



The Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project II

Supporting Agricultural Development through Biotechnology



Mission Statement

The developing world can benefit from advances in biotechnology, but much needs to be done to make bio-engineered products available in forms that farmers can use. ABSPII believes that farmers and consumers worldwide should have the opportunity to make informed choices about using bio-engineered products. Our consortium will support the development of expertise in our target countries in the areas of research, policy development, licensing, and outreach, to help reduce poverty and hunger through agricultural biotechnology.

Project Scope and Activities

ABSPII focuses on the safe and effective development and commercialization of bio-engineered crops as a complement to traditional and organic agricultural approaches in developing countries. The project will help boost food security, economic growth, nutrition and environmental quality in East and West Africa and in Indonesia, India, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and led by Cornell University, ABSPII is implemented by a consortium of public and private sector institutions.

To implement ABSPII we:

- Conduct highly-participatory priority setting to ensure that product development is focused on real needs;
- Develop "Product Commercialization Packages" for each crop by geographical site that integrate activities on technology development, policy (including intellectual property), outreach and communication, and marketing and distribution;
- Create an enabling environment for regulatory and legal authorities;
- Foster public-private partnerships to boost mutual incentives and self-sustained, long-term investments;
- Promote improved science-based public awareness of bio-engineered crops;
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of ABSPII activities.

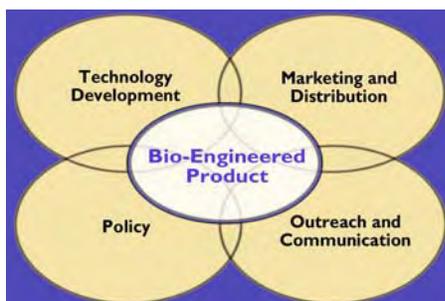
Anticipated Outcomes

During the project, we expect:

- Increased agricultural productivity;
- Improved research and development capacities within collaborating institutions;
- Increased understanding by scientists and policy-makers of markets, regulatory environments and commercialization requirements of bio-engineered crops;
- Increased public awareness and understanding of bio-engineered crops that meet public needs;
- Enhanced environments for public-private partnerships in the areas of intellectual property licensing and regulatory approval.
- In addition, the long-term goals of ABSPII are to:
 - Increase agricultural outputs among adopters of new products;
 - Improve nutrition due to the availability of more secure and varied food sources;
 - Expand rural economies due to both increased farm productivity and to improved market opportunities.

Interaction with USAID's other Collaborative Agricultural Biotechnology Initiative (CABIO) projects

ABSPII will identify and support other USAID initiatives to promote safe and effective agricultural biotechnology in Africa and Asia. For example, successful commercialization of bio-engineered crops will depend upon satisfactory biosafety regulation. Therefore, a special relationship will be developed with USAID's Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS) project that focuses on strengthening national and regional capacities in biosafety. The biotechnology impact assessments conducted by ABSPII will provide forward-looking evaluations of the market-level consequences of biotechnology products that will provide a basis for interactions with other USAID-supported trade and development initiatives, intellectual property), outreach and communication, and marketing and distribution



ABSP II Consortium Partners

U.S. Public Institutions

- American University of Beirut
- Michigan State University
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Tuskegee University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Davis
- University of Minnesota
- Virginia Polytechnic and State University (Virginia Tech)

National and Regional Partners

- ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology Sub-Committee on Biotechnology
- Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)
- Department of Agriculture - Policy, Planning and Research; Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR); Biotechnology Project Implementation Unit (DA Bio-tech-PIU), Philippines
- Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCARRD)
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI)
- Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS)
- National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), Uganda
- Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)
- Research Institute for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources, Indonesia
- Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), India
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of Tsukuba, Japan
- United Nations University/Institute of Advanced Studies
- University of the Philippines, Los Baños (UPLB)-Chancellor's Office and Institute of Plant Breeding
- Western and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF)

Private Sector Entities

- Alpha Seed (South Africa)
- Asia Pacific Seed Association (APSA)
- Crop Technology Consulting, Inc. (CTC)
- Development Alternatives Inc., (DAI)
- East-West Seeds (Indonesia)
- Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) (India)
- Nunhems Seeds (Bayer)
- Sathguru Management Consultants (SMS) (India)
- Seminis Seeds

CGIAR Centers and Other International Institutions

- Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC)
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI)
- International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA)

NGOs and Foundations

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF)
- A Harvest Biotech Foundation International (AHBFI)
- Boyce Thompson Institute (BTI)
- Donald Danforth Plant Science Center
- McKnight Foundation Collaborative Crops Research Program

Four Regional Centers are being established under ABSP II to facilitate technology development and transfer.

The Center for South Asia is managed by K.Vijay Raghavan of Sathguru Management Consultants, India (vijay@sathguru.com).

The Southeast Asia Center is situated at the Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines, Los Baños and managed by Dr Desiree Hautea (hautea@lgn.csi.com.ph).

The West Africa Center will be managed by Dr Walter Alhassan (walteralhassan@hotmail.com) and a **Center for East Africa** will be established in the near future.

For more information, please contact:

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