



BUILDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITIES

FAO'S EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK

An overview of the
experience gained from
FAO capacity building
projects in agricultural
biotechnology and
biosafety



BUILDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITIES

FAO'S EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK

An overview of the
experience gained from
FAO capacity building
projects in agricultural
biotechnology and
biosafety

ALESSANDRA SENSI

Biosafety Officer
Research and
Extension Division

KAKOLI GHOSH

Agriculture Officer
Plant Production
and Protection
Division

MASAMI T. TAKEUCHI

Food Safety Officer
Nutrition and
Consumer Protection
Division

ANDREA SONNINO

Senior Agricultural
Research Officer
Research and
Extension Division

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

ISBN 978-92-5-106368-2

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders.

Application for such permission should be addressed to:
the Chief, Electronic Publishing Policy and Support Branch
Communication Division
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
or by email to:
copyright@fao.org

© FAO 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	ACRONYMS	v	
	FOREWORD	vii	
	INTRODUCTION	1	■
FAO BIOSAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS. STRUCTURE AND COMPONENTS	11	■	
	NATIONAL PROJECTS	13	■
	REGIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL PROJECTS	29	■
	GLOBAL PROJECTS	33	■
	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES	35	■
	COORDINATION, INFORMATION AND OUTREACH	37	■
	CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD	43	■
	ANNEX 1. LIST OF BIOSAFETY PROJECTS	50	
	PHOTO CREDITS	53	



BUILDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITIES

FAO'S EXPERIENCE AND OUTLOOK

ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAC/GL	Codex Alimentarius Commission/Guidelines
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
COAG	FAO Committee on Agriculture
ComDev	Communication for Development
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCP	Government Cooperative Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Genetically Modified
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
INFOODS	International Network of Food Data Systems
ISTA	International Seed Testing Association
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
LMOs	Living Modified Organisms
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NENA	Near East and North Africa
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OVM	Organismos Vivos Modificados
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
R&D	Research and Development
SSC	South-South Cooperation
SPPD	Support for Policy and Programme Development
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
TB	Tuberculosis
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TCCT	Technical Cooperation among Countries in Transition
TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNU-IAS	United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization



FOREWORD

Capacity building is at the heart of FAO's mandate. This work is the result of an in-depth monitoring and review of FAO capacity building activities in biosafety. Its publication coincides with the need to share the key considerations and recommendations stemming from the first round of projects developed and implemented by FAO since 2002, at a time when similar evaluations are carried out by the Global Environment Facility - in its capacity as the designated financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosafety Protocol¹ - and other UN partner agencies involved on this matter.

The analysis has been developed through an in-house desk review of reports, studies, project documents and key issues emerged from the meetings of the FAO working group on biosafety, as well as external inputs. These inputs have been constantly collected during the implementation of the projects' activities and further addressed at an ad-hoc expert meeting and through regular contacts with national counterparts.

¹ The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted in January 2000 and entered into force in September 2003

This publication highlights the key issues in biosafety capacity building project development and implementation, as well as future orientations. It is expected not only to contribute to the improvement of future activities of the Organization in this area, but also to provide inputs to the formulation of shared biosafety strategies at global level, in line with the Cartagena Protocol and other related international instruments.

The first part of this publication provides a general presentation of FAO's conceptual framework on biosafety as part of the broader Biosecurity framework.

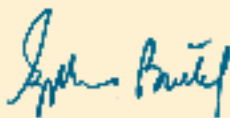
The second part of the paper illustrates the portfolio of 26 (past and current) biosafety capacity building projects at national, regional and global level as well as their structure, components and financing modality. Training is presented as the pivotal activity on which FAO's approach is based so as to build strong technical, institutional and information sharing capacities, and ensure the safe use of modern biotechnologies to enhance sustainable agriculture and food production.

Each section contains considerations on experience gained. Conclusions on the way forward indicate that partnerships, regional dimension and expansion/strengthening of existing networks of expertise will play an increasingly important role in future initiatives.

All the activities analysed in this publication have been made possible through the efforts of numerous institutions in the interested countries, including national biosafety

committees, ministries, universities and research institutes, NGOs and the private sector. The precious contribution of national project coordinators, the national and international consultants, the experts of the FAO's Partnership Programme (TCDC/TCCT²), the people who participated in the training activities, as well as FAO's officers from headquarters and decentralized offices, is gratefully acknowledged.

These results could not have been achieved without their enthusiasm, competence, and dedication. We are confident that we can count on similar pro-active participation for FAO's future activities in this area.



Ezzeddine Boutrif

Director,
Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division
Chairman,
Interdepartmental Working Group on Biosecurity

² Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries / Technical Cooperation among Countries in Transition

