Effective Biosafety Regulations Enable Development



© 2006 Svetlana Edmeades

In many developing countries, economic growth and sustainability depend on the strong performance of the agriculture sector. The tools of biotechnology, when combined with the science of breeding, have created improved varieties that deliver increased value globally. Today, smallholder farmers in more than 15 countries successfully grow crop varieties developed through biotechnology.

Other countries, however, have not integrated biotechnology into their agricultural systems. Often, this hesitancy is due to a lack of a rational and predictable biosafety framework that facilitates access to products and varieties produced using biotechnology.

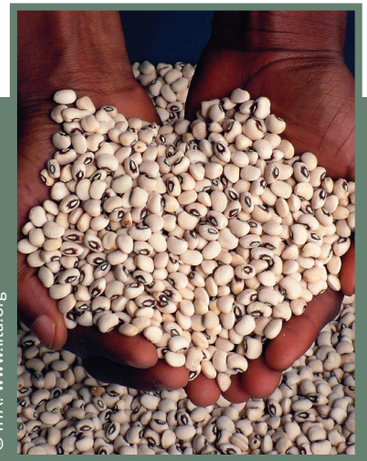
PBS works with local stakeholders to develop and implement science-based, functional biosafety systems that ultimately:

- Expand producer choice
- Inspire consumer confidence
- Facilitate trade
- Promote agricultural R&D

Independent research equips policymakers with the information necessary to make balanced decisions.



© 2009 Herbert Oloka



© IITA: www.iita.org

PBS Working in Partnership

PBS services have been requested by more than 10 countries. PBS has a demonstrated record of achievement and progress in the development of workable regulatory systems, a sample of which is shown below.

- KENYA: PBS played a lead coordinating role in legal reviews, stakeholder outreach, education and communication, which culminated in a biosafety bill being signed into law in 2009.
- UGANDA: PBS provided on-going technical support and hands-on training that resulted in successful confined field trials for multiple crops. PBS also provided legal and technical assistance in the development of a comprehensive biosafety law and associated regulations and guidelines.
- NIGERIA: PBS experts provided technical assistance for the country's first-ever confined field trials for an important food security crop. In parallel, PBS provided legal analysis, technical expertise and outreach capacity to support the development of a biosafety legal framework.
- VIETNAM: PBS supported the country's first successful field trial by providing technical expertise, evaluation and training.
- PHILIPPINES: Working in collaboration with national partners, PBS contributed sustained technical expertise and training resulting in robust and timely regulatory decisionmaking on a range of commercial and experimental product introductions.
- REGIONAL APPROACH IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (RABESA): The PBS-led RABESA team has helped draft regional policies and guidelines for harmonization among member countries of the Common Market for East and Southern Africa.

PBS Offers Integrated Assistance



© 2010 Donna Ramaeker Zahn

The Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) supports partner countries in Africa and Asia in the responsible development and use of biotechnology. Managed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), PBS works with countries interested in using biotechnology to enhance agricultural innovation.

Our independent and diverse team of experts supports the development of effective biosafety systems through an integrated package of assistance, including:

- Sustained, on-the-ground support
- A practical, product-focused approach
- Science-based regulatory services
- Independent policy research by IFPRI that informs decisionmakers
- Unique methods to design stakeholder outreach and communication strategies
- Legal analysis and advice

This approach ensures that interested countries can access new tools to help solve pressing challenges such as food security, poverty, nutrition deficiencies of the rural poor and climate change.



© 2010 Jeff Stein

A partnership program for biosafety capacity development

http://pbs.ifpri.info/

PBS is facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (www.ifpri.org), and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. IFPRI is one of 15 agricultural research centers that receive their principal funding from governments, private foundations, and international and regional organizations, most of which are members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (www.cgiar.org).

Copyright © 2010 International Food Policy Research Institute. For permission to republish, contact ifpri-copyright@cgiar.org.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Environment, Production, and Technology Division
2033 K Street, NW | Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA
T: +1 202-862-5600 | F: +1 202-467-4439 | ifpri@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org

PBS

Program for Biosafety Systems

FACILITATED BY IFPRI

In-Country Services for Biosafety Development



© 2003 Anna Temu