

Online Survey on the Application of and Experience in the Use of Socio- Economic Considerations in Decision-Making on Living Modified Organisms

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Background

- 2007: UNEP-GEF received funding from UK DFID to undertake scoping work on socio-economic considerations in context of Biosafety Protocol
- Work was to be undertaken in conjunction with CBD Secretariat.

Background

- 2008: consultant hired to undertake a literature review, prepare an initial draft of a survey and to organize an experts meeting to review the survey
- July 2008: experts meeting held in Mexico where draft survey was substantially revised
- 2009: Another consultant finalised and carried out the survey.

Survey

Survey had 46 questions and was divided into four parts:

1. General questions: about the organization and type of work of the respondent and the reference country they would use as the basis for responding to the survey.
2. Questions about experiences with decision-making regarding living modified organisms and the inclusion of socio-economic considerations in such decisions.
3. Questions on the opinions of respondents whose reference country did not have a decision-making system in place for LMOs or who did not know if their country had such a system.
4. Questions on various issues including capacity-building, challenges to including s-e considerations in decision-making and the need for a methodological guide.

Survey

- Survey was available online from 14 October to 13 November 2009 in English, French and Spanish
- Very high response to survey: 578 respondents from 154 countries.
- Preliminary analysis of survey was presented to sixth capacity-building coordination meeting in February 2010
- Final report on survey was made available to MOP-5 as an information document.

Key Survey Results Regarding Capacity-Building

Respondents ranked “lack of capacity” as the second most important reason why socio-economic considerations were not taken into account in their country’s decision-making process on LMOs, after “lack of mechanisms” for doing so.

Key Survey Results Regarding Capacity-Building

Respondents ranked the following as the top ten socio-economic assessment areas in which capacity-building was required:

Table 7: Ranking of priority areas of need for capacity building (Q38)

#	Method I: ranking system	Method II: scoring system
1	Food security	Food security
2	Impacts on market access	Health-related impacts
3	Macroeconomic impacts	Impacts on market access
4	Impacts on biodiversity	Impacts on biodiversity
5	Coexistence of LMOs	Coexistence of LMOs
6	Compliance with biosafety measures	Macroeconomic impacts
7	Health-related	Compliance with biosafety measures
8	Microeconomic impacts	Farmers' rights
9	Farmers' rights	Indigenous communities
10	Labour and employment	Microeconomic impacts

Key Survey Results Regarding Capacity-Building

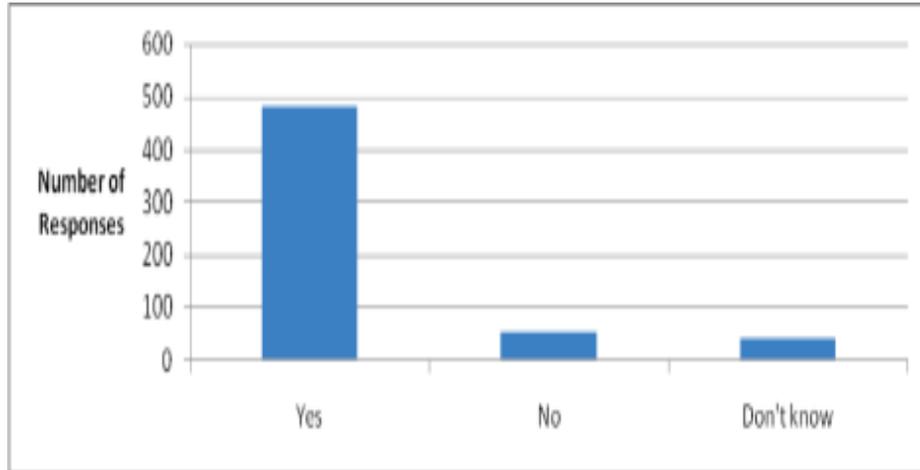
All respondents were asked whether their country had adequate capacity for the performance of socio-economic assessment (Q37).

- 41% indicated that they had the capacity to undertake the socio-economic assessment
- 49% respondents stated that did not have the capacity.

Q44 asked respondents to indicate their level of agreement with a number of statements. The two statements that received the highest levels of agreement were:

- that there is a need to build countries' socio-economic assessment capacity
- that a methodological toolkit would be a good starting point to build that capacity.

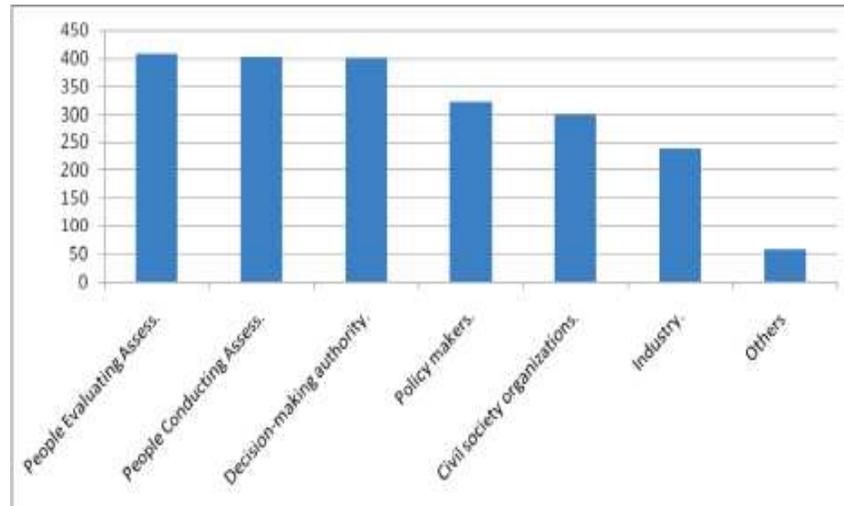
Responses to whether a methodological toolkit would be a useful document to assist in the inclusion of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs (question 39)



Key Survey Results Regarding Capacity-Building

- Q41 asked all respondents who the target audience for a methodological toolkit should be. Three groups were clearly identified as a potential target audience:
 - Individuals responsible for evaluating assessments
 - Individuals responsible for carrying out assessments
 - Decision-making authority
- This is quite similar to priority target groups for capacity-building identified during online discussion groups on socio-economics.

**Identifying who the target audience for the toolkit should be
(question 41)**



Key Survey Results Regarding Capacity-Building

- Priority areas for capacity building: food security, health related impacts, impacts on market access and trade, macroeconomic.
- Methodological toolkit would be useful.
- Information to be included in the toolkit needs investigation.
- Should be directed to people carrying out the assessments, evaluating the assessments, and decision makers.