pubresreg.org)



- Objectives:
  - Avail balanced and accurate information about biotechnology and biosafety to enable stakeholders, consumers and communities to make informed decisions about biotechnology and GM products in general.
  - Provide a strong voice for lobbying the government on biotechnology and biosafety policies.
  - Details: [www.africabio.com](http://www.africabio.com)

# Objectives of the Side-event

- Inform participants and public researchers from Africa about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Capture inputs on the topics MOP4 and COP9 agenda
- Create awareness on activities in this field of PRRI, FARA and AfricaBIO



# Presentations

Presentations at the side event covered topics on:

- Importance of the involvement of public researchers in Regulations and Policy making processes
- Development of Agricultural Biotechnology Database in Public Sector Research
- Development of National Biosafety Legislation in Africa - examples from Ghana and South Africa
- Introduction to the MOP4 and COP9: Topics relevant for public researchers



# Awareness on Topics Relevant for Public Researchers at MOP 4 (1)

- Risk Assessment and Risk Management
  - Emphasis on sound science
  - Annex III of the protocol offers a sound basis for RA
- Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)
  - BCH is of crucial importance for public researchers
  - Encourage parties to avail information
- Roster of experts
  - An asset to public researchers
  - Clarity on definition of expert and need for quality control

## Capacity building

- meaningful, hands on and well coordinated capacity building, training and short courses on biotechnology and biosafety remain urgently required



# Awareness on topics relevant for Public Researchers at MOP 4 (2)

- Socio-economic considerations in decision making
  - Benefits of modern biotechnology, including alleviation of poverty and hunger
- Liability and Redress;
  - Guidelines for an administrative system for Liability and Redress
- Review of the functioning of the Protocol
  - Provide specific provisions for confined field trials
  - Define categories for exemptions ex article 7.4
  - Guidance on how to take into account benefits of biotechnology in the decision making process



# Awareness on topics Relevant for Public Researchers at COP 9 (1)

- GM Trees
  - Intensify, biotechnology research in trees to help address societal challenges
  - Create ability to conduct field research
- Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTS)
  - Technologies are still in early stages of development
  - Assessment of the potential benefits and risks should be made on a case by case basis



# Outcomes from Side-event (1)

- A call in support for implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in African countries
- A strong emphasis on capacity building, training and short courses on biotechnology and biosafety
- A need to address ambiguities in the African Model Law and its implementation, e.g.
  - Inclusion of pharmaceuticals
  - One-size fits all concept
- Need to pay attention to Biosafety issues peculiar to African Agriculture (including labelling)



# Outcomes from Side-event (2)

- A call to develop simplified/more user friendly templates of GMO permit application forms, e.g. PRRI Guide
- A clear felt need for information on magnitude of potential regulatory costs in implementing GMO laws/regulations.
- A recommendation to expand scope of the PRRI-IFPRI public sector research crop database to cover livestock data.
- A need to package relevant biotechnology and biosafety awareness materials felt, e.g. FARA-ABBI



# Outcomes from Side-event (3)

- A recommendation for the creation of “Inter-ministerial working groups’ at national level to expedite enactment of laws and policies on biosafety and biotechnology.
- A need for advocacy for the application of the concept of familiarity in decision making process was emphasized.
- A need for documentation of what has been learnt so far from the commercialisation of biotech products over the years was deemed urgent for presentation at MOP4.

