



XI Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

Press Brief - Protocol on Biosafety

Socio-Economic Considerations

Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) in reaching a decision on whether to import LMOs, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities. However, when Parties are taking into account such considerations, they are at the same time required to ensure that the decision is consistent with their other international obligations. The Protocol also encourages Parties to cooperate on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of LMOs, especially on indigenous and local communities.

What is being done?

At their fifth meeting (held in 2010), the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for the Protocol for the period 2011-2020. Operational objection 1.7 of the Strategic Plan addresses socio-economic considerations and is "to, on the basis of research and information exchange, provide relevant guidance on socio-economic considerations that may be taken into account in reaching decisions on the import of LMOs".

Also at their fifth meeting, the Parties requested the Secretariat to carry out a number of activities on socio-economic considerations. The Secretariat thus organized online dialogues on the issue as well as a workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of LMOs. The workshop was hosted by the Government of India and was held in New Delhi in November 2011.

The Parties also provided information on their experience with socio-economic considerations in their second national reports on the implementation of the Protocol, which were submitted in 2011.

What is expected at COP-MOP 6?

At their sixth meeting, the Parties will consider the outcomes of the online discussions and workshop on socio-economic considerations as well as the information reported by Parties in their second national reports.

The Parties may decide to, among other things:

- Encourage Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to undertake further research on the socio-economic impacts of LMOs and to share the outcomes of their research.
- Establish an experts group to continue the work on socio-economic considerations by undertaking specific tasks.
- Request the Secretariat to undertake a stock-taking exercise of a number of aspects of socio-economic considerations to assist in the work of the experts group.



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