

Fiji's Progress

Cartagena Protocol Implementation

Asia and the Pacific Regional Training Workshop on Public Awareness,
Education and Participation Concerning the Safe Transfer, Handling And
Use of Living Modified Organisms

25 - 29 of March, 2013, Ha Noi, VietNam

Department of Environment
Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and
Environment, Fiji Island

* Fiji Ratification.

- * Fiji ratified the Protocol in 2001.
- * Fiji became a signatory to the protocol on the same year
- * From this Fiji then prepared its Implementation Strategy to prepare its National Biosafety Framework.

*Fiji's Focal Agency

- *The National Executing Agency then was the Koronivia Research Station under the Ministry of Agriculture
- *Now - Resource Management Unit - Department of Environment
- *Organisations involved in the process:
 - *Koronivia Research
 - *Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority
 - *Fiji Consumer Council
 - *Department of Environment
 - *Biosecurity Authority of Fiji
 - *Fiji National University
 - *University of the South Pacific

* Fiji's Implementation Strategy

- * Fiji's national biosafety framework (NBF) is a combination of policy, legal, administrative and technical instruments.
- * It aims to address safety for the environment and human health in relation to LMOs.
- * In addition to developing appropriate mechanisms to regulate import and export of LMOs, the NBF strives to provide protection to Fiji's agriculture and trade sector by setting in place interim instruments to prevent the development, application and use of LMOs in the country while the country develops adequate systems, procedures and capacity to assess and manage potential risks from LMOs.

*NBF Main Elements

- * A National Biosafety Policy
- * A Regulatory Regime
- * A system to handle requests (administrative, risk assessment, risk management and decision making processes)
- * Follow up actions (monitoring, inspections and enforcement)
- * System for Public Awareness and Participation.

* Progress in Brief

* NATIONAL ACTIVITY:

- ❖ The launching of the development of the **National Biosafety Framework** – this included awareness and press event held in line with the launch.
- ❖ Regional Biotechnology Meeting - a regional biotechnology working group planning meeting was held in Fiji in 2005 to review the status of the region and to identify how best to maximize the benefits of biotechnology in sustainable development in the region

* Progress Brief

❖ EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:

❖ Pamphlets

❖ DVD's on Biosafety Documentary – Content is basically about the potential risk and what GMO's and LMO's.

❖ Awareness to Government Body and related stakeholders

❖ Radio Talk Back Shows

*Challenges

- * Human Resource - An officer dedicated to the work and also in terms of implementation and enforcement and monitoring.
- * Capacity building in terms of knowledge and the issues and updated issues.
- * Close Collaboration on the work of the protocol amongst relevant stakeholders in Fiji.
- * Budget